

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull
on Monday 15th October 2007 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr. G. Hewett (Chairman)

Mr. D. Archer, Mr. C. Ralph, Mr. S. Jeffery,
Mrs. F. Drew, Mr. N. Hancock, Mrs. J. Wooldridge,
Mrs. A. Hudson and Mr. P. Parris, together with 9 Members of the
Public.

In attendance: Mr. S. Martin-Scott – County Councillor
Mr. J. White – Footpaths
Police Community Support Officer (part)
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.

106/07 **Apologies for Absence**

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

107/07 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

108/07 **Chairman's Report**

Reference was made to the homeless person who had recently been camping on land belonging to Mr. French. The person concerned had proven to be something of a nuisance to the local community, and the Police had been involved in an effort to resolve the matter. It was noted that Mr. French had been as sympathetic as possible given the circumstances, and it was understood that the person had now left the area.

109/07 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th September 2007 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

110/07 **Matters for Report**

Chairman's Report (Minute 86/07 refers)

Mr. Archer referred to the landscaping work at Carter's Way and advised that the work had recently been carried out. This would constitute an autumn attendance, and the next scheduled work would be in the Spring of 2008.

111/07 **Future of the Trull Action Plan**

Mr. Archer summarised the history and intention of the TAP, and advised that periodic progress reports that could have been published via the web site and the Newsletter had not been produced. This was primarily because the previously agreed programme of allocating each of the aspects of the Plan to a Councillor and a TAP member(s) in order to develop matters within that particular area had not materialised (Minute 77/05 refers).

Mr. Archer proposed that two Councillors who had not been involved in the earlier stages of the Plan undertake a review jointly with members of TAP. The purpose would be to identify what had been implemented and if there were any other issues which had arisen since; and to recommend what the priorities should be for the next two years, and what methods would be most successful in implementing the Plan; and report back to the Council. The co-chairman of TAP, Mr. S. Mortimore, was willing to provide as much assistance as possible.

The Chairman stated that the Council was considered to be the main enabling body, and asked if Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Drew were prepared to undertake the role. This was agreed, and it was anticipated that an initial progress report would be available in early 2008.

112/07 **Housing Needs Survey**

Mr. Archer referred to the housing needs survey for Trull, and advised that the Community Council were currently preparing 900 envelopes for delivery within the Parish. These would contain the survey form, a letter of explanation from the Parish Council Chairman including an invitation to attend the meeting on 10th December when the results would be announced, a freepost return envelope and the most recent Parish Council Newsletter. It was noted that arrangements had been made to hold the meeting in the School hall.

Mr. Archer explained that it was the Parish Council's responsibility to deliver the envelopes, and volunteers were requested to complete this during the weekend of 20th October or immediately afterwards.

The Chairman stated that all homes within Trull would need to be included in order to ensure the completeness of the survey; and that the findings would be of interest in the light of the Summerfield Homes proposal for 80 affordable units at Comeytrove Road. However, it was emphasised that Trull was considered to be an associated settlement of Taunton, and this could influence any future TDBC planning decisions.

Mrs. Wooldridge stated that she had recently spoken to Mrs. Webb, the TDBC Rural Housing Manager, and had been advised that there were currently two sites of 100 and 120 affordable homes under consideration, but details on their location was not given.

Mr. Martin-Scott queried the methodology of the questions posed by the Community Council. Mr. Archer advised that it was a tried and tested approach that had been refined over a period of time to ensure ease of use.

113/07 **Planning**

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

- 07/040LB - Chilliswood Farmhouse, Chilliswood, Trull.
Demolition of part of garden wall to provide vehicular access to garage.
Resolved - To support the application.
- 07/041 - Longacre, Private Drive, Honiton Road, Trull.
Extension of and construction of dormer windows.
Resolved - No objection to the application.
- 07/043 - Dipford Barton, Dipford, Trull.
Erection of swimming pool building.
Resolved - No objection to the application.

Mr. Archer advised the TDBC planning committee that would have considered the application for additional units at The Paddock, Fosgrove, Pitminster, had been postponed due to the recent postal strike. It had now been rescheduled for 31st October. TDBC Officers were recommending that it be approved, as the additional housing would be for four members of the applicant's family.

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

07/038T - 3, Southwell, Honiton Road, Trull.
Permission granted to fell one cypress tree included in TDBC TPO 1984.

07/039 - 6, South View, Comeytrove Road, Trull.
Permission granted for the erection of garage to side of property.

114/07 **Playing Field**

Mrs. Wooldridge referred to the RoSPA report, and advised of a recent meeting with a TDBC Officer to discuss play equipment safety (Minute 94/07 refers). A detailed explanation of the requirements of BSEN 1176 had been given, and it was confirmed that the swing, large slide and roundabout need either urgent repairs or replacement.

Mr. Parris suggested various options that he considered to be feasible to comply with the standard, and stated that further costs were needed before any decisions could be made. He also proposed that a five-year rolling programme of maintenance should be agreed if the current level of equipment was to be provided. It was noted that many Councils were now removing play equipment due to the insurance and maintenance costs.

The Clerk advised that Zurich Municipal Insurance had received a copy of the report and the summary sheet of action points, and had been regularly updated of the current situation. The company had not, to date, requested the immediate removal of any of the items in question.

Mr. Hancock reiterated the need for a costed and itemised schedule of work prior to the next budget meeting. He also volunteered to investigate what grants were currently available for play equipment and how they could be accessed.

Resolved: That the following actions be implemented at the earliest opportunity: -

1. That Mr. Parris and Mr. Ralph remove the goal post and assess whether or not it is repairable.
2. That Mr. Parris arrange an on-site meeting with a suitable contractor to ascertain what modifications to the slide and swings could be achieved in order to meet the safety requirements.
3. That Mr. Parris and Mrs. Wooldridge continue to prepare a costed and itemised plan prior to the budget meeting on 10th December.

Mr. Parris reported that two quotations had been obtained for improvement works to the footpath at the bottom of the playing field (Minute 92/07 refers). The companies concerned were Abacus Construction Ltd and Town and Country Landscaping Ltd. The submitted rates were £1,250.00 plus VAT (£1,468.75) and £1,464.37 plus VAT (£1,775.00) respectively. The specifications were broadly similar, and provided for the excavation of a 60m x 1m trench with edging boards and compacted scalplings.

The Chairman stated that it would be necessary to use the Dorset stone as suggested by Mr. French. Mr. Ralph queried the Council's priorities, as there appeared to be an issue with allocating funding to the footpath when urgent works were required to the play equipment.

Resolved: That Abacus Construction Ltd be appointed to undertake the improvement works to the footpath at the given quotation of £1,250.00 plus VAT.

The Chairman advised that Trull Scout Group had requested permission to hold a fireworks display on Saturday 3rd November. The format would be in line with that of previous years, and a copy of the current Public Liability Insurance cover for £5M had been provided.

Resolved: That permission for Trull Scout Group to hold a firework display on 3rd November be granted.

115/07 **Footpaths**

Mr. White reported on the following matters: -

- Another complaint had been received regarding difficulties in using the metal gate at the Honiton Road end of footpath T21/30, and the SCC ROW team had been informed.
- The SCC ROW team had also been advised that a new finger post was required at Kibbear Lane for footpath T21/5.
- At a recent SCC sponsored workshop held for some 35 TDBC parish footpath liaison officers, the ROW team had held a £1,000 prize draw and Trull Parish had been the successful entry (Minute 132/06 refers). To access the award, the funding would need to be used specifically for the benefit of Trull footpaths, and any proposals had to be put in writing to SCC ROW for prior approval. In addition to the award, all those attending were issued with a footpath liaison officers' handbook, a selection of hand tools and a safety kit to deal with overgrown vegetation. Mr. Archer stated that the award was very good news, and recognition should be given to Mr. Guy for obtaining and submitting the necessary information.

116/07 **Highways**

Mr. Hancock stated that there was some doubt that the previously reported hedge-cutting programme (Minute 96/07 refers) had been completed, and he would verify the position with Somerset Highways.

Mr. Archer reported that the work by Somerset Highways to the bridge at Mill Lane was being delayed due to the historic merit of the structure, which was believed to have come from the former Grand Western Canal, and further research was necessary.

117/07 **Allotments**

The Chairman reported that a meeting had been held with the allotment tenants prior to the meeting, and the main point of discussion had been reducing the height of the overhanging trees that belonged to the residents of Ladylawn. It had been agreed that Mr. Archer, Mr. Ron Coombes and the Clerk would arrange to meet the residents and try to resolve the matter.

The Clerk referred to complaints that had been made by tenants regarding neglected plots. As a consequence, letters had been sent to five tenant holders, with the outcome that two had cancelled their agreements, one had made improvements and two had largely ignored the request. In addition to this, payment for the year commencing 1st October had not been received for these two plots, and guidance was requested on how to resolve the issue. It was noted that there were currently four local persons on the waiting list for vacated plots.

Resolved: That in accordance with the terms of the tenancy agreement, the Council terminate the arrangement with the tenants concerned, and the plots be offered to those on the waiting list.

118/07 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Wooldridge attended a recent meeting of the Halls Committee and reported on the following items: -

- The Halls and its management functions were currently at Hallmark two star level, and the Committee was working towards attaining three star status.
- A new Committee Treasurer, Mr. Neil Allen, had recently been appointed.
- The Community Centre Development Group was progressing plans for a new or refurbished Memorial Hall, but was continuing to meet new and unexpected challenges. The legal status of the Old Village Hall, and hence the options available for the future, was still being investigated.
- A new Bookings Secretary was urgently required.

- The next meeting would be held on 12th November.

119/07 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

120/07 **Approval of the 2007/8 Risk Assessment**

The Clerk referred to the previously circulated Risk Assessment and Management Control schedule, and explained the format of the document and the requirement to undertake periodic updates.

Resolved: That the 2007/8 Risk Assessment and Management Control schedule be approved.

121/07 **Trull, Corfe and Pitminster Almshouses**

Although not on the published Agenda, Mrs. Hudson advised of a recent meeting with the trustees of the four Almshouses at Sellicks Green, Pitminster. It was noted that following recent repairs to the roofs by a TDBC approved roofing contractor, problems were currently being experienced with damp ingress and other associated defects. In addition, there were problems with land drainage, most likely as a consequence of upgrading works to the main sewers by Wessex Water. Investigations were continuing, and a further report would be made in due course.

122/07 **Matters of Correspondence for Report**

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

Information received from TDBC regarding a six-month pilot trial for the Scrutiny function commencing October 2007 (previously circulated).

A copy of the 2006/7 Annual Report received from Mendip Housing.

An invitation received from TDBC to attend a Remembrance Day Service & Procession on 11th November.

A previously circulated letter from the Trull Players Drama Group advising that the £250.00 grant made by the Council (Minute 159/06 refers) would be put towards improving the hall lighting system.

123/07 **Accounts**

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

Mrs. J. Wooldridge – September Newsletter	-	£19.00
Clerk's salary – September	-	£300.00
Parsons Landscapes Ltd – September grass cutting	-	£141.00
Mr. S. Watts – stamps/stationary – April to Sept	-	£32.26
Trull Parochial Church – Maintenance grant	-	£335.00
Mr. I. Perry – Carter's Way general maintenance	-	£25.00
Mr. Ray Shattock – Trull Green grass cutting	-	£32.00
Abacus Construction Ltd – deposit for footpath work	-	£367.19

124/07 **Items for the Next Agenda**

Items for the next Agenda will include: -

- Closure of 2006/7 Accounts

Mr. Martin-Scott suggested that he gave regular bulletins on matters and developments relating to SCC. It was agreed that this would be very beneficial and could be made at quarterly intervals.

125/07 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 19th November 2007, 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.....