

# Trull Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull, on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 7.15 pm.

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

In attendance: Mr. J. White – Footpaths  
Mr. S. Watts - Clerk

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, Mr. Hewett, as Chairman of the outgoing Council, invited questions from members of the public but none were forthcoming. He then welcomed Mrs. Wooldridge back to the Council following her extended holiday.

Mrs. Wooldridge advised that Mrs. Howat would not be able to attend the meeting.

18/08 **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

19/08 **Election of Chairman**

Mr. Hewett requested nominations for the role of Chairman of the Council and Mr. French nominated Mr. Hewett. Mrs. Hudson seconded the proposal.

**Resolved:** That Mr. Hewett be appointed as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

20/08 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

21/08 **Chairman's Report**

A letter of thanks had been sent to Mark Green following his excellent 'Project Taunton' presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April. He had since replied and suggested that he returned in approximately nine months time when he would be able to give a progress update, particularly concerning developments in the High Street area.

A letter had been received from Mark Formosa, the Taunton Deane Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, regarding lobbying against the outline planning application for affordable homes at Dipford Road. A copy of a letter received from the Environment Agency was also attached, and this advised that the organisation had been consulted on an application for 58 affordable homes at Comeytrove, to which they had objected on the grounds of a flood risk assessment. It was evident that there had been some confusion in this matter, and Mr. Formosa had been advised accordingly.

22/08 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

23/08 **Matters Arising**

**New Notice Board at Staplehay (Minute 12/08 refers).**

Mrs. Wooldridge queried why the proposed new notice board at Staplehay had been deferred. The Chairman explained that in addition to the cost of the notice board, SCC required a license fee and was stipulating the use of an approved contractor for any ground works prior to installation. The total cost was considerable and deemed to be excessive for the location. Mr. French asked Mr. Jeffery if he would consider fixing a notice board to the stone boundary wall outside his property, but he replied that the

ownership of the wall was unclear. Mr. French advised that the notice board adjacent to the Parish Rooms was in need of repair, and the direction board to the Memorial Hall car park in need of revarnishing and painting. Mr. White offered to undertake the work, and Mr. Parris to supply the material and equipment.

24/08 **Election of Vice-Chairman**

The Chairman requested nominations for the role of Vice-Chairman and asked if Mr. French would continue in this role. This was agreed and unanimously supported.

**Resolved:** That Mr. French be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

25/08 **Appointment of Representatives**

The Chairman requested that representatives be appointed to the respective roles and working groups, and proposed that the current representatives be re-elected en bloc. This was agreed.

**Resolved:** That the following be appointed for 2008/9: -

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| a) Planning Advisory Group                             | - Mrs. A. Hudson & Mr. C. Ralph       |
| b) Housing & Development                               | - Mr. D. Archer                       |
| c) Playing Field                                       | - Mr. P. Parris & Mrs. J. Wooldridge  |
| d) Highways  | - Mr. N. Hancock                      |
| e) Footpaths   | - Mr. J. White (Minute 26/07 refers)  |
| f) Allotments  | - The Clerk                           |
| g) Trull Action Plan (TAP)                             | - Mrs. F. Drew & Mr. S. Jeffery       |
| h) Trull Village Memorial Halls                        | - Mrs. J. Wooldridge & Mr. S. Jeffery |
| i) Trull Community Centre<br>Development Group (TCCDG) | - Mr. S. Jeffery & Mr. S. French      |
| j) Trull School  | - Mr. D. Archer                       |
| k) Tree Warden<br>Asst. Tree Warden                    | - Mr. P. Parris<br>- Mrs. F. Drew     |
| l) SALC  | - Mrs. A. Hudson                      |
| m) Newsletter  | - Mrs. J. Wooldridge                  |
| n) Website   | - Mrs. F. Drew                        |
| o) Trull Relief in Sickness                            | - Mrs. A. Hudson                      |
| p) Party in the Park                                   | - Mr. C. Ralph                        |

26/08 **Authorised Signatures for 2008/9**

The Chairman referred to the matter of financial transactions, and requested the appointment of authorised signatures in accordance with Condition 40 of the Standing Orders.

**Resolved:** That Mr. S. French, Mr. G. Hewett and the Clerk be the approved signatories for 2008/9.

27/08 **Planning**

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

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 08/011          | - 7 Orchard Close, Trull.<br>Full<br>Erection of detached garage.   |
| <b>Resolved</b> | - To support the application.   |
| 08/013          | - Oakwood House, Dipford, Trull.<br>Full<br>Change of use of land to residential curtilage with new access<br>and driveway. |
| <b>Resolved</b> | - To support the application.   |

- 08/014T - Earlswood House, Gatchell Green, Trull.  
 TPO Felling of 2 Birch and 3 Cypress trees, and to carry out management work to 2 Birch, 1 Beech, 1 Cypress, 1 Lime, 1 Blue Cedar and 1 Fir trees included in TDBC (Trull No. 1) Tree Preservation Order 1988.  
**Resolved** - To support the application.

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

- 08/0015 - 93 Killams Green, Trull.  
 Full Conversion of rear part of garage to form living accommodation.  
**Resolved** - To support the application.

The Clerk reported on a request had been received from the Chairman of the Memorial Halls Committee in relation to a proposed planning application for a metal storage unit to the side of the memorial hall. The Chairman had been advised that if the Council submitted the application on behalf of the committee, the TDBC planning registration fee would be reduced by 50%. However, it was understood that the Council could not make an application for an asset that it did not own and was therefore unable to assist in this matter, either practically or financially.

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

- 08/004 - 1 Gatchell Court, Gatchell Oaks, Trull.  
 Full permission granted for the erection of a conservatory to rear of property.
- 08/005 - 9 Patricks Way, Staplehay, Trull.  
 Full permission granted for the erection of a porch to front and a single storey extension to rear of property.
- 08/006 - Cutsey Mill, Cutsey, Trull.  
 Full permission granted for an enclosed swimming pool.
- 08/010 - Melody, Spearcey Lane, Staplehay, Trull.  
 Full permission granted for the erection of a conservatory to the side of the property.

28/08 **Housing & Development**

Mr. Archer reported that the planning applications for affordable homes at Comeytrowe Road and Dipford Road would be presented to the TDBC Planning Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Both applications were subject to a case officer recommendation for refusal, and the Parish Council would not be represented at the meeting. He referred to the Dipford Road application in particular, as it was evident that the main point for refusal was that the proposed site was further than 400m. ("the target distances set out in RG10") from the facilities of the settlement of Trull, and the comment in the officer's report that further work should be undertaken to locate more suitable sites within the village. He suggested than any site suitable for development within the village 'envelope' would be worth far more than would be compatible with 'affordable' prices, so the only possibility of such housing being built would be on an 'exception' site immediately adjacent to the settlement of Trull / Staplehay.

29/08 **Playing Field**

Mr. Parris advised that the BMX humps had been extended again and the current situation raised H&S concerns. He stated that the area would need to be reinstated as quickly as possible and, if the practice continued, could result in a ban of cycles from the playing field. After some discussion, it was agreed that the most effective approach

would be by making reference to the problem in the Newsletter and recommending that PCSO Kelly Browning be informed when appropriate.

The Chairman advised that agreement had been previously given to RoSPA to undertake an inspection and report on the play equipment during June. Mr. Ralph queried this decision and it was explained that in view of the work that had been recently carried out, there was merit in continuing with the organisation for one more year at least.

Mr. Parris reported that he had recently sold the two-bay swing for £100.00 and was warmly thanked by the Council (Minute 151/07 refers).

The Chairman reported that Mr. Gordon Hart was currently repairing the benches in the playing field, and that they had been subject to recent vandalism. Mr. French queried the location of the new bench that had yet to be installed, and Mr. Archer suggested that this could be established by consultation with the public at the Party in the Park 2008 event.

### 30/08 **Footpaths**

Mr. White reported that there were no particular problems in relation to footpaths at the present time. It was noted that the SCC ROW team was intending to replace a footbridge at T21/33 near Sweethay Lane.

The Clerk advised that the ROW approved contractor would install the new gates where Pokes Lane crosses the Bell House drive during the second or third week in June, when the footpath strimming works had been completed (Minute 09/08 refers).

Mr. French advised that there was a surplus quantity of the 'Dorset' stone that had been purchased for use on the footpath at the bottom of the playing field (Minute 134/07 refers). This could be used for either overlaying on the footpath or elsewhere within the Parish. It was agreed that there was no immediate requirement to undertake the work.

The Chairman referred to the blocked drain at Carter's Way, and advised that Mr. Parris was intending to examine the system using a mini-excavator. It was imperative that the tarmac surface was not damaged and Mr. Parris considered this to be feasible. It was likely that tree roots had penetrated the drain, and a decision on a repair could be made when the exact problem is known. The Clerk stated that the TDBC DLO were due payment for work previously undertaken in this matter, and it was agreed that the invoice should be submitted (Minute 193/07 refers).

Mr. Archer referred to an earlier offer by Mrs. Hudson to provide free of charge chipped wood for mulching, and suggested that when the summer maintenance schedule is undertaken at Carter's Way, following on from the drainage work, this option be taken up and the material applied to the landscaped area. This was agreed.

### 31/08 **Highways**

Mr. Hancock referred to the previously advised maintenance matters (Minute 10/08 refers) and reported the following: -

- Somerset Highways had undertaken patching work to areas of Kibbear Lane but had not diverted the underground spring.
- Mr. Peter Radford of the SCC Structures Department had yet to liaise regarding work to the bridge at Mill Lane.
- Somerset Highways had yet to undertake further work to the ditches at Brown's Elm.

It was noted that the work required appeared to be out of sequence with the surface dressing programme, and that local knowledge would be beneficial in establishing if there were drainage outlets from the ditches. Mr. Hancock had informed the Somerset

Highways Liaison Officer, Mr. Kali Martin, and would be highlighting the problems during the annual liaison meeting in September.

The Chairman referred to the previously circulated 2008 highway and verge maintenance programme received from Somerset Highways.

32/08 **Allotments**

The Clerk reported that he had recently arranged for 7 tonnes of compost to be delivered at a cost of £15.00 per tonne plus £70.00 delivery. However, the order had been subsequently cancelled due to concerns regarding the delivery vehicle being able to reverse into the allotment gates and contact with overhanging tree branches from an adjacent property. Mr. French agreed to collect the material without cost from the Viridor depot at Priorswood as in previous years. Mr. Ralph questioned the need to provide compost, and it was agreed that this matter could be reviewed at the next budget set meeting in December.

33/08 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

Mr. Jeffery reported that members of the TCCDG and the PCC had met on 15<sup>th</sup> April and the latter were still considering their position. The next meeting was due in July and progress continued to be made.

34/08 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

35/08 **SALC**

The Clerk reported that the next SALC meeting was to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> June at Bicknoller Village Hall. The Agenda was relatively short with an emphasis on Quality Parish Council accreditation. He stated that he would endeavour to attend the meeting and report back to the Council if appropriate.

36/08 **Insurance Premium 2008/9**

The Clerk advised of the requirement to periodically review the insurance premium, and referred to the previously circulated paper giving details of two comparative quotes from Norwich Union and Zurich Municipal. The current policy with Zurich Municipal expired on 17<sup>th</sup> June and the previous year's premium was £1,280.95. In addition to which, the Party in the Park events were both subject to a premium increase of £341.25. A request had been made to Zurich to provide the 2008/9 premium before the meeting but it was still awaited. The Norwich Union quotation was £1,037.00 less 5% for agreeing to a three-year arrangement. It was noted that the cover for the Party in the Park was included in the rate and that several items such as Public Liability, which was increased from £5M to £10M, had a higher ceiling.

**Resolved:** That a three year binding quotation of £985.15 from Norwich Union be accepted, to be effective from the current policy expiry date of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

37/08 **Internal Audit Report**

The Clerk advised that the Internal Auditor had been satisfied with the financial and management systems that were currently in place. The accounts would now be submitted to the external Auditors, Moore Stephens, on 30<sup>th</sup> June for final certification. He had raised the following minor concerns that required corrective action: -

<u>Item</u>	<u>Corrective Action</u>
Verify that the sums insured for the War Memorial and Pavilion adequate.	- Contact insurance company and ascertain if value insured is representative.
Regular inspections of the play equipment and a written record retained.	- Mrs. Wooldridge agreed to undertake the role on a regular basis. The Clerk will provide inspection sheets.

It was noted that the Auditor had requested permission to use the 2008/9 budget set paper that had been designed by Mr. Hancock as an example of good practice for other Parish Councils and this had been agreed. Mr. Hancock was congratulated on his expertise.

38/08 **Correspondence**

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

The Spring 2008 issue of the Somerset Community Safety Newsletter.

39/08 **Accounts**

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

Mrs. R. Howat – April Newsletter	-	£19.00
Clerk's salary – April (Minute 151/07 refers)	-	£390.82
SALC – 2008/9 subscription	-	£438.37
Community Council for Somerset – 2008/9 subscription	-	£25.00
Trull School – Contribution to use of Hall for two meetings	-	£25.00
Mr. A. J. Bullen – 2007/8 Internal Audit	-	£132.72
Parsons Landscapes Ltd – Mar/Apr grass cutting	-	£310.98
Trull Village Memorial Halls – Jan/Feb/Mar hire	-	£40.50
N J Popham Ltd – Material for goal post repair	-	£70.50
Mr. R. Shattock – Trull Green grass cutting	-	£32.00

40/08 **Any Other Urgent Business**

Mr. Archer proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Howat for her excellent work in producing the Newsletter while Mrs. Wooldridge was away and this was agreed. Mrs. Drew advised that she had bought a 'Thank You' card on behalf of the Council.

41/08 **Items for the Next Agenda**

Items for the next Agenda will include: -

- SCC Councillor Report.
- Approval of 2007/8 accounts.
- Party in the Park 2008.

42/08 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.00 pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....