

# Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull  
on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at 7.15 pm.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. David Greig, TDBC Parish Liaison Officer, and Mr. Lyn Rodgers, Chairman of the TDBC Standards Committee, held a training session on the Code of Conduct.

Present: Mr. G. Hewett (Chairman)

Mr. S. French, Mr. D. Archer, Mr. Colin Ralph, Mr. Simon Jeffery,  
Mrs. Fiona Drew, Mr. N. Hancock, Mrs. J. Wooldridge,  
Mrs. A. Hudson and Mr. P. Parris, together with six Members of  
the Public.

In attendance: Mr. S. Watts - Clerk

The Chairman invited questions from the Public on matters that were not related to the Agenda, but none were forthcoming.

62/07 **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

63/07 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave a report on items of interest: -

The matter of overgrown vegetation at Staplehay Weir, which had been raised during public questions at the previous meeting, had now been cleared by Adrian Morris Ltd.

The removal of the dead Elm trees that had fallen into Sherford Brook near the allotments was in hand (Minute 145/06 refers). Mr. Brian Lenthall would undertake the work on behalf of Queen's College.

Mr. French was thanked for removing the discarded metal items in the allotments (Minute 50/07 refers).

64/07 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

65/07 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2007 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

66/07 **Matters for Report**

**Appointment of Representatives (Minute 20/07 refers)**

The Chairman stated that, since Mr. Keyte was no longer a member of the Parish Council, a representative was now required for the Trull, Pitminster & Corfe Almshouse and Relief in Sickness Charity. Mrs. Hudson volunteered for the role and this was agreed.

67/07 **'Affordable Homes' by Mr. Felix Marsh – Community Council for Somerset**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Felix Marsh, Rural Housing Enabler, who attended at short notice in lieu of Mr. Karl Hines.

Mr. Marsh explained that his role within the Community Council was primarily to facilitate affordable housing in rural areas. It was noted that 93 units had now been built with the involvement of the Council, and that 25 development projects across Somerset were currently being considered.

The process of establishing the need for affordable housing through to eventual occupation was explained in some detail, with the principal steps being: -

- Assessment of the need
- Identification of potential sites
- Provisional agreement of possible sites from the respective Development Control departments
- Negotiation with the appropriate landowners
- Liaison with Housing Associations
- Obtaining Planning Permission
- Securing funding.

It was emphasised that the help and support of Parish Councils was vital to the success of a project. It was noted that there were significant price differentials between land for open market development and affordable housing (the latter typically valued at £5k per unit), but affordable housing was more likely to be granted planning consent within the given parameters. In particular, affordable housing could be built outside the settlement limit, on the edge of the village 'envelope', on land on which commercial development would not be allowed.

Mr. Archer reminded the Council that it was already committed to a housing need feasibility study in the Trull and Staplehay area, as one of the Housing and Development Actions in the Trull Parish Plan adopted in 2005.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Marsh for his presentation, and stated that the Council would consider the matter again at a later meeting.

68/07 **Planning**

Mr. Archer gave an overview of the applications received from TDBC for the Council to consider: -

07/021 - 46, Killams Green, Taunton.  
Full Erection of conservatory to rear.  
**Resolved** - To support the application.

07/028 - 34, Church Road, Trull.  
Full Erection of replacement dwelling, construction of new roof on garage and erection of garden walls (Amended scheme).  
**Resolved** - To support the application.

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

07/010 - Kibbear, Trull  
Permission granted for the formation of access, hardstanding and farm track.

07/012 - 95, Killams Green, Trull.  
Permission granted for the erection of a conservatory.

07/016 - The Byre, Amberd Lane, Staplehay, Trull.  
Permission granted for the conversion of a barn for use as a holiday let.

07/018 - 1, White Lodge Cottages, Dipford, Trull.  
Permission granted for the erection of replacement garage and alteration to access.

- 07/019 - Cutsey Farm House, Trull.  
Permission granted for the erection of single storey extension and conversion of garage to annex.
- 07/022T - The Old Rectory, Wild Oak Lane, Trull.  
Permission granted for the felling of one Lombardy Poplar tree included in the TDBC (Trull No. 1) Tree Preservation Order 1990.
- 07/024 - Portland House, Dipford Road, Trull.  
Permission granted for the erection of a conservatory and porch.
- 07/026 - Canonsgrove Lodge, Trull.  
Permission granted for the erection of first floor extensions.

69/07 **Playing Field**

Mr. Ralph reported that he had attended a meeting of the Party in the Park 2008 committee on 4<sup>th</sup> July, and that progress was most satisfactory. It was noted that the date for the event had been provisionally set for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008. He gave a summary of the proposed programme of events, and asked if the Council would again manage the skittles event, and support the holding of a dog or a pet show. There was some discussion on this matter, as it was contrary to the preventative measures that had been put in place to control dogs within the playing field.

**Resolved:** (1) That the Council organise a skittles event, subject to mutual agreement on the location within the arena.  
(2) That approval be given for a pet show that would be inclusive of dogs.

The Chairman reported that he had received a complaint regarding the condition of the goalpost, and reminded the Council that it had been identified as an item of high risk at the last RoSPA inspection. He asked if the Council would consider the removal of the goalpost but, after some debate, it was agreed that it should be retained. Mr. Archer stated that the proposed work to improve the surface around the goalmouth had not been carried out. It was agreed that this should be considered again at the 17<sup>th</sup> September meeting.

The Clerk reported that the TDBC Parish Liaison Officer had requested applications for maintenance grants for 2007/8, and that he had been required to submit the application before the 13<sup>th</sup> July deadline. The TDNC Officer had also advised that although the overall budget had again been frozen, effort would be made to provide the £1,210.00 that had been granted in previous years.

**Resolved:** That an application to the TDBC Parish Liaison Officer for a maintenance grant of £1,210.00 for 2007/8 be approved.

70/07 **Footpaths**

The Chairman advised that, further to the recent work carried out at the waterfall at Staplehay, he had had a discussion with Mr. French regarding enhancement of the footpath leading up the area. Mr. French read out a scale of charges for the purchase and delivery of yellow chippings from a suitable supplier. The most cost effective option would be a delivery of 10 tonnes at £31.00 per tonne plus VAT. As this would be more than was required, the excess could be utilised elsewhere. Mrs. Wooldridge requested that a sufficient quantity be retained for use to the footpath at the bottom of the playing field. However, it was noted that a hardcore base would also be required.

**Resolved:** That Mr. French place an order for 10 tonnes of chipping at a cost of £31.00 per tonne plus VAT.

Mr. White reported that following the recent article in the Newsletter, a number of people had now offered to provide regular maintenance information on certain sections of the footpaths within the Parish.

Mr. White advised that the SCC RoW team were dealing with repairs to footpath T29/21 at Chilliswood, Dipford.

Mr. White read out information received from the SCC RoW Officer, Mr. Sam Jones, regarding improvement works to the footpath across Trull Meadow (Minute 48/07 refers). He had advised that identifying funding for this work was proving difficult, and recourse to other budgets was being considered. Mr. French advised that he had a site meeting with Mr. Jones on 18<sup>th</sup> July, and Mr. White was invited to the discussion.

Mr. White advised that the finger post signs at footpaths T21/5 and T21/7 required maintenance and had been reported to the SCC RoW team.

Mr. White referred to information received from Mr. Archer regarding pooling of water at the kissing gate area on footpath T21/1 from Amberd Lane. Mr. French agreed to place hardcore in the affected areas.

Mr. White referred to a complaint that he had received regarding the deteriorating surface outside Trull Stores. Mr. Hancock agreed to raise the matter again with Somerset Highways.

Mr. Archer referred to the previously discussed matter of installing signs at the Carter's Way footpath. SCC and TDBC had now confirmed that although they were not prepared at the present time to adopt the footpath, approval had been given to erect nameplates. The Clerk referred to information from a Bristol based company, The Street Name Plate Co. Ltd, that supplied signs made from 100% recycled plastic. It was noted that installation would need to be undertaken separately. It was agreed that the Wild Oak Lane end of the footpath should be named initially, and that the Chairman would liaise with the resident there to establish if the sign could be wall mounted.

**Resolved:** That following an instruction from the Chairman, the Clerk would order two signs that would be installed at a later date.

Mr. Archer stated that the landscaped area of Carter's Way required weeding, and agreed to assist the Chairman to undertake the work.

71/07

### **Highways**

Mr. Hancock advised that Somerset Highways had commenced hedge and verge trimming and, to date, the standard of work appeared to be satisfactory.

Mr. Hancock stated that he would be attending a site liaison meeting with Mr. Kali Martin of Somerset Highways on the morning of 17<sup>th</sup> September, and would report back to the Council.

Mr. Hancock reported on a letter received from a resident of Southay, Honiton Road, regarding overgrown vegetation encroaching on the footpaths in a number of areas on Honiton Road, and overhanging brambles at the footpath linking Wyatts Field with the playing field. He advised that these issues had now been resolved.

Mr. French queried the current condition of the surface at Claremont Lane, and it was agreed that possible improvement works would be considered at the next meeting of the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

Mr. Hancock advised that Somerset Highways had yet to undertake the work to the bridge at Mill Lane (Minute 27/06 refers); and that surface dressing work would commence at Daw's Green and Little Cannonsgrove Lane in early August.

72/07

### **Allotments**

The Clerk circulated a list of the current tenancy holders and stated that five had recently received a letter advising that their plots were not being maintained to an agreeable standard. One agreement holder had since cancelled, and reference was made to the current waiting list. The Clerk queried the policy on letting more than one plot to an existing tenancy holder; and it was noted that applications had been received from people living outside of the Parish.

- Resolved:**
- (1) That approval be given to cancel the agreements with the previously mentioned tenants if they had not substantially improved the condition of their plots by 29<sup>th</sup> July,
  - (2) That it was in order to let more than one plot to a tenant if there were vacancies and the existing plot was in good order,
  - (3) That priority for the allocation of plots would always be given to residents of the Parish.

Mr. French reported that he had delivered approximately two tonnes of compost to the allotments, and that he had been aware of a possible influx of sewage into the adjacent drainage ditch. This was attributed to an overflow from a nearby septic tank due to the recent heavy rainfall, and the situation would be monitored.

Mr. Jeffery queried the annual charge for an allotment plot, and it was agreed that the Clerk would establish the cost of a TDBC plot as a comparison.

73/07

### **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

Mr. Jeffery gave an update on meetings that he had attended with the Trull Community Centre Development Group and with its Chairman. The next meeting was scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> September, and he would report back to the Council.

Mrs. Wooldridge made a request for additional representative support for the Trull Memorial Halls Committee. The Chairman asked if Mr. Jeffery was willing to undertake this additional role, and this was agreed.

74/07

### **Trull School**

Mrs. Wooldridge advised that the School had been granted planning permission for the new car parking lay by with access gate to the playing fields (Planning Application 42/2007/027 refers), and that work would commence shortly.

75/07

### **SALC**

There was nothing to report on this item.

76/07

### **Matters of Correspondence for Report**

The Clerk advised of correspondence that was of interest to the Council: -

Information and a CD received from the Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingency Unit regarding the preparation of a Parish Emergency Plan (No action would be taken on this at the present time).

A reminder from the TDBC Electoral Officer regarding the return of Election expenses forms (copies were circulated at the meeting).

Information from the Land Management Information Service regarding aerial photography and Ordnance Survey mapping.

A copy of the Minutes of the Taunton Deane Area Working Panel held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007. It was noted that the next two meetings would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> September at the Zion Baptist Church, Creech St, Michael and 13<sup>th</sup> November at Kingsmead Community School, Wiveliscombe.

An information leaflet received from the Somerset Road Safety Partnership.

77/07

**Accounts**

**Resolved:** That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mrs. J. Wooldridge – June Newsletter	-	£19.00
Clerk’s salary – June	-	£300.00
Mr. Brian Lenthall – Allotment gate installation.	-	£376.00
Trull Village Memorial Halls – April, May & June	-	£40.50
Parsons Landscapes Ltd - June	-	£113.98
Mr. Ray Shattock – Trull Green grass cutting	-	£32.00
Mr. Ron Vining – Replacement cheque	-	£125.00

78/07

**Items for the Next Agenda**

Items for the next Agenda would include: -

- Mid-year Financial Position
- General maintenance and budget items
- Approval of the 2007/8 Asset Register

79/07

**Dates of Next Meetings**

The next meeting is provisionally scheduled for 20th August (subject to the need to discuss urgent planning applications); and the following meeting is on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007. Both meetings will be held in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.20 pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....