

# Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull  
on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr. G. Hewett (Chairman)

Mr. S. French, Mr. D. Archer, Mrs. A. Hudson, Mr. C. Ralph,  
Mrs. J. Wooldridge, Mrs. F. Drew and Mr. P. Parris (part),  
together with four members of the public.

In attendance: CPSO Kelly Browning  
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 and the following matters were raised: -

- Mr. Webb referred to the imminent retirement of Dee and Ray Luke, the proprietors of Trull Stores. He gave an account of the time he had served on the Parish Council when Mrs. Luke had provided invaluable assistance in an opinion poll and the introduction of the Newsletter. He stated that their retirement would be a great loss to the community, and a general discussion was held on a number of options to mark the occasion.
- Mr. Webb referred to the October edition of the Newsletter and, in particular, the TAP article relating to improvement works within the Parish. He queried if the items fell into the 'essential' category and suggested that proposals such as this could be directly linked to increases to the Parish Precept. Given the current economic climate, he advocated caution when the Council determines the budget set at the December meeting. Mr. Roberts stated that he supported the comment. Mr. Archer pointed out that, as an example, a 20% increase in the precept would equate to an average of only 0.5p per household per week, and that the least well off would be exempt through Council Tax relief.
- CPSO Kelly Browning referred to the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) initiative, and requested that she be informed of any issues within the community. The constituent members of the working group, such as the Police, TDBC, Health and/or Education Authority, would then make an assessment and report on a three-month rolling basis. It was noted that the recent parking issues at Staplehay and Bradbeers would be eligible for consideration. Mrs. Wooldridge advised that she had had discussions with PS1880 Mark West of the Taunton West and Rural Safer Stronger Neighborhood Team regarding additional street lighting to the highway adjacent to Bradbeers. It was agreed that CPSO Browning take the two items forward to the PACT and updates the Council in due course.

131/08 **Apologies for Absence**

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

132/08 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

133/08 **Chairman's Report**

He advised that the leaking tap at the allotments had now been repaired and that the mains water supply system appeared to be satisfactory (Minute 120/08 refers).

134/08 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

135/08 **Matters Arising**

**Parking at Staplehay (Public Questions).**

The Clerk reported on a letter and parking policy received from the site manager of the Canonsgrove Halls of Residence. A copy was passed to Mr. Roberts.

Overhanging Tree at the Playing Field (Minute 117/08 refers).

The Clerk advised that the resident of Cherry Tree Lodge had agreed to remove the overhanging branches.

136/08 **Councillor Vacancy**

The Chairman reported that TDBC had not received any applications from members of the public and an Election would not be held (Minute 114/08 refers). The Parish Council could therefore now operate with nine Councillors until an additional member could be appointed under the co-option scheme.

137/08 **Overhanging Trees at the Allotments**

The Chairman referred to the matter of cutting back the overhanging trees at the allotments (Minute 120/08 refers) and advised that an estimate of £500 to cut and chip the removed material for mulching had been obtained. Two further quotations in the region of £1,000 for laying the trees and hedge had also been received. Consultation had been carried out with the residents of Ladylawn and the overall majority were not in favour of any work being carried out and would not be minded to make a financial contribution. Mr. Ralph queried if the relevant legislation could be implemented and was advised that previous research had established that without the landowners' permission, it was not applicable in this particular instance. There was a question of the cost/benefits of undertaking the work and adverse public relations.

**Resolved:** That no work be carried out to the overhanging trees at the present time.

138/08 **Review of items for the 2009/10 budget set and the SCC Local Initiatives Budget**

The Chairman requested possible items for consideration in the 2009/10 budget and emphasised that no decisions would be made until the budget set meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December. He led a discussion on various items and the following were identified: -

- Phased resurfacing of Pokes Lane over a three year period
- Development of the web site
- Play area surfacing
- Repainting and minor repairs to the changing room
- Repainting the Honiton Road bus shelter
- Additional dog bin
- Parsons Landscapes Ltd – two year quotation increase
- Extension of low walling to Pokes Lane
- Barbeque area & picnic tables
- Cutting back the lime trees at the top of the playing field.

139/08 **Planning**

There were no planning applications to consider.

Mrs. Hudson reported on a TDBC Planning Committee that had been held on 19<sup>th</sup> November. The matter of the affordable homes application at Dipford Road (Minute 115/08 refers) had been considered and the committee had received representations from Dipford Road residents, representatives from West of England Developments, TDBC officers and Ward Member, and Falcon Housing Association. It was noted that Mr. Archer had given a good account of the Parish Council's position. In determining the application, the committee were equally divided for and against and a decision to refuse was made on the Chairman's casting vote. There appears to be an ambiguity in whether the site is classified as being in a rural area or an associated settlement to Taunton town.

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

08/030 - 71, Killams Green, Trull.

Full permission granted for the erection of a single storey extension.

- 08/031 - Oakwood House, Dipford, Trull.  
Full permission refused for the construction of a new driveway.
- 08/033 - 2, Church Road, Trull.  
Full permission refused for the erection of a dwelling on land adjacent.
- 08/034 - The Bell Cottage, Staplehay, Trull.  
Full permission granted for the erection of a single storey extension to front.
- 08/038T - 5, Coplestones, Honiton Road, Trull.  
Permission granted to carry out TPO management works to one Yew tree.

The Clerk advised that the application for the erection of a steel framed cattle storage area at Hunters Oak, Sweethay, Trull, had been withdrawn, and that an appeal had been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate for the refusal of the application of a conversion of a barn at 1, Herswell Cottages, West Buckland (Minute 115/08 refers).

#### 140/08 **Housing & Development**

Mr. Archer reported on a TDBC organised workshop for the Comeytrove and Trull area that he had attended with Mr. French on 17<sup>th</sup> November. This was concerned with the need to develop the successive Local Development Framework (Local Plan) when the current version terminates in 2011. The requirements for the new LDF were more exacting and encompassed a much wider brief such as infrastructure and community issues. Reference was made to the proposed additional allocation of 3,000 dwellings in the area to the west of Comeytrove Road that were included in the final draft of the RSS, due to be published in 2009. Although TDBC and SCC, together with Comeytrove and Trull Parish Councils, have objected to the increase, TDBC were not optimistic that the allocation would be withdrawn. The process would be in two stages, the intention being that consultation with the local community would be made and feedback given at the next meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November. The initial priorities identified by the groups were community facilities, transport & access and green & open spaces. The basis of the second meeting will be to highlight on a map where the facilities could be located, and the work will be considered for inclusion in the LDF review.

#### 141/08 **Playing Field**

Mrs. Wooldridge referred to the recent Deane Despatch bulletin and an article relating to TDBC Play Rangers undertaking risk based play sessions. It was agreed that Mrs. Wooldridge contact TDBC with a request for a session to be arranged in the playing field during the summer season.

Mrs. Wooldridge referred to the matter of an adult football team using the playing field pitch (Minute 117/08 refers). A response had now been received from the Dragons football team that raised concerns in respect of adequate facilities, deterioration of the playing surface and the lack of goal posts.

**Resolved:** That an additional football team using the playing field was not feasible at the present time.

The Chairman referred to the matter of a suitable site for a W.I. donated Oak tree sapling (Minute 82/08 refers). The Secretary of the organisation was requesting information on any responses received via the Newsletter and was very keen to progress the matter. Mr. Parris had stated that the playing field and Trull Green were not suitable sites and the TDBC Tree Warden had not been able to suggest any alternative locations. Mrs. Hudson suggested that she might be able to plant it in her orchard adjacent to Amberd Lane and that Mr. Parris could consider a site in his field

adjacent to Kibbear Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the contact details of the Secretary and a site meeting would need to be arranged, although the ideal planting time for the current year had now passed.

142/08 **Highways**

Mrs. Wooldridge advised that she had informed Somerset Highways of flooding on the road at Horts Cottages, Comeytrove Road. This was a regularly occurring issue due to a gully being blocked by surface water run off from the adjacent field, and was a significant traffic safety issue.

143/08 **Footpaths**

Mr. White reported that there had been a recent landslip to footpath T21/2 adjacent to Staplehay weir. The Environment Agency was assumed to be responsible for the repairs and it was advised that the footpath could be closed for up to six months.

Mr. White advised that the SCC ROW team had requested a conditional survey to be undertaken on all of the footpaths within the parish and to be provided with feedback. As this would entail walking each individual footpath, it would take some time to complete and Mr. Archer offered his assistance if it were required.

Mr. Ralph advised that the ROW team were intending to relocate the kissing gate in the middle of Trull Meadow closer to the Sherford stream. The work should reduce the recent complaints regarding mud and access.

144/08 **Allotments**

There was nothing to report on this item.

145/08 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that the kitchen refurbishment work had started; and that the ticket sales for the pantomime had sold out immediately. An additional performance had now been arranged to cope with the very welcome demand.

146/08 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

147/08 **Correspondence**

The Clerk advised of correspondence that was of interest to the Council: -  
Information received from TDBC regarding the Homefinder Somerset scheme.

A request received from the Taunton & District Citizens Advise Bureau for a financial contribution. (This was not approved).

A copy of the SALC Minutes of the Meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> June & 27<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Information received from TDBC regarding the proposed BT public callbox removal programme. It was noted that Trull did not feature in the proposed closures.

An invitation for one Parish Councillor to attend a Strategic Housing Market Assessment consultation to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Taunton Conference Centre, Wellington Road, Taunton.

148/08 **Accounts for Payment**

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

Mrs. J. Wooldridge – October Newsletter & cartridges	-	£54.98
Clerk's salary – October	-	£390.82
Royal British Legion – Donation & wreath	-	£35.00
Mr. R. Shattock – Trull Green grass cutting	-	£16.00
Mediakitchen Limited – Web site maintenance & hosting fee	-	£182.95

Trull Village Memorial Halls – July & September hire	-	£28.50
M. A. Haydon Ltd – Allotment tap repair and mains supply test	-	£35.00
Mr. I. Perry – Maintenance of Carter’s Way	-	£25.00

149/08 **Any Other Urgent Business**

The Chairman reported that the increasing work load of his day job had forced the Parish Clerk reluctantly to give notice that he would be unable to continue beyond the end of March 2009.

The Clerk agreed to draft an advertisement for his successor, to be confirmed by the Chairman and inserted in the *County Gazette* and the local authorities’ *Opportunities* circular.

150/08 **Items for the Next Agenda**

Items for the next Agenda will include: -

- Appointment of Clerk
- Report by SCC District Councillor Mr. S. Martin-Scott
- Budget Set 2009/10
- Appointment of Internal Auditor
- Schedule of Meetings for 2009

151/08 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.15 pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....