

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull
on Monday 16th November 2009 after the Annual Parish Meeting

Present: Mr G Hewett (Chairman)

Mrs J Wooldridge, Mr D Archer, Mrs F Drew (part), Mrs A Hudson, Mr C Ralph, Mr N Hancock (part), Mrs D Luke and Mr P Parris, together with nine Members of the Public.

In attendance: Mrs B Howat and Mr R Taylor – TAP
Mr S Fawcett – Mill Stream Improvement Committee
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.

Mr Roberts reported that unauthorised parking by students was still causing a problem in Bradbeers with residents unable to park. Mrs Wooldridge offered to contact PC Griffiths.

A resident of Wild Oak Lane raised concerns regarding students from Queen's College walking in the road at night wearing dark clothing two or three abreast. The Clerk was asked to contact Queen's College to request that students be made aware of the danger to themselves and other road users.

182/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received and agreed from Mr S French.

183/09 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

184/09 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on the following matters:

- Three additional shrubs have been purchased and planted in Carter's Way to fill the gaps.
- The hedge in Poke Lane, which was bulging into the path, has been cut back and is greatly improved.
- The Chairman has met with Mr Lock from Sweethay Farm and arranged that he will clean back the edges of the path along Poke Lane, making it cleaner and easier for pedestrians to use. The Chairman stated that he was sure Mr Lock would do a good job and that his fee of £16 per hour for two men was very reasonable. There does not appear to be the need for a great deal of repair to the surface of the lane but this will be easier to judge after the work to clear the lane is completed.
- The sides of the gate to Bell House Lane from the Staplehay end of Poke Lane have now been fenced. Gordon Hart carried out the work which now prevents anyone bypassing the gate.

185/09 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

186/09 **Matters for Report**

On the matter of the weir, Mr Parris reported that he had been in contact with Mr Baker of Haygrove Farm and that the weir does not appear on the conveyancing of his property. The Chairman reported that a considerable amount of time and effort has been expended by several people to resolve the matter of repairs to the weir, and that

it was ongoing. Mr Parris has contacted the Land Registry and enquiries are also being made at Somerset Records Office. The Chairman informed the Council that many old documents which had not been considered important had been lost when the Land Registry transferred its records to microfiche. He added that we may never know who has ownership of the weir.

Mr Archer referred to an item of correspondence from the October meeting in which BT offered for sale the telephone box at Staplehay at a cost of £1 (minute 177/09 refers). He put forward the suggestion that it could be used as an official notice board. The current arrangement is that notices are pinned to the fence beside the telephone box. This is not very satisfactory as, being in the open, notices are spoiled by the weather. Mr Archer asked the Council for their views.

Mr Parris asked if there was a record of vandalism of the box. A local resident confirmed that there was not, and Mr Archer added that he frequently passed that way and would be happy to keep an eye on it. Another resident stated that it would be a pity to lose the box, but responsibility for its maintenance would pass to the Parish Council. The Chairman replied that he considered that maintenance would be minimal. **Resolved:** that the Clerk contact BT and register the interest of the Parish Council in adopting the telephone box at Staplehay.

187/09 **Report on the work of the Committee to update the Mill Stream**

Mr Mark Edwards reported on the work he is doing to resolve the matter of repairs to Staplehay Weir. He stated that the key concern outside the general issue of funding is the footpath over the weir. SCC is unwilling to carry out repairs if ownership is unknown but has to maintain a footpath, and they would require a more substantial repair than just gabions. Mr Edwards reported that he had managed to find funding for Mr Andrew Wilcox, a drainage engineer. Mr Wilcox worked with the mill stream group to find the cause of the damage which was widely thought to be slippage around the pipe. A small dam was built but the water continued to leak and it was decided that water was leaking through the bank upstream and not around the pipe. He stated that it was necessary to find the site of the leak in the bank and that it must be stopped before any repairs to the weir could be considered. He proposed sealing the leak and reinstating the gambions. Mr Edwards added that he considered this to be a much cheaper option, possibly half the cost of the original proposal and within budget. Mr Edwards has requested an outline quote for the work from the DLO and SCC is happy for them to do the work. He added that he may have a firm idea of the pricing within the next couple of weeks and that he feels the issue may be near to resolution.

Mr Hancock asked Mr Edwards to clarify how the work was to be funded if the leak was upstream from the weir. Would the landowner be liable for the cost? Mr Edwards replied that the landowner had no responsibility to carry out the repairs as the damage was caused by natural erosion of the bank. If the weir collapsed and the weir was left to dry up, a valued amenity would be lost. Therefore the quote would be for the whole job including work upstream, and the funding would cover it all. Setting up a trust could protect the weir in the future, but repairs would first need to be completed.

Mr Ralph asked Mr Edwards if the weir was listed, to which his reply was that it was not.

A member of the public informed the meeting that in the 1960s the Water Board carried out work as water was getting over the top of the weir. Now that the Water Board has been superseded by the Environment Agency, did Mr Edwards know how far their responsibility extends? Mr Edwards replied that their limit upstream is Queen's Drive.

Mr Stephen Fawcett, the Chairman of the Mill Stream Improvement Committee to conserve the Mill Stream, thanked the Parish Council, particularly Mr French, for all their support. He gave a brief outline of the background of the committee, which had

its first meeting in July and started with an interest in the north end of the Mill Stream. After a conversation with Mr French who told of the work on the weir, a second meeting took place with the interest of the committee widening to include the second half of the stream and the weir. Many villagers had an interest in the mill stream and would be very disappointed if it dried up. Mr Fawcett added his support to the work of the Parish Council and Mr Edwards.

Mr Fawcett reported that the water flow under Church Road had reduced, and that this was probably caused by a build up of silt. This in turn was raising the level of the water. He added that after the resolution of the problem with the weir a group of workers, possibly including Queen's College students, will be formed to clear the silt. Mr Fawcett added that another area of concern was the silting up of the Mill Pond, and that a machine would be required to remove silt, which could be put on the paddock to dry before being spread. He thanked Mr French and Mr Parris for their help and for putting forward the names of contractors who may be able to carry out this work. The work is expected to take place over the Christmas period and fundraising plans are being made.

The Chairman thanked Mr Edwards and Mr Fawcett and the committee.

188/09 **Trull Action Plan Review**

Becky Howat from TAP gave the Council an update. The original TAP Parish Plan was sent to all householders in the parish in 2005 and contained various issues. The current review is to follow up on that document, and it is hoped that it will be printed and sent to all householders by January. She asked to be informed of any amendments that were necessary. Mr Taylor asked that any amendments were kept to a minimum, as it is hoped that the document would go to print in a month. In line with this Mrs Drew requested that any amendments be sent to Mrs Howat within seven days.

Mr Archer reported that he had checked the section on development, and contacted Mr Willoughby-Foster of TDBC to ensure that what was said was factually correct and that it tied in with what was being planned, particularly regarding the green belt. The Regional Spatial Strategy for the period to 2026 (the final version of which has not yet been published by the government), is likely to require TDBC to designate land in Trull and Comeytrove for three hundred new houses. It is hoped that a buffer zone between the new and existing development would be made and that it would include a new green wedge along Comeytrove Stream.

The Chairman enquired if there would be a necessity to create a new parish; and Mr Archer replied that this would presumably be the case for the new community, which would be accessible from Rumwell.

Mr Archer confirmed that the information in the TAP review concerning development now ties in with any planned development over the next few years.

Other sections of the TAP review considered were:

Sherford Brook – this matter had been covered earlier in the meeting.

Trull Memorial Halls – the new development was going ahead very slowly with an architect yet to be chosen, and funding to be raised.

Playing Fields facilities – the Chairman reported that the playing field was looking very good and that the money from the affordable housing scheme would be spent on facilities for teenagers.

Mr Archer proposed that the Parish Council formally adopt the TAP review, and the motion was seconded by Mr Ralph and agreed unanimously.

Mrs Luke raised concerns that residents would be up in arms when reading of the housing proposals when the TAP review is circulated. But Mr Edwards advised that

the review was very useful; and that the Local Development Framework proposals in January would give much more cause for their concern.

Mrs Drew stated that the original review gave feedback from residents on what they wanted five years ago. Mrs Wooldridge added that this feedback is ongoing and will give the Parish Council information on what residents want. This in turn will give the Council more authority with planners.

Mr Taylor reiterated that TAP is important and that the Parish Plan should be reviewed again in five years time. The Chairman thanked Mrs Howat and the Action Plan members warmly. Mr Archer advised that information from the Community Council for Somerset indicates that Trull is the first parish council to produce a plan and review it.

189/09 **Planning**

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

- 09/0029 - Middle Sweethay Farm
Siting of a mobile home for use as agricultural worker's dwelling. Mrs Hudson enquired why the application was not for a house. Mr Ralph informed her that there was the requirement to prove need before an application for a house is made. Neighbours are in support of the application. Mr Archer reported that the footpath is not affected.
- Resolved** - To support the application.
- 09/0036 - Jubilee House, Comeytrove Road
Full Erection of two storey, 4 bedroom dwelling
Mrs Hudson reported that the site was very narrow, there would be only 1.2m between the house and its neighbour in Jubilee Terrace, and that the development would block light from that property. The neighbour at the back of the proposed development objected on the grounds that they would be overlooked.
Access onto Comeytrove Road would be very restricted.
- Resolved** - To object to the application on the grounds that it was over-development of the site, taking light from neighbours in an unreasonable way.
- 09/0038 - Wild Oak Place, Trull
Full Demolition of conservatory and lean-to and erection of single storey garden room.
- Resolved** - To support the application.
- 09/0039T - Canonsgrove House, Trull
Full To fell one maple tree and carry out management works to one copper beech and one holm oak tree.
- Resolved** - To support the application.

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

- 09/0034 - 2 Church Road, Trull
Full permission granted for the erection of a dwelling
- 09/0037 - The Outspan, Spearcey Close, Trull
Full permission granted for the retention of a single storey extension to garage and ensuite.
- 09/0035 - Oaklands, Gatchell Meadow, Trull
Full permission granted for erection of detached garage.

190/09 **Housing and Development**

Referring to the previous discussion regarding the Transport Strategy (minute 169/09 refers), Mr Archer reported that he had completed the return for SCC. This required the Parish Council to identify three priorities, and Mr Archer confirmed that he had included:

- The improvement of the bus service from Trull into Taunton and back to Trull.
- The provision of additional park and ride sites around Taunton
- Access to any Comeytrowe / Trull urban extension to be via new link to the A38, not via Trull.

Mrs Woodridge enquired why Taunton residents were charged for using the park and ride and not able to use bus passes when Bristol residents were. Mr Archer offered to make enquiries.

Mr Archer advised that Mr Lehner would shortly be starting work on improving the footpath from the new Dipford Road development to the village, and that after cleaning it back he will know how much repair work is required. The Chairman requested that Mr Hancock draw attention to the bad state of the raised footpath in Dipford Road where the camber is towards the traffic and is therefore dangerous. Mr Hancock will speak to Mr Lenher regarding this and to SCC Highways about the water ponding by the bus stop on Honiton Road.

191/09 **Playing Field**

Mrs Wooldridge reported that her inspection found all equipment in good order. The cooking at the scouts fireworks display had caused a bald patch but it is growing back. The display was a great success and praise for the clearing up was given by the Chairman, he added that the playing field was looking very good.

192/09 **Footpaths**

In the absence of Mr White there was nothing to report on this matter.

193/09 **Highways**

Mr Hancock reported on the following:

- Referring to the request from a resident to move the 'No through road' sign in her garden, Mr Hancock advised that Highways cannot re-site it.
- On the lack of drop kerbs in Honiton Road, Mr Hancock reported that Mr Martin-Scott is endeavouring to exert pressure on Highways to have them installed. SCC informed him that they may be able to do this if they are working in the area. Mr Archer added that five storm gutters from Kings Gatchell were also causing problems there for wheelchair users, when the wheels become trapped.

Mr Hancock was asked to remind Mr Martin-Scott to keep the issue of the pedestrian crossing in Honiton Road in mind.

Mr Parris again raised concerns that a Transit van was regularly parked at the top of Eastbrook causing an obstruction by sticking out into the road. The Clerk was asked to contact PC Griffiths.

194/09 **Allotments**

The Clerk circulated notes on the various issues raised at the October meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Queen's College regarding their offer to lease land to the Parish Council to extend the allotments. With this in mind the Clerk will measure the proposed site, calculate how many additional plots could be accommodated and obtain quotes for the fencing. The Chairman advised that after marking out the new plots the best method of clearing would be to spray with weed killer and then hand-dig the turf. This would preserve the topsoil and the turf could be

stacked for composting. He added that in view of the waiting list for allotments now would be a good time to extend.

On the matter of the condition of the trees on Trull Green, the Clerk informed the Council that they are not the subject of a preservation order but as they black poplars they are rare trees. Advice from David Galley of TDBC is that an inspection is carried out to ascertain the extent of the viral infection. He gave the name of Colin Inder. TDBC would need to be notified of any subsequent work as the trees are in a conservation area.

Resolved: that the Clerk contact Colin Inder to obtain a quote for the initial inspection.

David Galley reported to the Clerk that he has visited the allotments to inspect the eucalyptus tree, and his opinion is that it is not more likely to fall just because it is a eucalyptus. It appears to be a healthy tree and cutting it down would only encourage growth from the base. The tree is on the north side and not shading the plots.

195/09 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

There was nothing to report on this item.

196/09 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

197/09 **Correspondence**

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

- A copy of the November 'Heart of Somerset' events diary.
- A copy of the Autumn 2009 'Playing Field'
- Notification of two-day road closure – 2nd and 3rd December – Horts Bridge, Comeytrowe Road.
- Letter from Mr Wintrip of Staplehay regarding his request to Royal Mail to have the official postal address of Staplehay changed from Trull to Staplehay. It was agreed that the Council should adopt a neutral stance on this potentially divisive issue.

198/09 **Accounts for Payment**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mrs J Wooldridge – October newsletter and delivery	£30.00
Trull Parochial Church Council – annual maintenance grant for churchyard	£335.00
RoSPA – playing fields inspection	£89.70
TDBC – rubbish bin for bus shelter	£96.60
Parsons Landscapes Ltd – October grass cutting	£46.92
D & J Best – shrubs for Carters Way	£30.00
Mr G Hewitt – for cutting back hedge in Poke Lane (£15) and improvements to gates in Poke Lane	£50.00
Ian Perry – Carter's Way maintenance	£25.00
Clerk's salary – November	£385.82

199/09 **Any Other Business**

Mrs Wooldridge circulated for consideration a mock up of a letter head for Trull Parish Council to use on official correspondence.

The Clerk referred to the duplicate play equipment reports that had been received this year and confirmed that RoSPA do indeed have notification to inspect every year until further notice. The Clerk was asked to cancel this notification and request inspections in future from Somerset Playing Fields Association.

100/09 **Items for the Next Agenda**

2009/2010 Budget

The addition of Mrs Wooldridge as signatory.

101/09 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 7th December 2009, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.38 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....