
Trull Parish Council Newsletter

January 2008

Website Address: www.trullvillage.org.uk

Volume 7, Issue 4

Recognised

Congratulations to PC Chairman Geoff Hewett, who has been presented with a framed certificate (SCC Chairman's Award for Service to the Community 2007), in recognition of the unstinting time and effort he has put into the community over many, many, many years.

Also congratulations to Parish Clerk, Steve Watts, who has achieved the Certificate in Local Council Administration. The PC now has fulfilled the six main criteria necessary for 'Quality Council' status.

What It Costs

As an ambitious work programme has been achieved in recent years, at its December meeting the PC acknowledged the need to set the 2008/09 precept (the amount collected for PC expenditure through Council Tax) as low as possible. Hence the budget for the next financial year recognises:

- a need to replace the old playing field equipment
- additional work required in maintaining the playing field
- and, to bring it into line with national agreements, increases to the Clerk's salary.

Hence the 2008/9 precept was set at £14,000, which will cost the average household in Trull Parish 25p a week. This compares favourably with other local parish councils. We hope that you will regard the services the parish council provides for that sum as good value for money.

The PC has reappointed Mr. A. J. Bullen as the 2008/9 Internal Auditor.

Lakeland

TDBC has confirmed that, as Sherford Stream is a tributary of the River Tone, a flood storage system is being considered, similar to those at Norton Fitzwarren and Halse. An initial appraisal and environmental assessment of suitable land near the stream will be undertaken in 2008.

..... & Byways

Gully emptying work, carried out by Somerset Highways, is on-going, but please advise Nick Hancock (details over) of any particular problems.

The placing of large stones on a small grassed strip of land adjacent to Spearcey Lane has been considered potentially dangerous to road users. So the clerk is writing to Somerset Highways requesting that work be carried out to hard surface the area.

Wattle and Daub

The Parish Council decided to make **no objection** to:

- continuation of outline planning permission for a house on land to the west of Eastbrook House
- conservatory at 12 Mill Lane
- rear extension and replacement garage at The Coach House, Wild Oak Lane;

and to make **no comment** on listed building works at:

- Middle Sweethay Farm
 - Hamwood Farm, Daw's Green
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Trull PC Meeting

21st January 2008 @ 7.15 pm
Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall
Minutes of December's meeting can be viewed at the Post Office and on the website.

Housing Survey

At the December PC meeting, Karl Hines of the Community Council for Somerset, and Samantha Southam of the Falcon Housing Association, gave short presentations on the recent affordable housing survey. The results are included as an appendix to this Newsletter.

The survey seems to indicate that there is the need for a modest affordable housing scheme in Trull. But providers such as Falcon need to be convinced that there is sufficient demand from eligible people locally to justify this. So an **Affordable Housing Awareness Event** is being mounted in the Pearce Suite of Trull Memorial Hall from 4.15pm to 6.45pm on **Thursday 17th January**. This will explain what such a scheme in Trull would involve, and will aim to answer any questions about affordable housing. As this is such an important topic for our parish, and more widely, we hope you will want to drop in during the event.

Circa 1959

New safety legislation linked to insurance cover has resulted in the PC debating the cost/benefits of repairing the old swings on the playing field versus the purchase of new replacement swings. The PC agreed that new swings represented better overall value for money, and could be accommodated within the budget proposals. So it decided to go ahead with providing these.

Thanks to George Langdon for the annual hedge trim around the playing field.

Newsorthy

Becky Howat, an experienced journalist and Trull resident, has kindly agreed to edit the Parish Council Newsletter in Jo Wooldridge's absence during the next few months.

Our thanks to Jack Matthews, who has kindly agreed to deliver the newsletter in the Killams area of Trull Parish.

Strictly Panto

Well done to Trull Players on their four successful sell-out performances of *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*. Families enjoyed the wishy-washy experience of jokes, dancing, hamming-it-up and tomfoolery, with the usual audience participation. £100 was given to both The Open Door and Marie Curie Cancer Care from the proceeds of the raffles.

Local Diary

Annual Charity Bring & Buy: Saturday 5th January Noon to 3pm at Trull Memorial Hall.

Please bring your unwanted Christmas gifts, homemade produce, etc. from 9am.

Hot home made lunches and cream teas available, and Grand Prize Draw.

Affordable Housing Awareness Event: Thursday 17th January 4.15 to 6.45 pm, Pearce Suite of Trull Memorial Hall.

Come and find out what it's all about and how it could affect you.

Happy New Year

2008 will be an eventful year for Trull with the Party-in-the-Park in July, plus more celebrations marking 700th anniversary of the appointment of Trull's first residential priest in November.

Off Road News

John White, our Footpath Liaison Officer, has reported the following information SCC Rights of Way team:

- Missing stile adjacent to Sweethay Farm (T21/32) (since replaced).
- Unsatisfactory surface on approach to stile from Comeytrove Road (T29/12A).
- Difficulty accessing T21/5 from T21/7 due to temporary gate erected by farmer to keep in his sheep (since removed).

The ROW team was unhappy at allocating the £1,000 of footpath improvements Trull Parish was awarded (as reported in our November Newsletter) to the cost of the new surface on the footpath at the bottom of the playing field. So the PC decided instead to propose using it to extend the low walling to Poke Lane at the Church Road end help to stabilise the adjacent bank.

As the new surface of the footpath at the bottom of the playing field had improved following the recent heavy rainfall, it was decided that the proposal to lay and roll yellow gravel to the top surface would be deferred to a later date.

Footpaths

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Many Thanks

To Trull Stores and the paper delivery staff, who sort and deliver the newsletter around the village. Delivery by email is also available. Please contact the editor by email for details.

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