
Trull Parish Council Newsletter

May 2008

Website Address: www.trullvillage.org.uk

Volume 7, Issue 8

Annual Meeting

Members of the public were welcomed to the Annual Parish Meeting by Council Chairman Geoff Hewett, who gave a brief summary of events over the last year. The main points were improvements to the footpaths and playing field, and a grant of £3,000 to the Trull Memorial Halls for a feasibility study. Mr Hewett explained that a series of improvements to the slide, climbing frame, see-saw and roundabout has been made since safety issues were raised by a RoSPA report last July. In addition, the Council has purchased a new swing, re-varnished the entrance gates, put a stile at the bottom of the field and provided better seats. The footpath at the bottom of the playing field has been improved, thanks to a grant of £1,000 from SCC Rights of Way with the remainder going towards some new gates in Pokes Lane. It has been another busy year on planning, with 54 applications to consider. Mr Hewett remarked that although the Council can make recommendations, it is TDBC which takes the actual decisions. In presenting the financial report for the year, it was noted that the total expenditure had been £21,188 plus VAT. The precept for 2008/9 has been set at £14,000 - an increase of £2,000 over the previous year. Mr Hewett said this amount is needed to keep the Council running as it currently is, and thanked everyone involved for all their hard work over the year. The annual meeting included a report from Somerset County Councillor Stephen

Martin-Scott, who was invited to return with further details on a new scheme which allows county councillors to spend an extra £15,000 this year on up to five local initiatives. It concluded with a presentation on the proposals for change in Taunton town centre by Mark Green of Project Taunton. He explained that the town is one of 29 national growth points designated by the Government, and is set to grow considerably over the next 20 years. His presentation showed proposed changes to town centre sites including Firepool Lock, the Cattle Market, the Cricket Ground, the Brewhouse area and the Museum/Castle Green. Details of the two major new roads were also given, along with a brief outline of the associated flood prevention measures which could incorporate a flood storage facility on the Sherford stream off Wild Oak Lane. Members said they had found his address particularly engaging and enlightening.

Planning

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

- 9, Patricks Way, Staplehay, Trull. Erection of porch to the front and single storey extension to rear of property.
- Cutsey Mill, Cutsey, Trull. Enclosed swimming pool.
- Melody, Spearcey Lane, Staplehay, Trull. Erection of conservatory to side.
- 4, Patricks Way, Staplehay, Trull. Erection of car-port to side.

The Council agreed to make **no comment** on listed building works at Gatchell Cottage, Dipford Road, Trull, namely the erection of a conservatory, covered way to rear,

replacement first floor window and roof light to south side of property.

Decision Time

Applications for the two affordable housing schemes proposed for Trull will be going to the next TDBC Planning Committee at Deane House on 21st May, both with an officers' recommendation for refusal. The general public is welcome at the meeting and can also make representations if desired.

Highways

SCC Highways Authority is looking into the possibility of putting safety netting on the bridge in Mill Lane as an interim measure while it awaits remedial work.

The authority is also assessing the action needed to improve recent drainage work at the top of Eastbrook Terrace which was designed to improve flow of water during heavy rain. Local knowledge is that some of the drains have been covered up, and need to be rediscovered in order to stop water running down into the village. The natural spring causing problems in Kibbear will also be investigated, with a view to a long term solution being found before the road is surface dressed later this year. The Highways Authority has previously patched up the road, but the water soon forces its way up again.

Trull PC Meeting

19th May 2008 @ 7.15 pm

The Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall.

All welcome. Minutes of April's meeting can be viewed at the Post Office and on the website.

Playing Safe

The PC has been encouraged by further scrutiny of the 2007 RoSPA report concerning safety regulations for equipment and surfaces. Members feel they now have a better understanding of the requirements, but have agreed to wait for a report from the next inspection in June before making any decisions on safety surfacing. The broken concrete slabs at the base of the slide have been replaced, but will need more attention, and further repairs to the climbing frame are also necessary. Discussions regarding the possible relocation of the roundabout could be started during the planned consultation with members of the public at the Party in the Park on Saturday 12th July. This year is also the 700th anniversary of the first resident priest in the village, and All Saints Church is holding several events in partnership with Party in the Park to mark the occasion. One is an open-air Songs of Praise, which the Parish Council agreed may take place on the playing field at 3.30pm on Sunday 13th July.

Take No Notice

Discussions have drawn to a close concerning the erection of a new notice board at Staplehay. Members had given their conditional approval to locate a new board to the east of the telephone box, subject to permission. However the cost of buying and erecting the board together with associated works has proved too high.

That's a PACT

Trull's Police Community Support Officer Kelly Browning is drawing attention to 'Partners and Communities Together', a group which allows members of

the community to help identify issues affecting their quality of life. The PACT panel is chaired by a non-police representative, with partners from a range of community groups. The purpose of the panel is to agree an achievable course of action to address the issues within an agreed timescale. Anyone who would like more information about PACT activity in the area should call Kelly on 07917529465 or visit www.avonandsomerset.police.uk and enter their postcode. As usual the number for all requests for assistance is 0845 456 7000.

Off Road News

The Parish Council has agreed to place an order with the SCC Rights Of Way team for the two new gates where Pokes Lane crosses the drive to The Bell House and Bell House Cottage. It has opted for wooden gates suitable for wheelchair access, which had been recommended by the Footpath Liaison Officer, John White, in consultation with the SCC ROW team. They will arrange for the work to be carried out via one of their contractors. The estimated cost for the two gates is £600.00, and will be part funded from the SCC footpath improvement grant.

Local Diary

Now's your chance!

Trull's Got Talent: Trull Memorial Hall; 16th May, 7pm – 8.30pm. For children in school years 4 – 7. Further information can be obtained from Catherine Currell on 01823 256050.

Trull Players: Auditions for *Jack & the beanstalk*, Old Village Hall, 13th May, 7.30pm. Details from Sam Allen on 01823 322600.

Footpaths

John White (Non-councillor)
Tel: 365991 (Evenings only).
Email: jwhite2820@btinternet.com

Councillors

Geoff Hewett (Chairman)
Trull Green Farm, Dipford Rd.
Trull Tel: 333630

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Sid French (Deputy Chairman/ TCCDG)

Spearcy Farm, Staplehay
Tel: 275868

Email:
charlesfrench@btconnect.com

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Don Archer (Housing & Development/School)

5 Church Road, Trull
Tel: 333394

Email: donald@waitrose.com

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Fiona Drew (Website)

1 Kibbear Cottages, Trull
Tel: 253416

Email: fldrew@somerset.gov.uk

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Nick Hancock (Highways)

Heatherdene, Comeytrowe Road.
Tel: 337100

Email:

nick.hancock@albertgoodman.co.uk

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Ann Hudson (Planning)

Amberd Farm, Amberd Lane,
Staplehay

Tel: 252627

Email: hudson_ann@btinternet.com

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Simon Jeffery (Community Centre Working Party)

Spypost House, Staplehay
Tel: 326600

Email: steerside@aol.com

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Peter Parris (Tree Warden/Playing Field)

Lower Kibbear Farm
Tel: 284873

Email: kibbearfarm@tiscali.co.uk

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Colin Ralph (Party in the Park/Planning)

Canonsgrove Farm, Trull
Tel: 279720

Email: c.ralph57@btinternet.com

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Jo Wooldridge (Playing Field/Memorial Halls)

21 Church Road, Trull
Tel: 253057

Email: jo@jandtwooldridge.co.uk

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Steve Watts (Parish Clerk/Allotments)

39 Queens Drive, Taunton
Tel: 251277

Email: srwatts1@aol.com