

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull
on Monday 16th June 2008 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr. G. Hewett (Chairman)

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

In attendance: Mr. S. Martin-Scott – SCC Councillor
Mr. J. White – Footpaths
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 but none were forthcoming.

The Chairman referred to the recent passing over of a local resident, Mr. Maurice Collard, at 93 years of age. He had lived in the Parish almost all his life, and the Chairman gave an account of his extensive involvement in local activities such as the Parish Council, the Memorial Halls, St. John Ambulance and Trull School. The Chairman had sent a letter of condolence to his wife, and it was agreed that his commitment to the community would be sorely missed.

43/08 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and agreed from Mr. N. Hancock and Mr. C. Ralph.

44/08 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

45/08 **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Hewett advised that a letter had been sent to Mrs. Becky Howatt thanking her for her work in producing the Newsletter in the absence of Mrs. Wooldridge. He then read out an acknowledgement letter. It was noted that Mrs. Drew had circulated a 'Thank You' card for signing prior to sending to Mrs. Howatt.

The Annual Report for the Trull Parish Lands Charity that had not been available at the Annual Parish Meeting was read out. The objectives of the Charity were explained, together with the percentage allocations of the income received from the capital investment. During the year to 5th April 2008, after expenses, income of £13,522 was apportioned between the Church and the School. A further £8,493 was distributed to 34 separate beneficiaries, many of whom were students. A balance of £6,345 would be carried forward for future years. The capital of the Charity is mainly invested in stocks and shares that had a current market value of £455,100.

46/08 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th May 2008 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

47/08 **Matters Arising**

Insurance Premium 2008/9 (Minute 38/08 refers).

The Clerk advised that the Chairman of the Party in the Park Committee had raised concerns regarding the level of cover that would be provided by Norwich Union. It had now been confirmed that the insurance broker, Came & Co, had given incorrect advice and that insurance for the event would need to be made with an alternative company. This was of concern, as it was considered that Zurich Insurance had a good understanding of the event, and the premium was due for renewal on 17th June. It was noted that the Zurich premium was £1,313.91 (exclusive of the £341.25 required for

the Party in the Park event) and represented an increase of £32.70 on the previous year. It was agreed that the preference would now be to remain with Zurich for the forthcoming year and review the matter in more detail at a later date.

48/08

SCC Councillor Report

Mr. Martin-Scott, as the SCC Councillor for the Taunton and Trull Division, gave a report on items that were of interest to the Parish Council: -

Local Initiatives Budget

It was explained that a key element of the Taunton Deane Area Working Panel was that each County Councillor could fund schemes that had been developed with local communities to meet local priorities. This will complement the £5,000 Community Budget Scheme already in operation, giving a potential sum of £20,000, or more if Councillors 'pool' their budgets. There were strict criteria in accessing the funding, but the principal requirement was that applications met the Local Area Agreement outcomes. Each Councillor could make a maximum of five applications between the range of £2,000 to £15,000 and these must be submitted before 28th November 2008. Mr. Martin-Scott requested suggestions for the scheme and the following comments were made: -

- Mr. French stated that Pokes Lane required resurfacing and that the preferred option would be to ensure that the work was of a high quality for whatever length the funding would permit. Mr. John Webb queried if this impinged on what should be mandatory routine maintenance for SCC Highways Department. Mr. Michael Paull queried if the funding could be used for items not necessarily covered by an existing budget.
- Mr. Archer suggested an extension to the low walling at the Church Road end of Pokes Lane.

SCC Chairman's Service to the Community Award

The scheme was now seeking nominations and the appropriate form had to be returned by 30th June. A number of suitable candidates were proposed and it was agreed that the Clerk and Mr. Archer would try to comply with the timescale.

Southwest One

There had been recent claims regarding the probity of the contractual and working arrangements of the joint SCC/TDBC and Avon & Somerset Police venture. The MP for Bridgwater, Mr. Liddell-Grainger, had used his Parliamentary Privilege to raise the matter at Westminster; but a detailed review of the claims would appear to show that they are not substantiated.

SCC Debt

It was noted that the level of debt for the Authority had been increased to £257M.

Culture Strategy

A recent appointment of a key member of SCC staff would now enable a culture strategy for Somerset to be developed.

Questions & Answers

- Mr. French queried if the Local Area Working Panel was another form of quango. It was advised that the group had an important role to play within the community and the current themes and cultural activities would, for example, hopefully lead to a reduction in street crime.
- The Chairman requested further information on the SCC stance for operating Post Offices that had been scheduled for closure. This was particularly pertinent given the current level of debt. Mr. Martin-Scott advised that a policy was being developed on better use of buildings and that the SCC Chief Executive had recently formed an internal working party to consider these issues.
- Mr. John Webb referred to the 20 mph restriction on Honiton Road and queried if this was going to be reviewed. It was advised that this would not occur in the short term. However, a potential change of administration following the next Election could lead to an appraisal of speed limits and signage throughout the County.
- Mr. French stated that the customer services telephone system was very frustrating and invariably led to return calls from the appropriate officers being missed.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Martin-Scott for his report, and it was noted that further updates would be given on a bi-monthly basis.

49/08 **Donated Seat at Trull Meadow**

The Chairman explained that he had received a telephone call from a lady requesting a bench in remembrance of Pauline Morrell, who had died recently. There were strong links between Mrs. Morrell and Queens College, and it had been suggested that a bench in Trull Meadow would be a fitting memorial. However, the contact details of the caller had not been taken, and it was not clear if the bench would be donated. Mr. Archer suggested that a circular bench could be built around the large oak tree in Trull Meadow, where youngsters and dog-walkers often congregate. This was not something that the Council had budgeted for. Mrs. Wooldridge offered to investigate the matter further and report back to the Council.

50/08 **Planning**

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

08/009 - Little Kibbear, Kibbear, Trull.
LB Installation of replacement windows on the southern and western elevations.

Resolved - To make no comment on the application as it is beyond the technical competence of the Council.

08/016 - Farthing Cottage, Higher Comeytrowe, Trull.
Full Erection of single storey extension with balcony over existing flat roof element to rear.

Resolved - To support the application.

08/018T - Canonsgrove Halls of Residence, Canonsgrove, Staplehay.
Felling of 1 Black Pine, 2 Scots Pines. 1 Norway Maple, 4 Poplars and management works to various Sycamores, 1 Oak and 1 Ash trees contained in TDBC (Trull No. 3) TPO 1995.

Resolved - To support the application.

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

08/019 - The Old Rectory, Wild Oak Lane, Trull.
Erection of single storey extension and two-storey extension to form garage and annex.
Mr. Archer queried the relationship of the extension with the outline approval for two dwellings on the site. Mr. Martin-Scott advised that the intention was to replace the garage that would be lost should the development commence.

Resolved - To support the application.

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

07/060 - Land to the west of Comeytrowe Road, Trull.
Outline permission refused for the erection of 58 affordable homes and associated parking.

08/002 - Land opposite Dipford Cottage, Dipford Road, Trull.
Outline permission refused for the erection of eight affordable houses.

- 08/007 & - Gatchell Cottage, Dipford Road, Trull.
008LB Full & Listed building consent granted for the erection of replacement conservatory and covered way to rear and replacement first floor window and rooflight to south side of dwelling.
- 08/011 - 7, Orchard Close, Trull.
Full permission granted for the erection of a detached garage.
- 08/015 - 93, Killams Green, Trull.
Full permission granted for the conversion of rear part of garage to living accommodation.

51/08 **Housing & Development**

Mr. Martin-Scott queried the Council's position in respect of affordable homes, and stated that he had written to the Chairman of the TDBC Planning Committee in support of the Dipford Road proposal. The Chairman and Mr. Archer advised that the Council had long supported the provision of small-scale affordable housing and this was reflected in the Trull Parish Plan. The Chairman stated that Mr. Lanier of West of England Homes was not intending to appeal against the decision at Dipford Road and was actively searching for an alternative site within Trull. Mr. French commented that the current economic climate would be a further hindrance to this type of development.

52/08 **Playing Field**

The Chairman referred to the Party in the Park event and reported that Parsons Landscapes had been requested to leave an area of grass uncut for the golf event. Mrs. Wooldridge confirmed that this was the case and that the area had been marked out.

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that the BMX humps appear not to have been disturbed following the article in the Newsletter, and that the playing field itself was looking in very good order.

The Chairman advised that the Council would be running the skittles event at the Party in the Park and that Mr. Ralph would be requesting names for a rota. He suggested that 1-2 hours per person to either receive the money or stick-up the skittles would be sufficient. It was noted that Mr. French would again be collecting and setting up the alley. Mrs. Wooldridge queried the arrangements for the consultation stall about the development of playing field facilities, which had been agreed in her absence. Mr. Archer explained what he had had in mind in proposing it, and she agreed to take on responsibility for it.

53/08 **Footpaths**

Mr. White reported on the following items that require maintenance by SCC ROW: -

- T21/5 from Kibbear Lane to Cotlake Hill. The second stile in from the road is in poor condition.
- T21/35 adjacent to Trull tennis club. There is a dead Elm tree leaning on the back of the building, although no damage appears to be done. The tree will need to be removed as soon as possible, but Mr. White had cut out a section to allow continued access along the path.
- Reports had been received of overgrown vegetation causing difficulty in walking the footpaths around Chilliswood Farm. This will be investigated at a later date.

Mr. Parris advised that a seat at the top of Cotlake Hill had been removed to the adjacent copse. It was evident that a person had been living rough in this area and using the seat. Stronger brackets would need to be used when it was reinstated back onto the concrete plinth.

Mr. Parris reported that he had made an initial examination of the blocked drain at Carter's Way (Minute 30/08 refers). At this stage, only rods had been used but it would

appear that the drain diverted under the garden of the adjacent property in the direction of the Church. As there was a tree in the garden, this was likely to be the cause of the problem. Mr. French understood that specialist 'mole' equipment was available for hire but Mr. Parris had been unable to locate anything suitable to date. In any event, it was unlikely that it would be capable of cutting through an invasive tree root.

Mr. Archer stated that the landscaped area at Carter's Way required the scheduled summer weeding and proposed that the opportunity now be taken to apply the wood chippings kindly offered by Mrs. Hudson. This was agreed and Mr. Parris offered to transport the chippings.

The Chairman thanked Mr. White for his work in preparing and treating the Notice boards.

54/08 **Highways**

Mr. Parris reported that the 30 mph signs leading from Pitminster were virtually obscured by overgrown hedging. The Clerk will inform Somerset Highways.

Mr. French stated that the standard of the recent verge cutting work had improved but was not outstanding.

Mr. Martin-Scott advised that he had been in contact with Mr. Hancock regarding the delay in progressing necessary maintenance work but understood that this was now in hand (Minute 31/08 refers). It was noted that the underground spring at Kibbear had not been diverted but the ditch at Browns Elm had recently been cleared.

55/08 **Allotments**

The Clerk thanked Mr. French for arranging the recent delivery of six tonnes of soil conditioner.

56/08 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

There was nothing to report on this item.

57/08 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

58/08 **SALC**

The Clerk advised that he had been unable to attend the meeting held on 5th June at Bicknoller Village Hall (Minute 35/08 refers).

59/08 **Party in the Park 2008**

This item had been discussed previously at Minute 53/08 of this set of Minutes. The Chairman advised that a local historian would be giving a talk at the Church on Sunday 13th July and all were welcome to attend.

60/08 **Approval of the 2007/8 Accounts**

The Clerk referred to the previously circulated statements which detailed income for the period as £14,851.74 with an expenditure of £22,657.20. Adjusted for the £12,248.28 balance carried forward from 2006/7, and £20.00 for an unrepresented cheque, the balance at 31st March 2008 was £4,442.82. It was noted that the accounts would now be submitted to the External Auditors, Moore Stephens of Bath, on 30th June.

Resolved: That the £4,442.82 balance carried forward on 31st March 2008 be agreed and approved.

61/08 **Approval of the Annual Return**

The Clerk referred to the previously circulated copies of section 4 of the Annual Return and advised that each section required consideration and approval prior to submission to the External Auditor.

Resolved: That section 4 of the Annual Return for 2007/8 be agreed and approved.

62/08 **Correspondence**

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

Information received from TDBC regarding BT removing a number of public payphones within the Borough. It was noted that the facilities at Trull and Staplehay were not identified for closure.

Information received from the TDBC Heritage and Landscape officer regarding the launch of the East Deane Way on 30 June (previously circulated). Mr. Archer would attend this event.

A copy of the Agenda and Minutes for the Taunton Deane Area Working Panel held on 11th June at Bishops Hull Village Hall (previously circulated by e-mail).

Information received from the TDBC Parish Liaison Officer in relation to a recent statement made by the Communities Secretary, Hazel Blears, for a 'new era of parish power' (previously circulated).

Information received from the TDBC Community Leisure Officer regarding surplus Notice boards (previously circulated). Mr. Jeffery and Mrs. Wooldridge would investigate this offer in more detail and report back to the Council.

A copy of the 2007/8 SCC Public Rights of Way Newsletter.

Five copies of SCC Councillor Local Initiatives Budget (LIB) Public Information Packs.

63/08 **Accounts**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mrs. J. Wooldridge – May Newsletter	-	£19.00
Clerk's salary – May	-	£390.82
The Wyvern Club – AGM hospitality	-	£29.00
Charles French & Son Ltd – 6 tonnes of soil conditioner	-	£106.81
Parsons Landscapes Ltd – May grass cutting	-	£160.98
Mr. R. Vining – Footpath maintenance	-	£150.00
Mr. G. Hart – Bench maintenance	-	£30.00
Zurich Municipal Insurance – Party in the Park 2008 Premium	-	£341.25
Zurich Municipal Insurance – 2008/9 Premium	-	£1,313.91
Mr. R. Shattock – Trull Green grass cutting	-	£48.00

64/08 **Any Other Urgent Business**

The Clerk referred to the application forms received from the TBDC Parish Liaison Offer for the 2008/9 Maintenance Grants. It had been advised that the budget had been restricted to the level of previous years and that claims should be realistic and returned by 7th July. It was agreed that a request of £1,285.00 should be submitted in respect of maintenance of the playing field, burial ground and footpaths.

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that the Trull Church clock was currently chiming out of synchronisation with BST and was due to be repaired by a specialist company.

65/08 **Items for the Next Agenda**

There were no additional items for the next Agenda.

66/08

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 21st July 2008, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman reminded the Council that a provisional meeting had been scheduled for 18th August at 7.15 pm in order to consider any urgent planning applications. Mrs. Hudson advised that she would be unable to attend the meeting.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.55 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....