

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull
on Monday 19th November 2007 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr. S. French (Chairman)

Mr. D. Archer, Mr. C. Ralph, Mr. S. Jeffery, Mr. N. Hancock,
Mrs. J. Wooldridge, Mrs. A. Hudson and Mr. P. Parris,
together with 17 Members of the Public.

In attendance: Mr. S. Martin-Scott – Somerset County Councillor
Mr. J. White - Footpaths
Mr. S. Watts - Clerk

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, the Chairman invited questions from the Public on matters that were not related to the Agenda, but none were forthcoming.

126/07 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and agreed from Mr. G. Hewett and Mrs. F. Drew.

127/07 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

128/07 **Chairman's Report**

There was nothing to report on this item.

129/07 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th October 2007 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

130/07 **Matters for Report**

Affordable Housing Survey (Minute 112/07 refers).

Mr. Archer advised that a good response had been received to the request for assistance in delivering the survey forms in the Parish, and some 20 members of the public and the Council had delivered over 900 forms. This had included the rural areas of the parish as well as the built up areas. The closing date for returns was the 19th November, and approximately 20 had been returned to date. It was explained that this was in line with the Somerset Community Council's expectations for this type of survey. The Community Council would advise of the results at the next Parish Council meeting on 10th December.

Scouts Fireworks Display (Minute 114/07 refers).

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that the firework display held on 3rd November had been a successful event, and that the Scout Leaders wished to pass on their thanks to the Council.

Newsletter Circulation.

Mrs. Wooldridge referred to the recent notification from Mr. John Pepper that he could no longer deliver the Newsletter in the Killams area. Mr. Wooldridge had delivered the October edition. Another resident of Killams, Mr. Jack Matthews, had now offered to take over the role.

Notice board – Staplehay.

Mrs. Wooldridge stated that the current practice of pinning Newsletters and Council Notices to the doors of the sub-station at Staplehay was not satisfactory, and again requested that consideration be given to an alternative location.

131/07 **Report by Mr. S. Martin-Scott, Somerset County Councillor**

The Chairman invited Mr. Martin-Scott to address the Council and members of the public, and he reported on the following items: -

- ISIS Project
SCC and TDBC had now signed a contract with IBM. This was a collaboration designed to Improve Services In Somerset and would entail a multitude of services being provided by the new venture, which was now being designated SW1. The initial budget for the organisation would be £1.8M in the first year, but this was set to increase year on year. It was anticipated that the Avon and Somerset Police would also join at some point in the future, further increasing the scope of the project and the potential cost efficiencies.
- Waste Collection Contract
The partner Authorities had now signed the contract for waste collection services throughout Somerset. The successful company are ECT Recycling Ltd and the initial contract term will be seven years, with a further two seven-year terms subject to mutual agreement. The company currently provides recycling services in Mendip, Sedgemoor and Taunton Deane, and will now build on this work to ultimately achieve a 50% recycling rate, which would be of national acclaim. It is anticipated that pilot trials for the collection of cardboard and plastic will begin in early 2008.
- Post Offices
Vigilance was required in this area, as the schedules for the selective closure of both rural and central Post Offices were being periodically released.
- Asian Flu
This issue did not represent a threat to Somerset at the present time.
- Unitary Bid
This matter had now been resolved, due to in part to the decisive voting by the residents of Somerset. The focus of attention would now be on closer working between the respective Authorities.
- Park & Ride Schemes
An overview of the car parking strategy for the south of Taunton was given, as there were particular issues of commuter parking in the Haines Hill and Middleway areas. This would be alleviated by the introduction of a park & ride scheme at Hankridge. It was considered that the Silk Mills park & ride was now established and working satisfactorily, and the second site at Hankridge would complement this facility. Progress on this matter was developing rapidly, and further updates would be given when appropriate.

A number of questions were raised, summarised as: -

- The timing of bus schedules, particularly those leaving Taunton town centre in the early evening, were not sequenced with shop closing times. Mr. Martin-Scott agreed to raise this matter with the appropriate organisations.
- Local people parking in Taunton for short stay shopping should not be unduly penalised. It was advised that the redevelopment of Taunton town centre provided for a sufficient number of multi-storey car parks, and the charging policy would encourage commuters to use the park & ride alternatives.
- The lack of a Doctor's surgery in Trull was a problem for the more elderly residents. Mr. Archer suggested that the PC / TAP group reviewing the Parish Plan might address this issue. If a real need was identified, a possible solution could be to link into the Community Centre development project.

The Chairman commented on the possibility of a refuse bin tax that may be introduced in the future. He thanked Mr. Martin-Scott for his comprehensive report, who confirmed that he would be happy to give such updates periodically.

132/07 **Proposals for Change in Taunton Town Centre**

The Chairman stated that this was not necessarily an item for the Council to comment on, but it was a useful opportunity for members of the public to be made aware of the rapid and ambitious developments within the town centre.

Mr. Archer then gave a summary of the progress of Project Taunton and of the documents supplied by TDBC. The proposals were extensive, and incorporated major

enhancement works to areas such as Firepool, High Street, East Street, the Cricket Club and Tangier. The timescale for the works was anticipated to be from 2008 until 2019. He asked that members of the public study the large coloured maps that were displayed on the wall of the meeting room, and advised that the consultation period for comments ended on 5th December.

The Chairman lamented the fact that Taunton no longer had the status of a market town, now that the livestock facility was being relocated beside the Huntworth M5 interchange, between North Petherton and Bridgwater.

Mr. Parris asked if Mr. Archer was aware of a reference to the 'Wild Oak Lane flood storage reservoir' on page 94 of the *Proposal for Change in Taunton Town Centre* consultation document. He assumed that this was for flood alleviation works that would impact on the town centre. Mr. Archer undertook to seek clarification of this from TDBC and report back to the Council.

133/07 **Planning**

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

- 07/044 - Lea Bank, Dipford, Trull.
Full Erection of single storey extension.
Resolved - No objection to the application.

- 07/045 & 046 - 7A, Orchard Close, Trull.
Full Erection of garage, additional windows, fence panels & gates.
Mr. Archer gave a detailed account of these applications. The property should logically be called 10A Trull Green Drive, as it has no access to Orchard Close. He explained that the original outline approval had not been supported by the Parish Council or granted by TDBC, but had eventually been approved by the Planning Inspectorate on appeal. The full application had been approved by TDBC in August 2006, incorporating conditions reflecting the objections of the Parish Council. The present amendments were essentially amendments to the approved scheme, in three respects:
(i) Replacement of two parking spaces with a double garage, in order to provide security for the owner's vehicles.

- Resolved** - No objection.
(ii) Insertion of a small triangular window to the front for the landing, and two velux windows to the south for the bathroom and bedroom 2. The next-door neighbour was objecting to the latter two windows because of fears of being overlooked. A neighbour opposite stated that she had visited the property, and was satisfied that the additional triangular window was positioned so that it didn't overlook those properties.

- Resolved** - No objection, on condition that the velux windows to the south are of opaque glass.
(iii) Fence panels and gates to create a garden to the south and west of the house, and evergreen planting to the front for screening.

- Resolved** - No objection.
07/047 - 2, Gatchell Green, Trull.
Full Erection of dwelling to replace bungalow.
Mr. Archer explained that although this should be treated as a new application, there had been a previous application that had not been supported and had been withdrawn. He gave a summary of the revised drawings, and the changes that had been made since the previous submission.
The applicant, Mr. Borthwood, was invited to address the

Council, and he stated his family's wish to remain within Trull. Mr. Martin Lee, of ERM Ltd and acting as agent for Mr. Borthwood, gave further detailed information on the specific points that had been raised at the previous application, and how these had been addressed. It was stated that the application had received the provisional support of the TDBC planning officer concerned.

Mr. Archer then referred to a letter of concern received from the next-door neighbour. Two other neighbours expressed their concerns regarding loss of light to their property due to the size of the replacement building, the adverse affect on the street scene, and the noise and disruption during the demolition and rebuild phases.

Mr. Archer quoted from the official *TDBC Design Guide*, and suggested that the application now met the criteria set out in it.

Resolved - No objection to the application.

07/048T - 7, Furlong Green, Trull.
Tree Management work to 8 pine trees included in TDBC (Trull No. 1) TPO 1970 (TD39).

Resolved - No objection to the application.

07/049 - Amberd Barton, Amberd Lane, Trull.
Full Erection of extension to side.

The applicant, Major James Nicholl, explained the history of this property, and the reasons for the proposed extension.

Resolved - The Council supports the application.

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

07/041 - Longacre, Private Drive, Honiton Road, Trull.
Permission granted for extension and construction of dormer windows.

07/043 - Dipford Barton, Dipford, Trull.
Permission granted for the erection of a swimming pool building.

07/042 - Cutsey Grange, Cutsey, Trull.
Permission granted to retain timber clad store and resiting of oil storage tank.

134/07 Playing Field

The Chairman referred to the recent works undertaken by Abacus Ltd to the footpath at the bottom of the playing field (Minute 114/07 refers). There was some concern as to the quality of the work, particularly in respect of the hardcore surfacing that had been provided by the Council. It was explained that the material might have been over-rolled in wet weather, and this action had created an undulating and glazed appearance. The relatively high amount of fine particles in this particular batch of quarried stone had been a contributing factor, and it was advised that the appearance was likely to improve when the path had been subjected to a period of heavy rainfall. An additional layer of small aggregate rolled into the surface would improve this aspect still further. Mr. Parris advised that the SCC ROW team was not intending to undertake on-going maintenance to the footpath, or make a retrospective allowance from the recent £1,000 ROW Improvement Works Award. This latter decision was felt to be unreasonable, and Mr. Martin-Scott was requested to raise the issue with the officer concerned. It was agreed not to make any further decisions on this matter until a reasonable period of time had elapsed, and discussions had been held with SCC and Abacus Ltd.

Mr. Parris referred to the items of play equipment that had been identified as needing urgent repairs or refurbishment (Minute 114/07 refers). He advised that he had now removed the goalposts, prior to replacing the top rail. He explained that he had had a site meeting with Minster Machinery Ltd, and the company had submitted a quotation of £1,000 plus VAT for the following works: -

1. Swing - Replace or repair support poles.
Hang and adjust (supplied) seats.
Prepare and paint structure.
2. See-saw - Make adjustments as necessary.
Fit new (supplied) seats.
Prepare and paint structure.
3. Slide - Make and fit new hand rails.
Prepare and paint structure.

Mr. Parris stated that the quotation would be a maximum figure, and it was possible that the work could be completed for less. It was noted that Minster Machinery Ltd had previously made satisfactory repairs to the roundabout, and that the Parish Council would need to fund the replacement seats.

Resolved: That Minster Machinery Ltd be requested to undertake repairs to the swing, see-saw and slide up to a maximum cost of £1,000 plus VAT.

Mrs. Wooldridge referred to the Scout's fireworks display on 3rd November, and advised that an area of grass under a brazier had been scorched. The application of a layer of sand under the item might have prevented this. It was agreed that the grass would recover in due course.

135/07 **Footpaths**

Mr. White reported that the SCC ROW Team had agreed to the following items: -

- Investigate the reported poor access and signing to footpath T29/23 to the south of Higher Dipford Farm,
- Provide 'Please keep to the footpath' signs that will be used in conjunction with new fencing that will be provided by the resident of Amberd Farm, Amberd Lane, Staplehay, in an attempt to deter people from straying into the orchard.
- Investigate problems with the gate at the Honiton Road end of footpath T21/30.

136/07 **Highways**

Mr. Hancock advised that Somerset Highways was continuing with gully clearance work, and any specific problems should be advised to him.

A member of the public queried if there was a programme for gully clearing. It was understood that this was the case, but confirmation would be sought from the Highways Liaison Officer.

137/07 **Allotments**

There was nothing to report on this item.

138/07 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

Mr. Jeffery reported on a recent meeting of the Trull Community Centre Development Group that he had attended with Mrs. Wooldridge. It was advised that the group had now completed the first phase of its work, and an options paper had been issued to interested parties. The brief proposes a solution to the four main areas under consideration, these being the Old Village Hall, the Parish Rooms, the Church car park and the Memorial Hall itself. A series of meetings to discuss the issues are planned between the respective organisations, to try to reach agreement in principle on the proposals. It was noted that it was very encouraging that the various representatives were working together on this important project.

139/07 **Trull School**

The Chairman stated that the recent works to the parking area and entrance gate were of a high quality, and a significant improvement on the previous arrangement.

140/07 **Closure of the 2006/7 Accounts**

The Clerk advised that the external auditors, Moore Stephens, had approved the accounts for 2006/7 on 15th October, and they were therefore now closed.

141/07 **Matters of Correspondence for Report**

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

A letter requesting a financial contribution received from Taunton and District Citizens Advice Bureau (No action taken).

Notification that the TDBC Parish Liaison Officer will be on leave from 14th November to 19th December.

Minutes of a SALC workshop held on 29th September at Barrington Village Hall.

Information received from Wessex Water regarding water mains improvement works at Blagdon Hill, Taunton.

Information received from the Somerset Road Safety Partnership regarding an A39 Road Safety Workshop on 19th November.

142/07 **Accounts**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised for payment: -

Mrs. J. Wooldridge – October Newsletter	-	£19.00
Clerk's salary – October	-	£300.00
Trull Village Memorial Halls – July/Aug/Sept Hire	-	£40.50
Moore Stephens – External Audit	-	£158.62
Hale Transport Ltd – gravel for playing field footpath	-	£510.97
Mr. Ray Shattock – Trull Green grass cutting	-	£16.00
Royal British Legion – donation for wreath	-	£30.00
EDF Energy Plc – changing rooms	-	£6.80
A.M. & S.P. Parris & Son – gravel for various footpaths	-	£162.84

143/07 **Items for the Next Agenda**

Items for the next Agenda will include: -

- Report on Affordable Housing in Trull Survey
- Budget Set 2008/9

144/07 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 10th December 2007, in the School Hall, Church Road, Trull at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.40 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....