

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull
on Monday 20th October 2008 at 7.20 pm.

Present: Mr. S. French (Chairman)

Mr. D. Archer, Mr. G. Hewett, Mrs. A. Hudson, Mrs. F. Drew,
Mr. C. Ralph, Mr. N. Hancock, Mrs. J. Wooldridge and
Mr. P. Parris, together with 28 Members of the Public.

In attendance: Mr. S. Watts - Clerk

Mr. French advised that he would be acting as Chairman and welcomed Mr. Hewett to the meeting. Mr. Hewett stated that he wished to thank everyone who had shown such generous support following his recent hip replacement. Although this had been compounded by post operation difficulties, he was now making slow progress.

Mr. Hewett advised that he had ordered a Remembrance Day wreath and asked if it could be collected from an address in Canal Road, Taunton.

Mr. Hewett suggested that the Council might wish to consider making a payment to Mr. White for the cost of materials in maintaining the Notice boards (Minute 69/08 refers – see also 119/08 below).

Mr. French advised that he had attended a ceremony in Glastonbury at which Mr. David Marks had been presented with a SCC Chairman's Service to the Community Award (Minute 48/08 refers). Mr. Marks was to be congratulated and the award was a fitting recognition of the effort that he has made as a Scout Leader for over forty years.

Mr. French noted that there had recently been a serious traffic accident on the main Honiton road adjacent to the Owl garage. It was understood that two people, one a pedestrian and the other a car driver, had been seriously injured, but their current condition was not fully known.

Mr. Roberts and Mr. Davis stated that car parking in and around the Canonsgrove SCAT Halls of Residence and Bradbeers was becoming an issue and appeared to be linked to parking permit provision at the college. The Clerk was requested to write to the Warden.

109/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and agreed from Mr. S. Jeffrey.

110/08 Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was declared:-

Name	Minute No:	Personal/Prejudicial	Reason and Action Taken
Mr. P. Parris	115/08	Personal & prejudicial	Has an interest in the land at Dipford. Took part in the discussion but was absent for the vote.

111/08 Chairman's Report

There was nothing to report on this item.

112/08 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

113/08 **Matters Arising**

Planting of bulbs (Minute 106/08 refers).

Mr. Parris advised that he had not made the arrangements for this due to the current wet weather conditions.

114/08 **Resignation of Mr. S. Jeffrey**

The Chairman reported that Mr. Jeffrey had tendered his resignation and his absence would be sorely missed. Mr. Hewett advised that the reasons were family and work pressures. In accordance with the requirements of section 87 (2) of the LGA 1972, an advertisement had been placed on the Notice boards advising of the vacancy. In the event of ten or more people notifying TDBC of their interest, an Election would be called. If that number was not reached, the Parish Council could co-opt a member.

115/08 **Planning**

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

08/030 - 71, Killams Green, Killams, Trull.

Full Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Resolved - To support the application.

08/031 - Oakwood House, Dipford, Trull.

Full Construction of a new driveway.

Resolved - To support the application.

08/033 - 2, Church Road, Trull.

Full Erection of a dwelling on land adjacent.

Mrs. Hudson gave an overview of the proposal and advised that applications for a similar development had been submitted in 1988 & 1990. Both applications were refused, one on appeal. It was noted that the SCC Highways Department did not support the development. The applicant addressed the Council and stated that guidance had been sought from the TDBC Planning Department. The Chairman invited comments from members of the public and a number of representations were made regarding highway safety, the lack of capacity for planting or screening, pedestrian safety and contravention of current planning policy. Mr. Archer suggested that although brownfield infill sites should be supported in principle, this particular proposal was an over development.

Mrs. Hudson recommended objecting to the application.

Resolved - To object to the application for the following reasons: -

- Adverse impact on the streetscene.
- Removal of the bank and erecting a retaining wall is impractical and would create traffic safety issues.
- No provision for pedestrians.
- Invasion of privacy for the neighbouring properties.
- Will set a precedent.
- Development is too large for the site and would leave little or no room for a garden.

08/034 - The Bell Cottage, Staplehay, Trull.

Full Erection of a single storey extension to front elevation

Resolved - To support the application.

08/036 - Hunters Oak, Sweethay, Trull.

Erection of a steel framed cattle storage area.

Resolved - To support the application.

08/037 - Land opposite Dipford Cottage, Dipford, Trull.

O/L Erection of seven affordable homes and two affordable flats.

Mr. Ralph advised that the previous application for the proposal had been refused by TDBC (Minute 28/08 refers). He explained the revisions to the scheme that related primarily to the access and configuration of the dwellings to now include two flats. The exterior design of the houses had also been changed to a style that was intended to be more sympathetic to the existing properties. However, it was noted that some windows of the houses would overlook Dipford Barton. The Chairman invited the developer, Mr. Lanier, to provide further information and he stated that the development was 'needs led'; was the most appropriate site out of 26 possible alternatives; that the highways department would undertake widening of the road as far as funds would permit; and that Falcon Housing Association would manage the tenants and properties to the benefit of local people. Members of the public then addressed the Council and the following summarised statements were made: -

- Trull Parish Council does not have an obligation to provide affordable homes.
- There are numerous highway safety issues and the width of the footpath is inadequate.
- The validity of the housing needs report was questionable and the configuration of the houses inappropriate.
- The anticipated price range of the houses was likely to exclude local people.
- There was a significant risk that flooding in Dipford Road would be exacerbated.
- The exception site planning policy did not need to be implemented in this instance.
- Dipford Road was a direct link to the M5 for emergency vehicles.

The Chairman stated that as the application was for outline approval only, the points raised could be subject to further consideration when 'reserved matters' came before the Council.

Mr. Ralph then made a recommendation to refuse the application.

Resolved - To support the application by a majority decision. TDBC and SCC respectively to be advised of the concerns raised in respect of the access to the highway and the need to review the speed limit and extend it to beyond the proposed development.

Not listed on the published Agenda or considered was: -

08/038T - 5, Coplestons, Honiton Road, Trull.

TPO Management work to one Yew tree included in TDBC (Trull No. 1) TPO 1998.

Mrs. Hudson advised that Mr. L. Keyte had lodged an appeal with The Planning Inspectorate in respect of the TDBC refusal of application 42/2008/008. This is in relation to the development of land to the west of Eastbrook House, Church Road, Trull, (Minute 152/07 refers).

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

08/024 - Great Herswell Farm, West Buckland Trull.

Full permission refused for conversion of a barn to a dwelling.

08/027 - Outspan, Spearcey Close, Staplehay.

Full permission granted for erection of single storey extension to garage with pitched roof to form single storey extension with ensuite and porch.

08/032T - Wild Oak, Honiton Road, Trull.

Permission granted for tree management works to one Oak tree included in TDBC (Trull No.1) TPO 1973.

116/08 **Housing & Development**

Mr. Archer referred to the government's Proposed Changes to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy and advised that Comeytrowe Parish Council, SCC and TDBC were intending to oppose the revised number of an additional 3,000 dwellings for the southwestern side of Taunton (Minute 95/08 refers). He suggested that the Council now support this action and that the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) be informed that the total number should revert to the original allocation. The primary reasons for the objection would be the intrusion into greenfield farming land, which will have a negative impact on Trull and the associated amenities; and that development on the scale proposed was undeliverable. Any objections had to be lodged by 24th October 2008 and late responses would not be considered.

Resolved: That Mr. Archer inform GOSW that Trull Parish Council opposes the additional allocation of 3,000 dwellings in Area of Search 6B.

Mr. Archer advised that he had recently attended a housing strategy seminar at Taunton Racecourse with Mr. French. The event had been well attended and had brought together the Community Council, developers and Local Authority planners from a wide area and had provided a very useful opportunity to network and exchange views.

Mr. Archer advised that there were two TDBC led workshops for the Comeytrowe and Trull area in relation to the RSS. This was in line with the need to develop the successive Local Development Framework (Local Plan). The dates of the workshops was 17th & 24th November, with the expectation that those attending would undertake local consultations on the issues raised in the interval between the two. The invitation was for two Trull Parish Council members, and the first would therefore coincide with the date of the next Parish Council meeting.

Resolved: (1) That Mr. Archer and Mr. French attend the workshops at Comeytrowe Community Hall at 7.00 pm on 17th & 24th November.
(2) That the date of the next meeting be changed to 20th November.

117/08 **Playing Field**

Mrs. Wooldridge reported on the following items: -

- There were a number of rubber components on the small swing that were beginning to show signs of deterioration and would now be closely monitored.
- Branches from a tree at the bottom of the playing field were overhanging the footpath and could cause an injury to walkers. The Clerk will write to the owner concerned.
- A milk crate and bottles intended for Trull pre-school had been strewn around the playing field, together with numerous empty beer cans. Mrs. Wooldridge and Mrs. Hudson had been instrumental in collecting the various items.
- Copies of the users survey had been deposited in Trull Stores but no feedback had been received to date (Minute 96/08 refers).
- It was noted that dogs were still being permitted to use the field that were not restrained by a lead, although the use of the dog waste bin adjacent to Pokes Lane had recently increased.
- Information had been received from the TDBC Community & Leisure Officer advising that a limited amount of funding would be available for a 50% grant on purchasing play equipment. This would be discussed at the budget set meeting in December.
- Mr. George Langdon had recently cut the hedges around the field and the Clerk will send a letter thanking him for his work.

Mr. Archer reported that a request had been received from a men's football team that was currently based outside the Parish. They were exploring the possibility of using the playing field pitch and changing room on a Sunday morning, and it was agreed to discuss the implications with the Dragons football club prior to making a decision at the next meeting.

118/08 **Highways**

Mr. Hancock reported on a recent site meeting with Mr. Kali Martin of Somerset Highways and advised on the following matters: -

- An assessment of pavements that required slurry sealing was underway and more information on this would be available at a later date.
- Areas on Honiton Road that had either blocked gullies or water congregation points were being attended to.
- Hedge cutting in, for example, Comeytrove Road, would only be undertaken as a safety cut and more extensive work would be the responsibility of the landowner.
- The structural repairs to Mill Lane bridge had not progressed and Mr. Peter Radford of the structures section would advise of the current position.
- The speed limits in a number of areas, such as Eastbrook and Church Road, would be reviewed in due course.
- The persistent drainage issues at Eastbrook/Amberd Lane that may be caused by incorrect surface levels would be investigated.

119/08 **Footpaths**

The Chairman referred to the matter of payment for Mr. White in respect of his time and cost of materials in undertaking the work to the Notice boards.

Resolved: That £100.00 be paid to Mr. White for the cost of materials in maintaining the Notice boards and for the general upkeep of the footpaths.

120/08 **Allotments**

The Chairman reported that an informal discussion meeting had been held with the tenants prior to the meeting. A number of issues had been raised, such as overhanging trees from Ladylawn and a possible mains water supply leak, that would need to be addressed at a later date.

The Clerk referred to the previously circulated letter of thanks from a tenant.

121/08 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

There was nothing to report on this item.

122/08 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

123/08 **Pioneer Somerset: 'Devolution of Services' Survey**

The Clerk referred to a previously circulated survey received from South Somerset District Council in relation to services that could, on request, be devolved to Parish or Town Councils in line with the current 'Pioneer Somerset' initiative. The survey required three such services to be nominated and to be returned by 12th December. Mr. Archer suggested that the Parish Council already had a considerable work load and was not in a position to undertake more.

Resolved: That the survey be completed and a statement made that Trull Parish Council would not be seeking to undertake any District led services.

124/08 **Correspondence**

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

Information received from the Leader of SCC regarding 'Council Question Time' events that were being held across Somerset (previously circulated).

The autumn edition of the Somerset Community Safety Newsletter.

Information regarding the appointment of a member of the public to the TDBC Standards Committee.

Information received from TDBC regarding the 'Deane Dispatch' publication, which will now be sent to Parish Councils on a monthly basis for circulation within the community.

125/08 **Mid-Year Financial Position**

The Clerk advised that the financial position as at 3rd September 2008 was £13,397.82.

126/08 **Accounts for Payment**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mrs. J. Wooldridge – September Newsletter & picture frame	-	£27.86
Clerk's salary – September	-	£390.82
Parsons Landscapes Ltd - September grass cutting	-	£113.98
EDF Energy plc – changing room	-	£19.28
Mr. R. Shattock – Trull Green grass cutting – Sept/Oct	-	£32.00
Mrs. A. Hudson – stamps/stationary	-	£9.81
Mr. J. White – Notice board & footpath maintenance	-	£100.00

127/08 **Any Other Urgent Business**

Mrs. Drew advised that she had recently attended a Parish Plan review meeting of the TAP group and the following queries to the action points had been raised: -

Environment - 'More flowers, shrubs and trees to be planted'.

Mrs. Drew advised that volunteers would be available for bulb planting. Mrs. Wooldridge agreed to be the link for this and Mr. Parris suggested that further shrub planting should be done at Carter's Way.

Facilities - 'Insufficient number of dog bins'.

It was advised that the current charge by the TDBC DLO is £600 p.a. for three bins and any more would impact on the precept.

- 'Bus shelter needs maintaining'.

This will be considered at the budget set meeting in December.

- 'Traffic lights and crossing are needed for Honiton Road'.

SCC were requested to consider this when the Gatchell Oak's development was being constructed but it was advised that it would not be cost effective at the present time.

Mrs. Drew stated the overall the meeting had been positive and she would report back again in due course.

Mr. Archer advised that the next village quiz night is on 21st November and would be held in the Memorial Hall.

128/08 **Date and Venue of Christmas Meal**

It was agreed the venue for the Christmas meal would be the Winchester Arms, Trull. Mrs. Wooldridge agreed to confirm the availability for the nominated dates in December.

129/08 **Items for the Next Agenda**

Items for the next Agenda will include: -

- Use of the playing field by an additional football team.
- Items for the 2009/10 budget set and the SCC Local Initiatives Budget.
- Consultation on the Local Development Framework proposals.

130/08 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th November 2008, in the main hall, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.00 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....