

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull
on Monday 18th January 2010

Present: Mr G Hewett (Chairman)

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

In attendance: Mr J White - footpaths
Mrs A Harding – Clerk

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2010 and wished them a Happy New Year. Prior to the commencement of the Meeting he invited questions or statements from members of the public that were not related to the Agenda or regarding development as this would be discussed more fully later in the meeting.

Mr Fawcett, on behalf of the Mill Stream Committee, gave his thanks to the Parish Council for their support and the generous offer of financial help with the cost of repairs to Staplehay Weir as discussed at the December meeting (minute 107/09 refers) . The Chairman added that he is unable to report any progress on the matter of ownership of the weir and that it appears likely ownership will never be established.

Mr **Bloxham** read a statement calling for the resignation of Mr French **as a Parish Councillor** in the light of his proposed Broadlands development between Canonsgrove and Bradbeers. Mr Bloxham stated that Mr French's proposal shows a disregard for the wishes of parishioners and the Council. He referred to the 2005 Trull Action Plan which identified overwhelming opposition to any large scale development that would change the essential character of the village, adding that this view is reiterated in the 2010 plan **review**. Mr Bloxham added that his views are held by many others.

Mr Archer stated that from his viewpoint Mr **Bloxham's demand was** misguided. There is a very well documented way of dealing with **conflicts of interests, which inevitably arise at every level of government, through the requirement for councillors to make formal Declarations of Interest**. Not everyone has to agree with everything as long as they abide by the rules. When there is a discussion **on the Broadlands proposal** Mr French will declare his interest **and leave the room during voting, as has happened with most other parish councillors over the past few years. In any case the Council itself has no power to suspend a member**. He acknowledged Mr French's hard work for the Parish Council over many years, adding that he is entitled to remain a member. The Parish Council **has no powers to compel him to resign, only the Standards Board of TDBC or nationally can do that**.

A resident questioned the timing of Mr French's proposal, asking if it was normal practice to put such a plan out to consultation before planning permission is sought and before the Local Plan **was revised**. He added that it appeared to be further forward than a draft proposal. Mr Archer replied that **a pre-submission public consultation such as this is in fact required by TDBC for any large development**. The Chairman added his support for Mr French, stating that he would not be forced out when he had not done anything wrong.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had taken advice from David Greig, **Parish Liaison Officer at TDBC**, and he confirmed that Mr French cannot be forced to resign. Mr French has also taken advice on how to proceed, and will be declaring his interests under the appropriate item on the agenda. The Chairman added that there is no reason why Mr French cannot continue as a councillor, the Parish Council elections are in 2011 and that is the time to voice an opinion by voting.

Mr Archer informed the meeting that he would be reporting on the draft Core Strategy proposals for the new Local Plan at the February meeting. Any planning permission decisions for land not designated for housing in the current Local Plan have to go to the regional government office for endorsement, and this would apply to Mr French's proposals. But anyone is entitled to put forward plans at any time.

A resident asked if there was any constitutional way to remove Mr French between elections, and asked for reassurance that no other councillors were being represented by Mr French. In reply Mr Archer told him that the Code of Conduct states that anyone with a declaration of interest can be present at the discussion but must leave the room for voting. Mrs Drew added that any breaches of the Code of Conduct are reported to the Standards Board, which alone has the power to suspend a councillor.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the February meeting would be held in the School hall to accommodate a larger audience.

121/09 **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence

122/09 **Declarations of Interest**

A Declaration of Interest was received from Mr French, who asked that it be put on record that he was responsible for organising the proposed Broadlands development exhibition at Canonsgrove and anyone who wishes to can speak privately to him. He also stated that he is happy to leave the room during discussion of item 7b on the Agenda. Mr Archer replied that there would be no discussion of the Local Plan at the meeting.

123/09 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that the ponding at the bus shelter on Honiton Road had not yet been resolved and that standing water had re-appeared after the snow had melted.

Mr Archer informed the Parish Council that Mr Lehner has been congratulated on work he carried out clearing the footway from the new Dipford Road development to Honiton Road. However, there is some confusion over who has responsibility for keeping the footway clear of encroaching vegetation in the future. Mr Hancock informed the Council that he understood that this was the responsibility of the landowners. Mr Parris responded that he thought the vegetation but not soil erosion was the responsibility of the landowner. Mr Hancock will check with SCC Highways.

The Chairman informed the Parish Council that in response to the problem of access to Church Road and particularly Trull Primary School during the recent snow, he and Mrs Wooldridge had investigated the provision of grit bins. These would have to be purchased and may not be required every winter. Mrs Woodridge introduced a list of the legal obligations and requirements for anyone undertaking the clearance and/or gritting of roads and urged caution when carrying out any such work.

124/09 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Mr Parris thanked the Clerk for her very comprehensive Minutes.

125/09 **Matters for Report**

The Clerk reported that she had again contacted Mr Colin Inder, who was requested to carry out a full inspection and written report on the poplars on Trull Green. To date there has been no response but this will be followed up.

On the matter of the proposed extension to the allotments, the Clerk informed the Parish Council that Mr Grant, Estates Manager at Queen's College, had been asked to confirm in writing that the proposed work can go ahead. Mr Ken Hallett had submitted a quote for a labour charge of £975 which, when added to the cost of £474.24 for

materials already purchased, gives a total so far which is within the budget of £2,000 for the project at the December meeting (minute 107/09 refers).

Resolved: that the Clerk write to Mr Grant requesting confirmation that work can go ahead.

126/09 **PACT update – PCSO Simon Perry**

PCSO Perry updated the Parish Council on the **Community** Speedwatch surveys that had been carried out. There had been four patrols in November mainly at the top of the village near Bradbeers, with letters being sent out to motorists who **had** ignored the speed limit. Approximately 4% of the total vehicle count was found to be above the limit. PCSO Perry will continue the work as he believes it is having a good effect. It appears that most of the speeding occurs when drivers are leaving Taunton at the end of the day, which suggests they are not residents of Taunton. He will monitor later in the day when the evenings are lighter. He added that as there is still no Speedwatch co-ordinator for Trull, the co-ordinator for Bishop's Hull is continuing to cover both parishes. He called on residents of Trull to support the initiative and possibly offer to become co-ordinator for Trull.

The continuing problem of parking outside Trull Primary School is another issue reported on by PCSO Perry. The situation has been monitored over the last three months, and the safety issues have been drawn to the attention of drivers dropping off children at the school. A letter sent jointly from the school and Police has gone out to parents. Mrs Drew raised the question of the dangerous parking at the junction of Wild Oak Lane and Church Road, with parents taking risks when dropping off children, and suggested that handing out parking tickets to offending motorists may send out the message that this is not acceptable. PCSO Perry informed the Parish Council that letters have been sent to drivers parking dangerously and these have **been** logged. Any re-offenders may be ticketed.

The Chairman reminded the Parish Council that there are plans to improve the entrance to the car parks, but as the Memorial Halls, the Church and the school are all involved this would take time to be implemented.

PCSO Perry reported that he had attended a meeting with SCC Highways and the Head of the school to try to remedy the situation. SCC Highways suggested putting the school bus stop by the disused gate and stopping parking by the main gate. This bus stop would be for the school bus only, and parking would only be allowed at certain times. The small gate would be opened for bus children. Mrs Wooldridge reported that SCC Highways would carry this out as soon as the weather permitted.

PCSO Perry invited issues to be considered in the next three months, adding that the issues raised would continue to be monitored.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Perry for all his hard work.

127/09 **Planning**

The following applications had been received from TDBC for the Council to consider: -

- 52/09/0053 - 2 Jeffreys Way, Comeytrove
- Full - Erection and alteration of extension and four bay car port, demolition of two bay car port.
There is no opposition from neighbours.
- Resolved** - To support the application

The Clerk advised of the following decisions received from TDBC:

- 09/0041 - April Day, Comeytrove Road, Trull
Full permission granted for the erection of a porch

A Certificate of Lawfulness has been issued in respect of Millers Keep, Lower Sweethay, Trull for use as a residential dwelling.

128/09 **Housing and Development**

Mr Archer urged residents to attend the consultation meetings and to make their views known to TDBC and at the Parish Council meeting in February regarding the proposed Local Plan development at Trull and Comeytrowe.

The Chairman agreed with Mr Archer and added that it was necessary for TDBC to receive an overwhelming response from residents opposed to the proposed plans.

Mrs Wooldridge informed the meeting that discs of the Local Plan are available at a cost of £4. She added that Mr Willoughby-Foster and three members and of the planning team were due to attend the consultation meeting in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 19 January.

.129/09 **Playing Fields**

Mrs Wooldridge reported that all was in order and that the benches would be moved before the first cut of the year.

Mr Archer noted that the first celandines are in flower on the playing field.

The date of the Party in the Park is 19th June 2010 and the lead this year will be Mr David Davenport, who has been assured of the support of the Parish Council. Mrs Luke has kindly agreed to be the Parish Council representative and she informed the Council that the next meeting of the Party in the Park Committee will take place on 19 February. The Chairman emphasised the need for insurance for the event and reminded the Council that there are funds held in the account for this purpose.

130/09 **Footpaths**

Mr White reported that he has twice emailed SCC ROW regarding the Three Bridges but to date has received no response.

In reply to the ROW enquiry as to the ownership of the footpath to the abattoir on Comeytrowe Lane, Mr White has been given a name and passed it on to SCC ROW.

There is damage caused by erosion under the stile at this end of the footpath from Pitminster to Amberd Lane, and Mr French will place a paving slab to resolve it.

131/09 **Highways**

Mr Hancock reported that the re-grading and gulley at the bus stop on Honiton Road are on the schedule of works for SCC Highways and will be done soon. Mr Archer said that work had started that morning, and was expected to last a week.

A request was made for paving slabs to be laid at the bus stop on Honiton Road past Wild Oak Lane to access the stop across the grass.

The Chairman informed Mr Hancock that a gulley in Comeytrowe Road was blocked again causing a pool of standing water.

Mr Parris reported that a manhole at the top of Eastbrook has sunk and a pothole keeps forming, a grating at Kibbear Lane is blocked and water is running down the Lane onto Eastbrook. He suggested that this could possibly be caused by a water main problem. In addition to the above, the gullies are blocked in Eastbrook.

Mr Hancock stated that was a programme for gulley clearing.

132/09 **Allotments**

Mr Marks requested permission to place three extra compost bins on the burning plot at the allotments and erect notice boards for information for plot holders. Mr Marks will provide the timber and construct the bins. The Chairman informed him that there would be no objection. Mr Marks reported that the burning plot had become very high and burning could take up to two days. Mr Parris suggested that when the proposed extension work to the allotments is carried out, the burning plot could be levelled and a gate added for access to this corner. The gate would be locked at other times. Mr Parris also suggested that the three foot gate in Poke Lane could be swapped for the four foot gate purchased for the allotments before the work on the allotment fencing begins.

Mr Marks informed the Parish Council that there is a need for 'No Parking' signs at the gate at the entrance to the allotments. Mrs Wooldridge added that residents also had concerns that allotment holders were blocking residents' gateways.

133/09 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

There was nothing to report other than that the Charity Bring and Buy Sale had raised £1,250 despite the snow.

134/09 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

135/09 **Correspondence**

The Clerk advised of correspondence that was of interest to the Council:
Letter requesting nominations for the Taunton Deane Citizenship Awards.
Somerset Rail Guide 2009/2010.
A copy of the Avon & Somerset Police Authority newsletter.
Information and application form for a Standing Orders training workshop for Clerks.
A leaflet with information regarding changes to applications for dispensation.

136/09 **Accounts for Payment**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mrs J Wooldridge – December newsletter and delivery	£30.00
Trull Village Memorial Halls – July/September hall hire	£45.00
AP & SM Parris – materials for allotment fencing	£474.24
Mediakitchen Ltd – website hosting (1 year)	£58.75
SALC – Standing Orders workshop	£15.00
Clerk's salary – January	£385.82

137/09 **Any Other Business**

There were no other business items.

138/09 **Items for the Next Agenda**

Mr Archer will report on the Local Plan.

139/09 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 15th February 2010. There is a change of venue and the meeting will be held in Trull Primary School, at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.50 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council
Date.....