

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull
on Monday 20th June 2011

Present: Mrs J Wooldridge (Chairman)

Mr G Hewitt, Mr S French, Mr N Hancock, Mrs A Hudson,
Mrs D Luke, Mr P Parris and Mr C Ralph, together with five
Members of the Public.

In attendance: Mr Edmondson – Chair of Pitminster PC
Mr Tyzak – Clerk to Pitminster PC
Mr Mark Edwards – Taunton Deane Councillor
Mr Steve Fawcett – Trull Weir and Millstream Restoration Group
Mr John White – Footpaths
Mrs A Harding – Clerk

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting the Chairman invited questions from members of the public that were not related to the Agenda but there were none forthcoming.

107/11 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and agreed from Mr W Hawkins Mrs S Khattab.

108/11 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

109/11 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman introduced Mr Edmondson and Mr Tyzak and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Referring to proposed repairs to the water supply to the pavilion, (minute 104/11) Mrs Wooldridge informed the Council that Western Power would prefer to be contacted direct by the contractor carrying out the work to request confirmation of the position of any underground electricity cables.

110/11 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

Minute 104/11 paragraph 3: should read 'It was suggested' not 'I was suggested'.

Minute 106/11: should read 'The next meeting will be held at 7pm on 20th May 2011, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull'.

111/11 **Matters for Report**

The Clerk presented Trull Parish Lands Charity Annual Report received from Mr John Guy. Income for the year up to 5th April was £10,983. After expenses, 25% was passed to the Ecclesiastical Parish of Trull, 25% to Trull School and of the 50% payable to relief in need £2,986 was distributed to 18 beneficiaries. The majority of these were students. The remaining £8,878 was carried forward to be distributed for relief in need in the future. The capital, mainly in stocks and shares has a market value at 5th April of £488,344.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that following the withdrawal of the retrospective planning application for Fishermans Rest, Staplehay and reports that building work was again taking place the matter had been queried with the TDBC Planning Department.

112/11 **Delegated Planning Powers – David Edmonton, Chair of Pitminster PC**

Mr Edmonton spoke to the meeting giving an overview of how Pitminster PC use the delegated planning powers. Originally eight parishes in Somerset took on the powers but most subsequently withdrew from the scheme; Pitminster is one of the three that now remain. It is an important power which cannot be delegated further and one that is not to be taken lightly. All councillors receive training and TDBC have always been found to be very helpful. The TDBC timeframe of eight weeks must be adhered to as does the code of conduct regarding Declarations of Interest. All applications passed to Pitminster must be dealt with by them so any contentious issues cannot be handed back. Applicants can appeal a refusal and if this is upheld the Parish Council is liable for any costs incurred. Pitminster hold special meetings for planning at the start of the Parish Council meetings. Only householder applications are delegated and there are exceptions to this including change of use, listed buildings, two or more flats, a separate dwelling in the garden or buildings in a conservation area. TDBC planners visit to check decisions at a charge of £80 per visit.

Councillor Edwards stated that the TDBC planning department was not paying for itself and that new legislation was being put in place to rectify this, possibly in April 2012. He added that there is always a risk and that it would be prudent to think carefully before taking on these powers. He also suggested waiting until the Localism Bill came into effect in December to see what opportunities presented themselves.

Mr Edmonton ended his address by adding that this is an important power the advantage of which is to give local communities the chance to make decisions affecting them.

113/11 **Millstream Committee/Staplehay Weir update – Steve Fawcett & Mark Edwards**

Councillor Mark Edwards gave a brief outline of the situation regarding the repairs to Staplehay Weir. The planning application and design were going to the Structures Team at TDBC and the aim is for installation of the new footbridge in September. The original plan for phase one – to stop the leak – had failed and the new plan is to install a gabion base. The cost for the whole project will be £22,400 and the DLO is ready to start when the funding is available. Mr Edwards has consulted DLO who inform him that the work could be done in stages using the £9,000 contribution from the Parish Council first but that they could not guarantee this would ensure stability of the structure. Advice from the TDBC Finance Office is that funding from grants is the best way to raise the additional funds and the Heritage Lottery Fund is the best of these. The area as a whole would need to be looked at including the bridge, weir, stream and sluice gates and a full structural survey carried out. The DLO could fund the work if they were certain that grant funding was forthcoming.

Mr French voiced his concern that SCC ROW would remove the RSJs from the top of the weir as part of the new bridge installation destabilising the weir. Mr Edwards confirmed that they would take away all their structures over the weir.

Mr Fawcett started his update on the work of the Millstream Committee by informing the Council of their decision to change the name of the organisation to the 'Trull Weir and Mill Stream Restoration Group' as it was felt that the word 'committee' was now out of place. The emphasis of the work had changed as the Millstream is in good condition. The new name reflects this and also acknowledges the good relationship with Trull PC built up over the last eighteen months. In terms of applying for grant money to carry on the restoration, Mr Fawcett stated that having the support of the Council was a great advantage. With this in mind Mr Fawcett requested that a statement of support in principal was minuted.

Proposal: that the work of Trull Weir and Mill Stream Restoration Group is supported by Trull Parish Council which is represented by two of its members in the group. All eight members of the Parish Council in attendance voted in favour of the proposal.

114/11 **Planning**

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

- 11/0014 - The Bungalow, Charlton Rise, Comeytrove Road, Trull
Full - Application for adjacent dwelling (amended application 10/0008).
Resolved - This application has already been granted.
- 11/0017 - 31 Killams Green
Full - Erection of first floor extension to side and rear and ground floor extension to rear. (amended application 10/0053).
The Parish Council supported the original application and are of the view that the amendment to the two storey extension and pitched roof gives a more balanced appearance.
Resolved - To support the application.
- 10/0018 & 10/0019LB - Sweethay Farmhouse, Sweethay, Trull
Full - Change of use of ancillary barn to holiday let.
Resolved - To support the application.
- 11/0021 - 8 New Road, Trull
Full - Erection of single storey extension to side and rear and erection of car port. (amended scheme to application 10/0037).
Resolved -

115/11 **Housing and Development**

There was nothing to report on this item.

116/11 **Playing Field**

All equipment was in good order with the exception of the little playhouse. A possible source of recycled plastic boarding to effect repairs had been found and the work would be carried out shortly.

Mrs Wooldridge reported that someone had moved one of the picnic benches to the top of the playing field and that a large quantity of broken glass had had to be removed. Police assistance will be requested to help prevent young people causing damage in future and stated that on the day of the Castle School Prom local police shift patterns had been changed to provide cover in Trull and Bishop's Hull.

117/11 **Footpaths**

Mr White reported the following:

- The second stile in from the road on the footpath from Kibbear Lane to Cotlake Hill was reported last year to SCC as requiring maintenance. The top rail has now come away and SCC report that the stile will be replaced shortly.
- Following a successful pilot scheme in South Somerset, SCC is inviting expressions of interest for a similar 'Strimmer Project' across Taunton. Parish Councils and other organisations can nominate a volunteer to undergo training with a petrol driven strimmer. Following training volunteers can undertake clearing and tidying work to help keep footpaths and open spaces clear and tidy. All equipment and safety clothing will be supplied.

118/11 **Highways**

Mr Hancock reported on the following:

- Mill Lane Bridge is to be strengthened on site as, despite any historical value it may have, no other solution has been found.

- SCC is to begin planned hedge cutting on 20th June continuing for approximately 8 weeks and the planned start for gully cleaning is early September.
- SCC Highways have added repairs to the finger post in Kibbear Lane to their 'to do' list.

119/11 **Allotments**

The issue of the eucalyptus tree on the allotments has again been raised by the holder of the former burning plot. The matter will be discussed at the annual meeting for allotment holders in October.

120/11 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

A new motorised screen has been installed in the Memorial Hall.

121/11 **Trull School**

The next meeting to discuss development of the Memorial Hall car park will take place on 7th July.

122/11 **Correspondence**

The Clerk advised of correspondence that may be of interest to the Council:

- A letter from SALC reminding Councillors that requests for election expenses were overdue.

123/11 **Accounts for Payment**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -

EDF Energy – changing room 9/3-13/6/11	£15.63
Parsons Landscapes Ltd- May 2011	£232.04
Trull Village Memorial Halls	£101.16
Community Council for Somerset	£35.00
Mr Ron Vining	£150.00
Mrs A Harding – newsletter, stamps	£40.32
Zurich Insurance – annual premium	£1,606.60
The Castle School – photocopying	£42.16
Galmington Massive Youth Project donation – minute 28/11 refers	£100.00
Clerk's salary – May	£395.80

124/11 **Any Other Business**

Mr Hewitt reported that some dog owners had been using the rubbish bin in the bus shelter to dispose of dog waste. It was suggested that a sign should be erected asking dog owners not to use the bus shelter but to use the dog bin on Trull Green.

Mrs Luke reported on her attendance at the Annual General Meeting of the Scouts and praised them for their 'fantastic year'. At that meeting Steve Walker had voiced his concern that thought had not been given to a temporary venue for Scout meetings whilst the Memorial Hall development takes place.

125/11 **Items for the Next Agenda**

- Mill Stream Footpath
- PACT

126/11 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 18th July 2011, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.30 pm.

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