
Trull Parish Council Newsletter

March 2009

Website Address: www.trullvillage.org.uk

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Dam Near Thing!

The Taunton Town Action Plan, adopted by the Project Taunton partner organisations in October 2008 after extensive public consultation, included the possibility of a "flood detention reservoir on Sherford Stream near Wild Oak Lane". An appraisal and environmental assessment was envisaged in 2009-2010.

Now the TDBC Forward Planning Manager, Ralph Willoughby-Foster, has updated the PC on this. The recently completed Long Run Farm (behind SCAT / Castle School) flood storage scheme has delivered more capacity than was originally anticipated, and the need for the Wild Oak Lane facility has reduced as a consequence. However, the proposed facility is still seen as an important flood defence; and if implemented would remove any longer term risk that Trull could merge with Taunton through development, and at the same time enhance the biodiversity of Sherford Stream through the creation of a semi-wetland habitat. The PC is to seek clarification on the timescale and plans for the assessment with TDBC.

Elephant Rides

A recent inspection of the playing field has revealed that the elephant springer was not securely fixed to the ground and the problem is being investigated. Boundary fencing had been damaged, and there have been further incidents of fly tipping. A replacement basketball hoop has been found and will be installed soon. Numerous bulbs have been planted in the playing field, around the Memorial Halls and near Trull School.

Hot Potato

Residents of Dipford turned out in numbers to express their objections to the planning application for seven affordable cottages and two affordable flats on the Dipford Road. Changes to the previous submission related to a full width footpath along Dipford Road, in which the actual road width would not be reduced. SCC might consider reducing the speed limit to 30 mph.

Members of the public were invited to address the Council and representations were made regarding some of the following summarised items:

- The site was not sustainable.
 - TDBC had rejected the application on two previous occasions and this should be accepted.
 - The application was submitted in advance of the survey to establish if there were other, more suitable, sites in the area.
 - In excess of 280 people had signed a petition opposing the development, with few in support.
 - There was no requirement on the Parish Council to promote the development of affordable housing.
- Mrs. Webb, TDBC Affordable Housing Enabling Manager, stated:
- There was a confirmed need for affordable homes.
 - Housing needs people are not necessarily able to articulate their requirements and tend to move away from the area.
 - The validity of the petition was questionable as Affordable and Social Housing had been confused.
 - The selection of tenants for the affordable homes would be through the S106 agreement and a 'close connection' to the

community would have to be proved.

• Central Government has intentions to compel land to be available for affordable homes if the current arrangements did not provide sufficient sites.

The Chairman stated that the PC could only make planning recommendations to TDBC, and that a mixed community would be beneficial in the long term. The PC decided by a large majority to recommend approval of the application, which will now be considered by the TDBC Planning Committee, probably on 18th March.

Sheltered Accommodation

The bus shelter opposite Just Hair, which got very grubby when the gas main was being replaced, has been repainted - the PC Chairman kindly provided the materials.

County Affairs

SCC is proposing to increase the council tax by 2.74% for the 2009/10 financial year. The Police levy is a significant proportion of this increase. TDBC has frozen its council tax precept for the next financial year at its current rate.

Verge of Cut

Trull's grass-cutting contract expired at the end of October 2008. It was agreed that the revised quotation of £1,171.98 for 2009 and £1,195.53 for 2010 be accepted, as it represented a very modest increase in the charges and Parsons Landscapes Ltd continue to give a high quality and reliable service.

Builder's Thumb

The PC decided **not to comment** on the planning application for:

- Erection of a single storey garage in footprint of agricultural shed to be demolished at Middle Sweethay Farm, Sweethay.

And to **support**:

- Erection of a single storey front extension, two storey side extensions and two storey detached double garage with storage area above at Honeysuckle House, Comeytrove Lane, Trull.

- Erection of seven affordable cottages and two affordable flats at Land opposite Dipford Road, Dipford, Trull.

- Erection of extension to side of property including first floor extension over garage at 1, Shepherds Hey, Trull.

A proposal to convert 12, Killams Green, Trull to provide assisted living support has proven to be contentious within the local community, and the application had now been withdrawn

Im-PACT

The new Community Police Support Officer Deb Parry (Tel: 07789753819) will be attending the next meeting. SCAT has been asked to review its parking policy at the Canonsgrove Halls of Residence, as it seems to be exacerbating the problem at Bradbeers.

Were-Rabbit Curse

Tenants are concerned about the large number of rabbits getting into the allotments. The PC felt that it was for individual tenants to protect their produce in a humane manner.

Independent

Terry Hayes would like his customers to know that the Trull Stores is still an independently owned and run business – our January Newsletter may have given the impression that it isn't.

Stream of Traffic

Somerset Highways has reported that an inspection of the footways and grassed areas at Gatchell Green had revealed no significant defects following the Morrison works; and will investigate allegations of speeding HGV vehicles at Daw's Green. It reacts to blocked gullies and specific flooding when identified.

The flood water run off at Hort's Cottages on Comeytrove Road has been reported to the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, which works with local farmers to improve farming methods. Obstruction of the speed signs at Eastbrook has been reported.

White Out

Mr. Peter Parris was thanked for his help in snow clearance within the village.

Feet

Thanks go to Gordon Hart for making the repairs to the wheelchair accessible gates in Poke Lane. The problem of surface water in an area of Poke Lane immediately to the south of the Bell House drive is to be referred to Somerset Highways.

Local Diary

Trull Film Club's *Ghost Town* with Ricky Gervais on Fri. 13th Feb. at 7:30pm in Memorial Hall.

Trull Scouts Jumble Sale on Sat. 21st Mar. at 2pm in Memorial Hall.

Taunton Morris Men near Trull Church on Tues. 28th Apr. at 8pm.

Footpaths

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

Next Trull PC Meeting

Mon. 16th March 2009 @ 7.15 pm
Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall
All Welcome

Councillors

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

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Sid French (Deputy Chairman / Trull Development Group)

Spearcey 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 / Trees)

1 Kibbear Cottages, Trull
Tel: 253416
Email: fldrew@somerset.gov.uk

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Nick Hancock (Highways)

Heatherdene, Comeytrove Road.
Tel: 337100
Email:

nick.hancock@albertgoodman.co.uk

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Ann Hudson (Planning / SALC / Relief in Sickness)

Amberd Farm, Amberd Lane, Staplehay
Tel: 252627
Email: hudson_ann@btinternet.com

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Dee Luke (Trull Community Centre Development Group)

Rose Arbour, Wild Oak Lane
Tel: 07930377108

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Peter Parris (Trees / Playing Field)

Lower Kibbear Farm
Tel: 284873
Email: cutliffefarm@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 / Newsletter)

21 Church Road, Trull
Tel: 253057
Email: jo@jandtwooldridge.co.uk

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Steve Watts (until 31.03.09) (Parish Clerk / Allotments)

Tel: 251277
Email: srwatts1@aol.com

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Alison Harding (from 1.04.09) (Parish Clerk) – Tel:

Email: alison.jane.41@hotmail.co.uk