

Trull Parish Council

*Minutes of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull
on Monday 21st September 2009 at 7.15 pm.*

Present: Mr G Hewitt (Chairman)

Mrs F Drew, Mrs J Wooldridge, Mr S French, Mr D Archer,
Mrs A Hudson, Mr C Ralph, Mrs D Luke, and Mr P Parris,
together with six Members of the Public.

In attendance: Mrs A Harding – Clerk
Mr David Greig – Parish Liaison Officer, TDBC
PC Claire Griffiths
Mr David Smith – Bishop's Hull Community Speed Watch

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, the Chairman invited questions from members of the public but none were forthcoming.

142/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received and agreed from Mr Nick Hancock and Mr John White.

143/09 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

144/09 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that a new rubbish bin had been installed at the bus shelter on Honiton Road which would be emptied each Monday. Indications were that it was being well used.

The Chairman introduced David Greig, who was attending the meeting to talk to the Council regarding the proposed removal of Killams Ward from Trull Parish, and the new 'Power of Well Being'.

145/09 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

146/09 **Matters for Report**

Mr Archer reported that he had requested that the County Council renew the service information at the bus stop opposite Trull Stores. As a result a new timetable had been posted which only gave the times for travellers into Taunton and not the return journey which, according to the County Council, made it more understandable. But a complete timetable has now been laminated and put up on the noticeboard in the bus shelter.

Mr French reported that the bus shelter at the Canonsgrove Halls of Residence has been refurbished and the pavement raised to make access to the buses easier for disabled and elderly people. The Chairman added that all bus access was being refurbished and improved.

The Chairman reported that the water ponding problem in Pokes Lane has now been sorted and expressed his thanks to Mr Ralph.

Mr Parris informed the Council that he has written to The Land Registry to enquire if Staplehay Weir is registered and if so, to whom? He had not yet received a reply.

The Chairman stated that it appeared that past conveyancing had omitted the area and that it did not belong to anyone. The County Council is unable to proceed with repairs until ownership is known.

Mrs Woodridge informed the Council that she has received a copy of a letter to Rachel Pearce of SCC from the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society. Mrs Woodridge had written to them regarding the condition of Staplehay Weir. They expressed their concern over the condition of the weir and gave their support to the Council in their efforts to remedy the situation, by writing to Taunton Deane and the Environment Agency.

Mr Parris informed the Council that the Environment Agency is now involved with Staplehay Weir, which was the responsibility of Taunton Deane until 2006. Enquiries as to the limit of their responsibilities have so far proved fruitless.

147/09 **Killams Ward – Mr David Grieg**

Mr Grieg referred to Killams Ward, which is a small area in the Borough Ward of Killams and Mountfield and has always been an anomaly in Trull Parish. Mr Grieg is investigating the removal of Killams from Trull Parish. The process for changing boundaries is now much easier, and can be facilitated through the Borough Council without the need to apply to the Secretary of State.

Killams Ward is a very small area of only 80 properties and on the whole does not associate itself with Trull Parish. The removal would reduce the precept and the Chairman enquired if it would also affect the number of parish councillors for Trull. Mr Grieg replied that it would, but not until the elections in 2011.

Mr Archer stated that some Killams residents had found it an advantage being in Trull Parish as it placed them within the catchment area for Trull School.

Mr Grieg informed the Council that he would be writing to all householders in Killams to get their opinions.

On the 'Power of Well Being' Mr Grieg stated that, in a nutshell, there would be no benefit to Trull Parish Council if it were to seek to extend its powers. Parish Councils are limited in what they can spend money on that is not covered by their specific powers. But they can use Section 137 and very few parishes use the maximum Section 137 allowance. The 'Power of Well Being' is only really relevant to large councils and is a lot of effort for little reward for small councils.

148/09 **Planning**

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

09/0033 Full Resolved	Kibbear Barton, Trull Erection of two storey extension to rear (amended 09/0007) To reiterate support for the application.
09/0034 Full Resolved	2 Church Road, Trull Erection of a new dwelling. To unanimously object to the application on the grounds that the development is too big for the site, it would spoil the existing street scene, destroy the privacy of houses on all sides, and would access onto a busy road with no footpath.

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

- 09/0021 Haygrove Mill, Trull
Full permission granted for erection of extension.
- 09/0022 Canonsgrove Farm, Trull
Full permission granted for the erection of a roof over cattle feed area and construction of earth banked slurry store adjacent to existing store.
- 09/0024 Canonsgrove Farm, Trull
Full permission granted for the erection of an agricultural building.
- 09/0025 3 Church Road, Trull
Full permission granted for the erection of a single storey extension.
- 09/0030T Trethias, Gatchell Green, Trull
Consent granted for the felling of one cypress tree.

Mr Ralph reported on the conversion of the garages next to Fisherman's Rest, Sweethay. Mr Ralph has received a letter from a neighbour of the property, Mr Jeans, expressing concerns that dormer windows and a balcony have been installed contrary to planning permission. This development would encroach on privacy. Mr Jeans has contacted the Planning Department and the matter has been passed to enforcement. To date there has been no reply.

Resolved : The clerk to write to TDBC to follow up.

149/09 **Housing & Development**

Following the release of a draft of the Bridgwater, Taunton and Wellington Transport Strategy for 2009-2026, Mr Archer suggested that Miss Nell Cruse of the Environment Directorate be contacted to invite a member of the review team to attend the next Council meeting, to discuss its implications for Trull. Mrs Wooldridge commented that nothing had been provided for the Trull side of Taunton with regard to the transport infrastructure.

Mrs Wooldridge reported that a meeting to consider possible use of the money for play and outdoor recreation facilities had taken place. A committee including Mrs Wooldridge, Mr Parris, Fran Youngs (All Saints Youth Worker), Debbie Arcscott of TDBC, three teenage girls and two boys met on 21st September. The teenagers were asked what they liked from the French Weir site, and to compile a 'wish list' after a planned visit to the Holway play area and a possible visit to Norton Fitzwarren. The siting of the equipment was also discussed. Mr Parris reported that the teenagers were very receptive and pleased that the designated area in the playing fields (in the south west corner) was so large.

Mr Parris informed the Council that £6,000 of the money has to be spent on sporting facilities and suggested a cycle track or a volleyball court. The costings for the four favourite ideas would be looked at and bids put in by April. The money would be released by June at the earliest. If the cost of the chosen facilities were in excess of the developer's contribution, TDBC may consider contributing up to 50% of the overspend. Mr Parris warned that as these grants are only made on developments of five houses or more, Trull may not receive another in the near future, and the Council needs to take a long term view and possibly phase the work.

Mr French reported that he had been contacted by a young lady in Trull who had enquired about the price of one of the houses in the Dipford affordable housing development. She had been informed that the prices start at £185,000 which could be

discounted by 30%. Mr French agreed with her that this was not 'affordable'. The Chairman stated that it was out of the hands of the Council.

Mr French reported that he had contacted Mr. Roger Maunder with reference to renting the Bell House field to enable the Council to extend the playing field, indicating that if he was in agreement, a higher than agricultural rent would apply. Unfortunately Mr Maunder made it clear that he is not in agreement.

150/09 **Playing Field**

Mrs Wooldridge reported that the Playing Field check had found all in order. But unfortunately the changing rooms had been broken into at 1.30am on Saturday 12 August. The door frame was damaged but nothing was stolen. A carpenter has since repaired the damage. Police and forensics were called and a fingerprint was found on a bottle. Police believe that the damage was not caused by youths but by burglars.

Mrs Wooldridge also reported that complaints had been received regarding young people from Queens College drinking and partying at the bottom of the playing fields. She has contacted Queens College and there has been no recurrence of the problem since.

Mrs Wooldridge enquired of Mr Greig if the Council could get support for clearing a car that regularly blocked the gate to the playing field denying access to Parsons for grass cutting. Mr Greig cautioned that this needs to be done diplomatically as the Council may not own the land.

151/09 **Footpaths**

In the absence of Mr White the Chairman read his report.

- The bottom horizontal timber under the stile at each end of the new bridge at Three Bridges is preventing easy access and egress for dogs. SCC is not prepared to alter the construction of the bridge.
- The southerly gate on Pokes Lane at The Bell House does not self-close when opened to its limit.
- Footpath T29/12 (off Dipford Lane) is impassable due to a crop of maize.
- Reports have been received that footpaths in the Comeytrove Road area are overgrown with nettles. This has been investigated, and although there are plenty of nettles the paths are in no way impassable.

The Chairman informed the Council that Gordon Hart had adjusted the gates at The Bell House, but the effectiveness of the gates is negated by being able to bypass them through a gap beside the gate post.

Mr French reported that he had contacted Kingsley Beck with regards to surfacing Poke Lane from Church Road to the playing field, and that he has verbally indicated £2000 for this work.

A letter has been received from Mr Mullins of Patrick's Way reporting that if walking from Staplehay to The Bell House the hedge on the right has overgrown the path and obliterates the view of the Blackdown Hills. Mr French commented that he is the tenant of the field and was not aware of the problem.

152/09 **Highways**

In Mr Hancock's absence the clerk was asked to pass on any reported problems to him.

It was reported that a large Transit van was regularly parked on the bend at the top of Eastbrook causing an obstruction.

153/09 **Allotments**

The Chairman requested that a load of compost be delivered to the allotments. Mr French indicated that he may be able to do this the following week.

154/09 **Trull Memorial Halls**

There was nothing to report on this item.

155/09 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

156/09 **Community Speedwatch update**

PC Claire Griffiths distributed a handout which gave information about Community Speed Watch including a copy of the letter sent out to motorists who have been identified as speeding.

Mr French asked if there had been particular problems identified on this road. PC Griffiths replied that there were none at present but monitoring may help identify problems.

Mr Wooldridge suggested that as Trull is adjacent to Blagdon Hill and Pitminster, the sharing of equipment would cut costs and form a link between parishes. Mr Parris informed the Council that he had spoken to the clerk to Blagdon Hill and that the equipment they used cost £120, and that he agreed that a linking of parishes in this way was a good idea.

Mr Smith of Bishop's Hull Community Speedwatch reported on the monitoring which had taken place in Bishop's Hull. He stated that the yellow jackets act as a deterrent, and numbers caught speeding reduced each of the 10 times that volunteers with cameras were out. He informed the Council that the SCC would be reviewing all speed limits in the next 18 months, and monitoring speeds on the roads might help with efforts to change the speed limit on Trull Road.

PC Griffiths stated that Speed Watch had to be a community led initiative and although the Council feel they cannot take part, other members of the community may wish to. She also indicated that monitoring the traffic might help gain evidence to support traffic calming measures.

Mrs Drew asked if monitoring could support the campaign by Shaun Upton for a crossing on Honiton Road. PC Griffiths replied that it could.

PC Griffiths informed the Council that the scheme needed to be up and running in 6-12 months, and that she is happy to ask Mr Smith to assist monitoring in the next 6 months at times identified. She would report back in March, or sooner if required.

The Chairman pointed out that, if the Parish Council failed to support the scheme and there was a serious accident because of speeding, its credibility would be destroyed. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would back the scheme but not take part directly. He asked Mrs Wooldridge to include an item in the newsletter asking for volunteers who are willing to work with Bishop's Hull Speed Watch monitoring Trull. In response to a comment by Mrs Luke, Mr Smith confirmed that volunteers need to be properly motivated, and that unsuitable ones would not be selected.

157/09 **Correspondence**

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

Draft of Bridgwater, Taunton and Wellington Transport Strategy for 2009-2026
Copy of 'The Playing Field' newsletter - Summer 2009
Somerset Community Safety Newsletter

Community Council of Somerset review of the year 2008-2009
Copy of 'Thatch' Summer 2009
Flyer from SCC with recruitment information for school governors in Taunton,
Wiveliscombe, Wellington and West Somerset.

158/09 **Accounts for Payment**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mr I Duddridge – Poke Lane improvements	-	£2,095.00
Mr R Shattock – June/July/August grass cutting	-	£96.00
Mrs. J. Wooldridge – August Newsletter	-	£19.00
Parsons Landscapes – July/August grass cutting	-	£435.18
Clerk's salary – August	-	£395.80
Wessex Water – allotments	-	£158.75
Trull Village Memorial Halls – April-June hall hire	-	£45.00

159/09 **Any Other Business**

The Clerk advised that she had received an email from a tree technician who was working in the area, regarding the poplar trees on Trull Green. He reports that they are all to some extent diseased and require attention. Mr Parris offered to speak to Ian Clark at County Hall.

The Chairman suggested that they were black poplars and therefore rare. He also thought that propagation might be possible

160/09 **Items for the Next Agenda**

PC Griffiths – PACT issues
Taunton Transport Strategy 2009-2026

161/09 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting will be held on Monday 19th October 2009, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm, preceded by a meeting with allotment tenants at 6.45 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.35 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....