

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull
on Monday 15th September 2008 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr. S. French (Chairman)

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

In attendance: Mr. S. Martin-Scott – SCC District Councillor
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 but none were forthcoming.

The Chairman advised that Mr. Hewett had recently undergone a hip replacement operation and, due to a series of complications, was currently in Musgrove Park Hospital. However, he was now recovering well and it was anticipated that he would be attending the next meeting.

87/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received and agreed from Mr. G. Hewett, Mrs. F. Drew and Mr. S. Jeffery.

88/08 Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was declared:-

Name	Minute	Personal/Prejudicial	Reason and Action Taken
	No:		
Mr. C. Ralph	94/08	Personal & prejudicial	Owner of Canonsgrove Farm, Canonsgrove. No action necessary.

89/08 Chairman's Report

There was nothing to report on this item.

90/08 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st July 2008 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting provisionally scheduled for 18th August 2008 to consider urgent planning applications only had not been required.

91/08 Matters Arising

Review of the Parish Plan (Minute 084/08 refers)

Mr. Archer referred to the previously circulated paper that summarised the development of the Parish Plan. As the document had been published in 2005, it now required urgent review and the completion of a number of outstanding actions. In addition, the opportunity could be taken to update the plan where appropriate and include items such as sustainability and further development of the web site. The paper set out a proposal for the terms of reference for the process and membership of the review group. It was noted that Mr. Mortimore, co-chair of TAP, had kindly agreed to chair the review and the aim should be to present a report at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

Resolved: That the 'Review of Trull Parish Plan 2005' proposal be agreed and implemented at the earliest opportunity.

92/08 **Report by Mr. B. Bloxham – Chairman of the Party in the Park 2008 Committee**

The Chairman of the Party in the Park 2008 Committee reported that the organisation and setting up for this year's event had been particularly smooth; and that the weather had been favourable on the day despite concerns during the previous week.

The party had been well attended, and a number of favourable comments were made regarding the absence of commercial pressures. The schedule for the evening entertainment had also been well received, with Trull Scouts providing a barbeque and contributions from Trull Players and the Tone Valley Jazz Band. The clear up the next day had also gone to plan, although there were some issues with a quantity of strewn straw.

There had been complications with the insurance cover provided by the Council's insurer, Zurich Municipal, and a better understanding of what is included in the policy will be required for future events.

Although the party was primarily a community event the final account, after allowing for donations to the British Red Cross and the Taunton Hospitals League of Friends, shows an accumulated balance of £3,044.03. Mr. Bloxham handed a cheque for this value to the Council for safekeeping. He then explained that a float of £1,500 would be necessary to stage the 2010 event, and that approximately £1,600 could be released for improvements to local amenities. He welcomed suggestions on how the money could be utilised and requested that bids be obtained via the Newsletter. It was noted that any award would need the prior approval of the Party in the Park committee.

Mr. Bloxham then thanked the Council for the recent gift of a framed certificate and stated that although he did not intend to be Chairman of the 2010 committee, he was confident that future events would continue to be held.

The Chairman stated that the party had again been a huge success. On behalf of the Council, he thanked Mr. Bloxham for his considerable efforts and led a round of applause.

93/08 **Report by Mr. S. Martin-Scott – SCC District Councillor**

Mr. Martin-Scott reported on various matters that were pertinent to his role at Somerset County Council. He is the current Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee and as an example of the workload, displayed a large report to the Board of the Primary Care Trust that needed to be studied.

The report gave information on the recently announced programme of relocations and improvements to local GP surgeries. Of interest to Trull were the James Street surgery, which is planned for relocation during the second phase of Project Taunton, and Comeytrowe, which will receive extensive refurbishment. He suggested that, although a number of PCTs were in difficulties on a national scale, the Somerset NHS PCT had a sound financial base at the present time.

The successful contractor for the Firepool development will be announced in early October 2008.

Mr. Martin-Scott gave information on the funding of the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care, and asked to be advised of any issues relating to the health service. He gave an explanation of the Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) scheme and how it would receive funding of £750k over a three-year period.

There was a reference to the GP Practice Assessment Questionnaire and an application form to access financial support for domestic energy saving measures up to a maximum of £2,700. This was for specific members of the community only and he passed a copy of the form to Mrs. Wooldridge for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

He then invited questions and the following were raised: -

- The Chairman referred to a recent press article concerning proposed cutbacks at SCC. It was explained that budgetary adjustments had been necessary due to overspends on items such as concessionary bus services, social services and education but the situation had now been recovered. It had been necessary to make use of the financial reserves, but no reductions in front line services were anticipated.
- The Chairman noted that the Musgrove park & ride service was being withdrawn, and asked if SCC could assist in this matter. Mr. Martin-Scott stated that he was pursuing this matter, but it appeared that a lack of promotion of the service was the main reason for the financial losses being sustained.
- Mrs. Pegge queried why the Taunton Flyer bus service could not be diverted into Musgrove Park Hospital. He replied that this was not possible because it would add time to the journey, and the service relies on its rapid journey to make it attractive.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Martin-Scott for his very informative report.

94/08 **Planning**

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

- 08/021 - Dipford Barn, Dipford, Trull.
LB Erection of annex extension and link, extension to form garden room, carport and change of use of land to form garden.
Note: As it is a listed building, the planning advisory group had previously recommended that no comment be made on the application.
Resolved - To support the recommendation made by the advisory group and make no comment on the application.

- 08/024 - Great Herswell Farm, Herswell, Trull.
Full Conversion of a barn to a dwelling.
Resolved - To make no comment on the application.

- 08/025 - Canonsgrove Farm, Canonsgrove, Trull.
AGN Erection of a building over existing cattle feed area within confines of existing farmyard.
Note: The planning advisory group had previously recommended that no comment was necessary.
Resolved - To support the recommendation made by the advisory group and make no comment on the application.

Mrs. Hudson explained that a revised format of the TDBC planning site notices would now be used and that the colour would be changed from yellow to white.

Not listed on the published Agenda but also considered were: -

- 08/027 - Outspan, Spearcey Close, Trull.
Erection of single storey extension to garage with pitched roof to form single storey bedroom with ensuite and porch.
Resolved - To support the application.

- 08/028 & 029 - 59, Church Road, Trull.
LB Listed building consent for the demolition of single storey side and rear extensions, erection of single storey side and rear extension together with internal ground floor alterations.
Resolved - To make no comment on the application.

- 08/032T - Wild Oak, Honiton Road, Trull.
TPO Management work to one Oak tree included in TPO (Trull No.1) 1973.
It was not possible to consider this application as the attached report related to a property in Wiveliscombe.

Mr. Ralph referred to a meeting that he had attended with the owner of Kibbear Barton, Kibbear, and a representative from ERM Ltd. The meeting was held to discuss an extension to the rear of the property and to ensure that all planning requirements would be met in full. The application had yet to be submitted and the Chairman invited the owner, Mr. Husband, to address the Council. An overview of the proposal was given and it was advised that the property was not listed. It was noted that a positive response had been received during consultations with the immediate neighbours.

Resolved: That provisional support be given to the proposal.

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

- 08/013 - Oakwood House, Dipford Road, Trull.
Full permission refused for the change of use of land to residential curtilage with new access driveway and entrance.
- 08/017 - Hamwood Farm, Daw's Green, Trull.
Full permission granted for the siting of an agricultural workers mobile home for a period of three years.
- 08/020 - Trull Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull.
Full permission granted for the erection of a metal storage shed on site of timber building (to be demolished).
- 08/021 & 022LB - Dipford Barn, Dipford, Trull.
Listed building consent granted for the erection of annex extension and link, change of use of land to form garden and internal and external alterations to form garden room.

95/08 **Housing & Development**

Mr. Archer gave a detailed address on the Public Consultation to the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy. He reminded the Council of the development of the RSS and the implications to Taunton and Trull in particular.

Any responses would form the penultimate stage prior to implementing the final version of the RSS. This particular report was likely to be published in March 2009, and it was explained that the decisions made by Government would need to be incorporated into a new TDBC Local Development Framework plan.

He suggested that there was no immediate cause for alarm: any development is likely to be long-term, since there is a considerable backlog in bringing forward development proposals on land already designated. The economic downturn is likely to exacerbate this. Any comments needed to be report specific. He felt that a letter opposing the strategy would not be influential, as the increase in the projection for the numbers of houses needed in the future, nationally and locally, made it inevitable that the Comeytrowe / Trull site would be included as an urban extension. Interest should now focus on maximising any benefits that could be gained in terms of 'green spaces' and the appropriate infrastructure, when the new Local Development Framework is drafted in line with the final version of the RSS.

The Chairman reported that he had recently attended a business breakfast at SCAT when numerous presentations were made in connection with the Project Taunton development. He stated that the scheme had the potential to create 4,000 new jobs,

and that the economy of Taunton should be protected at all costs. Mr. Martin-Scot added that he was involved in a new initiative called Taunton Protocol that entailed setting 14 main criteria to ensure that the building design and standard within the town remained high. As either SCC or TDBC owned the majority of land associated with Project Taunton, it was likely that there would be a successful outcome.

96/08

Playing Field

Mrs. Wooldridge referred to a previously circulated survey that had been undertaken at the Party in the Park 2008 event. Although the review was limited, it nonetheless provided a useful insight to the expectations of the people who had contributed. The main requirements are as follows: -

Picnic Area	Barbeque Area	Shelter	Sports Equip.	Play Equip.	Seating
12	8	9	5	11	5

It was agreed that further consultation was necessary and a request would be made in the Newsletter and at Trull Stores. The process would need to be finalised before the 8th December budget set meeting.

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that the Dragons Football Team had recently been donated a ride-on motor mower that they intended to use on their allocated area of the playing field. However, it could not be stored in the changing room as it was wider than the doorframe. To overcome this difficulty, the club had asked to enlarge the entrance and had offered to pay for all costs. Mr. Parris stated that before any decision was made, he wished to see a specification of the proposed works.

Mrs. Wooldridge advised that Trull pre-school had recently replaced the safety surfacing to their play equipment, and that she had been able to salvage approximately 20 m² of the material. It was currently stored in the changing room, and Mr. Parris suggested various permutations of how it could be utilised. Mr. Parris also read out an article that indicated the safe fall height for play equipment could be increased from 1.0 metre to 1.5 metres, and reiterated his opinion that the tarmac surfacing to the roundabout could be replaced with grass. The final decisions will be made at a later date.

The Clerk reported that the Trull Scouts had asked to hold a firework display in the playing field in Saturday 1st November. A copy of their Public Liability Insurance had been provided with a public liability limit of £5M. The display had now become an established fund raising event for the Scouts, and no problems had been experienced to date.

Resolved: That permission be granted to Trull Scouts to hold a firework display on Saturday 1st November 2008.

The Chairman referred to the letter received from the TDBC Community Leisure Officer requesting permission to hold a play afternoon on Wednesday 8th April 2009. The event would be funded by a recent Big Lottery award and promote a range of activities with an environmental theme.

Resolved: That permission be granted to TDBC to hold the play event on the afternoon of 8th April 2009.

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that there were difficulties with the TDBC DLO servicing the dog waste bin at Pokes Lane, and that the current situation was unacceptable. The Clerk had requested the organisation to attend to the issue as a matter of priority but this had not occurred. Further requests would be made and a reduction in the invoice would be expected.

97/08

Highways

Mr. Hancock reported that he would shortly be meeting the Somerset Highways Area Manager, Mr. Kali Martin, to undertake a review of issues within the Parish. He requested that any specific requests be directed to him so that the maximum benefit can be gained from the meeting.

The Chairman referred to the resurfacing works in the Eastbrook area and commented that the work had proven difficult due to the recent poor weather.

Mr. Hancock suggested that hedge-cutting work undertaken by the local farmer on the field side of Comeytrowe Road was of a high standard. Mr. Ralph stated that the cut was severe and could impact on the feeding habits of wintering birds.

98/08 **Footpaths**

Mr. White reported on the following items that had been investigated and the SCC ROW team informed: -

- Difficulties in opening the gates on T21/32 and T29/22.
- Broken glass on T21/35 to the rear of Trull tennis club. As there appeared to be a lot of this material in this area, SCC had indicated that they would remove the top of the footpath and replace it with hardcore.
- There had been reports of extensive mud and water around one of the kissing gates in Trull Green Meadow. SCC had agreed to put a quantity of hardcore around the immediate area.

It was noted that a new 'Bristol' style gate had been installed at the eastern end of T21/32 and that new galvanised steel kissing gates had been fitted at either end of Trull Green Meadow.

Mr Archer referred to an information sheet that North Curry Parish Council had produced for footpaths in their area. It was considered to be a very good document and Mr. White suggested that to encourage use of the footpaths within Trull, a similar sheet showing circular walks could be compiled. The Chairman was in agreement with the proposal but requested that it stated that dogs should be kept on leads.

99/08 **Allotments**

The Chairman referred to the previously circulated information showing the 2005/6 charges for a number of allotments within the area. The majority were in the £15 - £18 per plot range and the current charge for Trull was £14.00. A review of the charges was now considered appropriate, as costs such as the provision of the soil conditioner had recently risen sharply. It was noted that the annual payment was due on 1st October and that there was a waiting list of four people.

Resolved: That the cost per plot be increased by £1.00 to £15.00 per year with effect from 1st October 2008.

Mrs. Wooldridge advised that one of the taps was leaking at the mains supply union. The Clerk will arrange for the repair.

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that she had obtained a quantity of discarded fleece material, and had passed it to Mr. David Marks for distribution amongst the tenants. The material would be used for ground cover and frost protection for the plants.

100/08 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

Mrs. Wooldridge advised of numerous dates of events such as a quiz night, jumble sale and the Christmas pantomime. A film club is to be introduced and it is hoped to hold it on a regular basis.

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that an extensive refurbishment of the kitchen area was planned and that the overall strategy for the Memorial Hall was progressing, but no specific details could be given at the present time.

101/08 **Trull School**

Mrs. Wooldridge and Mr. Husband, as Chairman of Trull School Governors, reported that Blagdon Hill primary school was due to close and that Trull school would be accepting a small number of its pupils. The reception class for Trull had been over-subscribed this year and the maximum number of 30 pupils had been exceeded by one place, following an instruction from Somerset County Council.

- 102/08 **SALC**
The Clerk referred to the July bulletin of 'Matters of Interest' (previously circulated) and reported that the Annual General Meeting would be held at Woolavington Village Hall on Saturday 27th September.
- 103/08 **Correspondence**
The Clerk advised of correspondence that was of interest to the Council: -
- An invitation received from the TDBC Parish Liaison Officer for an additional Parish Council Member to be appointed to the TDBC Standards Committee. Any expressions of interest had to be submitted by 26th September 2008.
- A letter received from a resident of St. Patricks Way, Staplehay, regarding a boundary dispute. It was agreed that this issue was outside the control of the Parish Council and was a legal matter for the parties concerned. The Chairman offered to visit the resident concerned to discuss the problem in more detail.
- Information received from SCC regarding the Somerset Local Transport Plan 2 – 2006/2011.
- Information received from the TDBC Choice Based Lettings Officer regarding a revised system for registering for social housing.
- 104/08 **Closure of 2007/8 Accounts**
The Clerk advised that the external auditors, Moore Stephens, had approved the accounts for 2007/8 on 6th August 2008, which were therefore now closed.
- 105/08 **Accounts for Payment**
Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -
- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------|
| Mrs. J. Wooldridge – July Newsletter | - | £19.00 |
| Clerk's salary – July | - | £390.82 |
| Trull Village Memorial Halls – Apr/May/June | - | £42.75 |
| Moore Stephens – External Audit | - | £158.63 |
| Wessex Water – allotments water usage | - | £80.89 |
| Parsons Landscapes Ltd – July grass cutting | - | £229.13 |
| Clerk's salary – August | - | £390.82 |
| Parsons Landscapes Ltd – August grass cutting | - | £207.98 |
| Mr. R. Shattock – Trull Green grass cutting – Jul/Aug/Sept | - | £48.00 |
- 106/08 **Any Other Urgent Business**
Mrs. Wooldridge advised that the area around the gate at the bottom of the playing field was very muddy and asked if some of the surplus chipping could be provided. Mr. French agreed to carry out the work.
- A member of the public had brought a limited edition six-place tea set that was embossed with scenes of Trull to the meeting, and asked if the Council would wish to purchase the items. After some consideration, it was agreed that a purchase was not appropriate.
- Mr. Parris offered to again provide a quantity of bulbs that could be planted around the Parish. This offer was gratefully accepted and a number of potential sites were discussed. Mrs. Wooldridge agreed to set a date and organise volunteers to plant the bulbs.
- 107/08 **Items for the Next Agenda**
- Report on the financial position.
 - Date and venue for the Christmas meal.

108/08 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 20th October 2008, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm. This will be preceded by a meeting with the allotment tenants at 6.45 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.45 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....