
Trull Parish Council Newsletter

January 2007

Website Address: www.trullvillage.org.uk

Volume 6, Issue 04

“Where e’er you walk ...”

We need your help, dear reader. We must find out which are the most frequently walked footpaths in the parish – and only you can tell us.

The Rights of Way Team at County Hall have asked us for this information, so that they can make sure that these have priority in their programme of maintenance and improvement. But we have no way of knowing without feedback from you all. So if you are a dog walker, someone who goes out regularly for a ‘constitutional’, a jogger, or if you use the footpaths to go about your business in the parish – including Sweethay, Daw’s Green, Canonsgrove, Killams, Kibbear, Dipford, Staplehay and Cutsey – please let John Guy (see the final column overleaf) know which ones you use most frequently.

One final incentive – each parish which responds will be entered in a prize draw, with the winner in each of the five districts being awarded £1000 to improve rights of way. That would certainly make a difference in Trull! So please give us the information we need - **18th January is the deadline.** Thank you in anticipation of your response.

Trull Parish Council Meeting

15th January 2007

7:15 pm

Venue: Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall

Budget 2007/8

Each December the Parish Council has to decide how much money to ask Taunton Deane to raise for it through the Council Tax – the ‘parish precept’. It is always a juggling act. There are lots of good ideas for improvements to local facilities, particularly since the Parish Plan highlighted the priorities that have community support. But our capacity to see projects through to completion is limited – we are all doing this on a voluntary basis, amongst lots of other commitments. We are also aware that we need to show restraint in increasing Council Tax demands, even though our contribution is tiny – less than 1% of the total.

This year we decided to precept for £12,000 in the next financial year, an increase of £2,000. This will enable us to make progress with a number of agreed projects, including a contribution to the feasibility study for the future of our Village Halls, and improvements to the allotments access, playing field and footpaths – watch the Newsletter for details.

We also agreed to reduce the amount of reserves we carry forward each year. We need some for contingencies, but too much is a waste. Forecasting how our finances will work out always includes a fair amount of guesswork – we don’t know, for example, the level of grant-aid we will receive from Taunton Deane, or what footpath improvements the County Council will fund and which will fall to us. What impact will our decision make on your pocket?

Our precept will cost an average Council Tax payer 23p a week. We hope that you will feel that this represents good value for money. But if you think you could do better, you will have your chance to stand as a Trull Parish Councillor in the local government elections in May.

Boxed in

The Parish Council have ascertained that the ‘Sort it’ waste recycling scheme, which would accept kerbside plastic and cardboard, will not be available until October 2007.

Planning matters

The Parish Council decided to:

- recommend **approval** for a dwelling at Eastbrook Villa
 - **defer its recommendation** for two extensions and new garage at The White House, Amberd Lane
 - **not object** to a 40-bedroom lodge at the M5 Northbound Motorway Service Station.
-

Slippery Customer

The wood side panels to the little slide on the playing field has been repaired and painted.

The Dragons Football Club has now completed internal repairs to the changing rooms there.

Creamed

The Chairman reported that Mr. & Mrs. Grant of Hamwood Farm, Daw’s Green, had recently sold their herd of cattle, and this now meant that there was only one herd remaining in Trull. The decline was disappointing, as at one time, various farmers in the area had kept 16 or 17 herds.

Nuked?

No, not the Strategic Arms Limitation Convention, but Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC). The Clerk reported on the area SALC meeting on 7th December that he had attended with Mr. Keyte and Mrs. Hudson. The County Secretary had given an overview of the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities'. When this is implemented by legislation, Town and Parish Councils will have a 'Community Call for Action' right, and Quality Councils will have the 'Power of Well Being'. The Government are seeking to raise the profile of Councillors, who would become more proactive in an Overview and Scrutiny role.

The White Paper enables Principal Authorities to apply for unitary status. Officers at Somerset County Council are currently working on the business case prior to an application being submitted. The time scales for this process are as follows:

- Bids submitted by 25th January 2007.
- Consultation and short list by March 2007.
- Agreement given to successful Authorities during July 2007.
- Election for the new Authorities in May 2008.
- New Authorities commence operation in April 2009.

The criteria for a Unitary Authority are that it must be cost effective, have broad based support, demonstrate strong leadership and have equity of services.

The Deputy Leader of Somerset County Council and a senior Officer also gave a presentation regarding the SCC's new

'Localisation and Frontline Councillors' policy. This would be a first step in devolving budgets and service decisions to partners such as Parish and Town Councils. Subject to identifying the priorities and agreeing an Area Working Panel, an initial £15,000 would be made available to each County Councillor. Parish Council's within District Wards are expected to 'cluster' together in order to amalgamate a significant budget that could be spent on, for example, highway maintenance. The quality and consistency of work was vital, and it was suggested that recognition as a Quality Parish Council would become an important feature in future years. It should be noted that Trull with its Parish Plan is well placed for future changes.

The Clerk also advised that modifications to the Code of Conduct for Councillors were expected.

Local Diary!

Oh No it isn't!

Fri 12/Sat 13th January 2007:

"Cinders" Pantomime in the Memorial Hall.

Tickets available at PO and Shop.
Local celebs are dame-d, so watch out for the hairy fairy godmother!

A happy new year to all our readers!

Minutes posted

Trull Village Stores, Trull Post Office and the website each hold a copy of the draft minutes of Parish Council meetings.

Councillors

Geoff Hewett (Chairman)

Trull Green Farm, Dipford Rd.
Trull
Tel: 333630

.....
Sid French (Deputy Chairman)

Spearcey Farm, Staplehay
Tel: 275868

.....
Don Archer (Planning)

5 Church Road, Trull
Tel: 333394

Email: donald@waitrose.com

.....
John Guy (Footpaths)

Monks, Daw's Green, Trull
Tel: 421699

Email:

guyjohn@monks82.freeserve.co.uk

.....
Nick Hancock (Roads & Pavements)

Heatherdene, Comeytrove Road.
Tel: 337100

Email:

nick.hancock@albertgoodman.co.uk

.....
Ann Hudson (Website)

Amberd Farm, Amberd Lane,
Staplehay
Tel: 252627

Email: hudson_a@btinternet.com

.....
Les Keyte (Playing Field & SALC Representative)

28 Galmington Drive, Taunton
Tel: 284857

.....
Stephen Martin-Scott (Memorial Halls & Allotments)

The Old Rectory
Wild Oak Lane, Trull
Tel: 334561

Email:

shmartin-scott@somerset.gov.uk

.....
Peter (Alan) Parris (Tree Warden)

Lower Kibbear Farm
Tel: 284873

.....
Jo Wooldridge (Newsletter Editor & Playing Field)

21 Church Road, Trull
Tel: 253057

Email: jo@jandtwooldridge.co.uk

.....
Steve Watts (Parish Clerk)

39 Queens Drive, Taunton
Tel: 251277

Email: srwatts1@aol.com
