

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull
on Monday 19th January 2009 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr. G. Hewett (Chairman)

Mr. S. French, Mr. D. Archer, Mrs. F. Drew, Mrs. A. Hudson,
Mr. C. Ralph, Mr. N. Hancock, Mrs. J. Wooldridge, and
Mr. P. Parris, together with five Members of the Public.

In attendance: Mr. D. Greig – TDBC Parish Liaison Officer
Mr. S. Watts - Clerk

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, the Chairman invited questions from members of the public that were not related to the Agenda. Mr. Roberts stated that the yellow 'No Parking' lines on the carriageway outside the Post Office had faded and were not being enforced. It was noted that this was now an issue for the TDBC Parking Services Department in conjunction with the CPSO. The Clerk was asked, in the first instance, to write to TDBC and request that action be taken.

01/09 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

02/09 **Declarations of Interest**

The following declaration of interest was made: -

Name	Minute No:	Personal/Prejudicial	Reason and Action Taken
Mrs. J. Wooldridge.	08/09	Personal & Prejudicial	Employed at Trull School. Spoke but was absent from the room during voting.

03/09 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman advised that Mr. J. White, the footpaths liaison lead, would not be able to attend the meeting due to a prior engagement. He then stated that the order of the Agenda would be changed so that the Council could discuss the appointment of a replacement Clerk in a closed session at the end of the public meeting.

04/09 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th December 2008 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

05/09 **Matters for Report**

DDA Gates at Poke Lane (Minute 170/08 refers).

Mr. Parris reported that the difficulty in closing the gate had not been actioned. It was advised that Mr. White had had a site meeting with SCC ROW and it had been agreed that the support posts had moved. The original contractor had been requested to undertake the repair work.

Planting of Oak Tree Sapling (Minute 156/08 refers).

Mr. Parris advised that he had yet to be contacted by the W.I. Secretary concerned.

Co-opted Councillor (Minute 136/08 refers).

The Chairman reported that Mrs. D. Luke, the former joint proprietor of Trull Stores, had been approached to join the Council under the co-option scheme and he asked if the Council would support the proposal.

Resolved: That Mrs. D. Luke be appointed as a co-opted member of the Council from the 16th February meeting.

06/09 **Clearance of Trull Mill Stream**

The Chairman referred to the previously circulated letter from a resident of Church Road regarding the clearance of Trull Mill Stream. Mr. French advised that he had spoken to the resident concerned and although it would be possible to actually undertake the work, there were some issues regarding ownership, and the opportunities to achieve a satisfactory outcome may be limited. Mr. Parris supported that view and stated that a 'clean stream' would be of considerable benefit to the community. He suggested that enquiries be made to establish if external funding was available from, for example, the Environment Agency. There was a concern that the stream was leaking in a number of locations, but the Chairman considered this to be overflows that were being activated due to the level of the stream being raised by an excessive amount of silt. Mr. Archer reminded the Council that the need for this work had already been agreed within the Trull Parish Plan.

Resolved: That the following actions be undertaken: -

- (1) Messers. French, Parris and Ralph to meet with the respective owners during March and discuss the most appropriate method to clear the stream. This will also include establishing their willingness to make the stream available as a public feature.
- (2) The Clerk to write to the appropriate agencies to ascertain if any funding would be available.

07/09 **Presentation to Mr. & Mrs. Luke**

The Chairman advised that a total of £962.00 had been donated to the retirement fund for the previous proprietors of Trull Stores, Mr. & Mrs. Luke and their son-in law, Mr. Fish. This included a very generous £200.00 contribution from the Somerset Redstone Trust. Mrs. Wooldridge advised that she had banked £700.00 and purchased a garden fork, spade and heavy-duty gloves for Mr. Fish. The Chairman would present the gifts and a cheque to the value of £900.00 at an evening social event to mark the occasion at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 24th January. It was noted that Mrs. Pegge would be providing refreshments and he thanked all those involved, in particular Mrs. Wooldridge, for their assistance.

08/09 **Planning**

Mrs. Hudson and Mr. Ralph reported on the following applications received from TDBC for the Council to consider: -

- 08/041 - Trull Primary School, Church Road, Trull.
Full Erection of a changing room and hall store within existing internal courtyard.
Mrs. Wooldridge was absent from the room during voting.
Resolved - To support the application.
- 08/045 - Trull Garage, Honiton Road, Trull.
Full Change of use of offices to two residential flats.
Resolved - To support the application.
- 08/046 - 13, Mill Lane, Trull.
Full Erection of a single storey extension.
Resolved - To support the application.
- 08/048 - Hamwood Cottage, Daw's Green, Trull.
Full Erection of a two storey and single storey extension and construction of a detached garage/hobbies room.
Resolved - To support the application.

Not listed on the published Agenda but also considered were: -

- 08/049 - Cutsey Grange, Cutsey, Trull.
Full Erection of a balcony to rear.
- Resolved** - To support the application.

Mrs. Hudson stated that a revised and full planning application had been received for seven affordable cottages and two affordable flats on land opposite Dipford Lodge, Dipford Road, Dipford. It was not considered appropriate to consider the matter at the meeting due to the lack of preparation. However, it was understood that the date for a response to TDBC was 2nd February and, if this were the case, would entail holding a special meeting. The Clerk was requested to establish the timescales with the TDBC case officer and, if necessary, convene a meeting to suit. It was emphasised that members of the public would be notified of the date.

The Clerk advised of the following decisions that had been received from TDBC: -

- 08/039 - Hamwood Farm, Daw's Green, Trull.
Full permission granted for the erection of a yard covering.
- 08/040 - Land off Claremont Lane, Trull.
Full permission granted for the erection of replacement telecommunications mast and ancillary equipment.
- 08/042 - Great Herswell Farm, West Buckland, Trull.
Full permission granted for the variation of 42/2005/015 (condition 2) in respect of holiday occupancy.

09/09 **Housing & Development**

Mr. Archer reported that a recent meeting had been held with Mr. French and Mr. Marsh of the Community Council for Somerset (Minute 161/08 refers). The objective of the meeting had been to identify sites other than Dipford Road that might be suitable for affordable housing. Two possible sites had been identified, in addition to the 26 listed by the developer in his previous planning application for the Dipford Road site, and the complete list of locations had been submitted to TDBC to ascertain if they contravened any current planning policies. It was hoped that that an answer would be forthcoming by the time of the next Parish Council meeting on 16th February, but it was unlikely that Mr Marsh would have had time to check the availability of any acceptable sites with the landowners by then.

Mr. Archer referred to the overdue bridge repairs at Mill Lane (Minute 163/08 refers). He reminded the Council that SCC had imposed a temporary weight limit on the bridge some 18 months ago and that the structure had significant historical merit, as it was believed to be part of the original Great Western Canal. SCC had now advised that negotiations were underway to store the bridge off-site if, eventually, it could be displayed at Goodland's Garden as an artefact within the Project Taunton scheme. A more suitable bridge would be installed at Mill Lane as a replacement.

10/09 **Playing Field**

Mrs. Wooldridge reported on the following matters: -

- The evergreen tree that had been overhanging the footpath to the rear of Cherry Orchard had now been cut back.
- The basketball hoop that had been secured to the changing room had been removed without authorisation. The Chairman and Mrs. Drew both offered to provide a replacement item.
- The Dragons football team would be asked to relocate their current playing pitch due to wear and tear to the surface. Mr. Parris advised that he had recently seen some artificial all weather surfacing and had been very impressed. He suggested that funding be allocated to consider this option for the goalmouth areas at some point in the future.

11/09

Highways

Mr. Hancock referred to damage that had occurred to the footway and grassed areas at Gatchell Green following the protracted gas main repairs at Honiton Road by Morrison Civil Engineers Ltd. Somerset Highways had given an assurance that the damage would be inspected and when the weather was appropriate, the contractor would return and undertake the work.

Mr. Ralph advised that a number of residents at Daw's Green had requested warning signs be erected due to the number and speed of HGVs using the connecting roads. There are twelve children living in the area, and concerns about a potential accident had been raised. Mr. Hancock agreed to raise the matter with Somerset Highways.

Mrs. Wooldridge advised that the recent heavy rains had again caused the road to be flooded at the corner of Horts Cottages, Comeytrove Road. It was assumed that this was again due to the surface water gully being blocked. Mr. Hancock will notify Somerset Highways.

Mr. Parris stated that the 30 mph signs from Pitminster to Eastbrook were still obscured by overhanging vegetation. Mr. Hancock agreed to report the matter to Somerset Highways.

12/09

Footpaths

Mr. Archer, in the absence of Mr. White, gave a detailed report on the conditional survey of the footpaths as requested by the SCC ROW Team (Minute 164/08 refers) and it was agreed that the information was very comprehensive. Mr. White had given a considerable amount of his time and energy to the task and was to be congratulated.

Mr. French referred to the improvements to the footpath across Trull Meadow that linked with Wild Oak Lane. He had now installed a new kissing gate at the Wild Oak Lane end and hard core would be laid in the gate entrance in due course. Mrs. Drew advised that the new gate in the middle section of the meadow did not allow the use of a child's buggy or, presumably, a wheelchair.

Mr. Parris advised that some progress was being made in the repairs to footpath T21/2 due to the landslip at Staplehay Weir. SCC ROW had recently requested permission to access his field with the necessary machinery (Minute 164/08 refers).

13/09

Trull Memorial Halls

The Chairman referred to the matter of additional representation on the Trull Community Centre Development Group following the resignation of Mr. Jeffery. It was agreed that this was a possible role for Mrs. Luke when she joined the Council.

Mrs. Wooldridge advised that the scale of charges was due to be increased for the next financial year and further details would be available in due course. It was noted that the AGM would be held on 9th March 2009.

Mrs. Wooldridge requested that consideration be given to an additional member on the Memorial Halls Committee. She stated that although she represented the Council on the committee, she was also a member in respect of another organisation and that additional support was required. Mrs. Drew agreed to attend the bi-monthly meetings on a trial basis and then review the situation.

Mr. Ralph reported on issues related to the Jubilee Gate. Mr. Bloxham considered that access from the gate onto the playing field was not satisfactory and that a programme of work to improve the situation should be put in place. It was agreed that Mr. Ralph would discuss the matter with Mr. Leeder, the Chairman of the Halls Committee, and report back in due course.

- 14/09 **Trull School**
There was nothing to report on this item.
- 15/09 **Risk Assessment**
The Clerk referred to the previously circulated Risk Assessment and advised of amendments in response to the recommendations made by the 2007/8 Internal Auditor.
Resolved: That the Risk Assessment for 2009 be approved.
- 16/09 **Correspondence**
The Clerk and Mr. Archer advised of correspondence that was of interest to the Council: -
- A copy of the Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan – October 2008 (previously passed to Mr. Archer).
- Information regarding the 'Homefinder Somerset' project received from TDBC.
- A copy of the 2007/8 TDBC Summary of Accounts.
- A copy of the 2009 TDBC A – Z of Services.
- Information received from the Mayor of TDBC regarding Taunton Deane Citizenship Awards 2009. It was noted that nominations had to be submitted by 6th February 2009.
- A SCC ROW questionnaire for Walking, Riding and Cycling routes in Trull.
- Information received from the SCC Community Development Team regarding voluntary community based work (previously circulated).
- A request received from the Trull Scout Leader regarding a proposed event to celebrate the centenary of the first Trull Scout Group. This was likely to be a mini-Jamboree and campfire held during the first week of June. It was agreed that this could be held on the playing field, subject to insurance and Health & Safety requirements.
- An email enquiry from a Professor of Medieval History at Barcelona University, seeking information about 'William of Trull' who was one of a Crusader army that invaded Spain in the 13th century. It had been referred to the Somerset Record Office.
- 17/09 **Accounts for Payment**
Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -
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|---|---|---------|
| Mrs. J. Wooldridge – December Newsletter | - | £19.00 |
| Clerk's salary – December | - | £390.82 |
| Mr. S. Watts – Advertisement & stamps | - | £91.83 |
| Trull Village Memorial Halls – Oct/Nov/Dec hire | - | £42.75 |
| Wessex Water – Allotments – July 08 to Jan 09 | - | £78.01 |
| Trull Village Memorial Halls – Party in the Park 2008 Grant | - | £450.00 |
| Trull Pre-School Group - Party in the Park 2008 Grant | - | £350.00 |
| Trull Short Mat Bowls Club - Party in the Park 2008 Grant | - | £100.00 |
| Trull Players - Party in the Park 2008 Grant | - | £700.00 |
| D&J Best – Additional planting at Carter's Way | - | £47.00 |
| Mr. & Mrs. Luke – Parish donation to retirement fund | - | £900.00 |
- 18/09 **Any Other Urgent Business**
Mrs. Wooldridge advised that contaminated water might still be entering the ditch adjacent to the allotments.

19/09 **Items for the Next Agenda**

Items for the next Agenda will include: -

- Report by SCC District Councillor Mr. S. Martin-Scott
- Grass Cutting Contract

Mr. Ralph requested that consideration be given to the surface repairs and low walling improvements at Poke Lane as discussed at the December budget set meeting.

The Chairman asked that members of the public leave the room while the following item was discussed.

20/09 **Appointment of Clerk**

The Chairman reported on the interview process for a replacement Clerk. Further to the advertisements placed in the Somerset County Gazette and the Notice boards, nine applications had been received. A short list of four candidates had been selected and interviews held on the 12th January. He advised that the panel had consisted of Mrs. Hudson, the Clerk and himself and a summary copy of the discussions was circulated for information. The paper recommended a preferred applicant and there was a discussion on the appropriate level of payment using the current SALC salary scale points SCP 19 to SCP 23 as a reference (Minute 151/07 refers). The annual remuneration was based on 10 hours per week at SCP 19. Although each applicant had worthy attributes, there was a desire to appoint a local person who could further develop the role over time.

Resolved: That the following be approved: -

- (1) That Mrs. Alison Harding, being a local resident with a good academic record, be offered the position with effect from 1st April. This will be preceded by a two-month hand-over period commencing on 1st February.
- (2) That the salary payable from 1st April will be £4,749.68 p.a., index linked, with annual reviews and increments as appropriate until SCP 23 is reached.
- (3) That the two-month hand-over period will be paid. Mr. Archer and the current Clerk will determine the amount payable based on the SCP 19 pro-rata hours worked during the training period.
- (4) That due to the relative lack of Local Government experience, a probationary period of three months will be in operation from the 1st April.
- (5) That, at the Council's expense, the SALC 'New Clerks' one day's training course be offered.

21/09 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 16th February 2009, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.50 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....