

TRULL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Trull Parish Council held via Zoom
on Monday 20th July 2020, at 7.15pm.

Present: Mr L Forgham, Mrs J Wooldridge, Mr A Kent, Mr N Hancock, Mrs A Hudson, Mrs A Clark, Mr S Keen and Mr D Lindfield together with 5 members of the public.

In attendance: Mrs S Millard-Jones - Clerk

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, members of the public were asked if they wanted to speak on any agenda items.

- 07/01 Apologies for Absence.**
Apologies of absence received from Mr B Pretty, Cllr S Wakefield, Cllr M Hill & PCSO L Smith. Ms T Dean was to join the meeting later.
- 07/02 To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests/to review Register of Interest.**
None
- 07/03 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th June 2020.**
RESOLVED: To edit the minutes to record 2 members of the public rather than 1. Edited Minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2020 that had been previously circulated be taken as read, agreed and an accurate record of what had taken place. These were agreed and signed by the Chair.
- 07/04 Matters Arising.**
- 1) Residents at Canonsgrove**
The Parish Council (PC) have written to SWT and asked for comments regarding concerns that Canonsgrove may become a permanent fixture. There is a feeling that this is a political move to push the residents out to Trull permanently. The PC are going to keep a close eye on this and will be looking to consult with local residents over the concerns regarding drugs and disorderly conduct. The public are asked to record all incidents with the PC and the police.
- The meeting was paused for public comments.
- Concerns raised: Broken glass in fields, drinking on Trull Green in the morning, improper language, excess residents coming from other towns to stay at the Canonsgrove site. The member of the public raised further concerns about whether or not the village would be fully consulted on what was planned for the Canonsgrove site.
- The meeting was resumed.
- The PC reassured the members of the public that this situation was being watched closely and that they will be as involved as they can be.
- 2) Human Resources Committee**
- a. Homeworking expenses
 - b. Regular Salary payments
- The meeting was paused and the members of the public along with the clerk left the meeting whilst the HR Committee discussed the above matters.
- RESOLVED:** This will be reported at the next Parish Council Meeting.
- The Meeting was resumed.
- 07/05 Chairman's Report.**
This month has been a learning curve for me as your new chairman and I would like to say thank you to all of you who have been supportive. The Comeytrove/ Trull development continues to throw curve balls at us and we know we're in a David and Goliath situation. One small victory is the developers have agreed to find a different location for the pumping station which is great news for our parishioners in Comeytrove lane. Judy and Andy Stainthorpe wanted me to thank the Trull councillors who turned out in support of their 'Keep Galmington Stream Clean' campaign.
Thankfully some of the COVID restrictions are being eased and our hostelry The Winch is now open for business. Patrick & Wendy have redecorated the interior and made some sweeping alterations to the garden. They're hoping to get our local support, particularly now, so it's use it or lose it.
Canonsgrove is the elephant in the room and many residents are concerned that there is talk about it becoming a permanent residence for the homeless. The response from SWAT has been non-committal, although I have sneaky feeling it would clean up several issues for them in the town centre. We have to keep a close eye on this, particularly as they have already lied about having consultations with the parish council. I think we should be actively consulting our local residents now and diarising events.
A big thank you to Jo who took me around the allotments and introduced me to some of our tenants. The place is outstanding and the garden peas were delicious.
Finally, I met with a representative of Trull cricket Club last week and didn't realise how the club has progressed and the level that's been achieved. Our village cricket club has 3 teams 2 of which play in the Somerset League and the other on Sundays. They want to forge closer ties with the village community. I welcome this and as a parish we should be supporting more sport, particularly with the health benefits both mentally and physically, that it brings into the community. There are also financial benefits for our Pavilion, pub and shop.
- 07/06 Police Report.**
PCSO L Smith was on annual leave and was unable to attend or provide a report in her absence;
- 07/07 SCC Report.**
No report.
- 07/08 SWT Report.**
Cllr S Wakefield and Cllr M Hill were unable to attend, but sent a report in their absence;
I am pleased to report that SWT has been extremely busy during the continuing Covid pandemic dealing with both the allocation of grants including discretionary grants and carrying out the legal and other functions of the authority. We are proud of the response of both our

staff and officers and of the local communities in our district in providing help and support locally during this extended period. Cllrs and residents will have noticed the action taken in the town centre- including the temporary day time pedestrianisation of East Street - an initiative strongly promoted by SWT to SCC and eventually taken up by them at the 11th hour (just before re-opening). For my own part as Executive Member for Environment which includes coastal protection I have taken my first resolution successfully through Full Council (concerning a coastal protection scheme for Blue Anchor where a cliff collapse threatens both property and the main road from Watchet via Cleeve Hill). I have appeared at 7.30am on BBC Radio Somerset to speak about our Crematorium and how it has operated through the lockdown - I now find myself more of an expert on that area of my portfolio! I have dealt with many issues raised by SWT Cllrs about household and particularly green bin collections as I am now on the board of Somerset Waste Partnership and can pass them direct to the officer dealing if they have not been resolved through the usual online or phone channels. I have visited Minehead to view the coastal issues there and have looked around the Beach Hotel which is being used to house the homeless in addition to the facility currently at Canonsgrove.

People may be aware that the success of the Canonsgrove operation has invited some local and national press interest. The testimonials of some of the residents have been moving about how their lives have been changed and they feel that they can look forward to some more hopeful and settled future. I have had very little if any feedback from residents of Trull and Staplehay so I hope that this means that their lives have not been adversely affected although of course I am available to hear any issues which have arisen and to try and deal with them. Government support will end soon for this scheme but SWT does hope to be able to continue this work in some form and we are extremely keen that the homeless should not simply be returned to the streets as has happened in other parts of the country. There are still some homeless on the streets and others may have come in to the town too possibly after hearing that they will be well treated. Homelessness is a national issue and in my view a sad indictment of the way some people in need are treated in this country. We need to work even harder to change expectations and show that we do care for them.

I attended the planning committee and decision for the first houses which are to be built on the Comeytrowe urban extension. Those who listened will be aware that a motion to defer the decision was narrowly defeated. This was really due to the advice of officers that the developers had made some changes and improvements to their scheme as the current planning system will allow and that there was no realistic chance of further green agenda and better design amendments being forced upon them. This is of course disappointing but it is to be hoped that as the development moves towards Trull over the next 5-10 years (or however long it takes) the green energy movement and climate change crisis will require further improvements to be made. I will be keeping an eye on this as I know a number of interested residents and members of the PC will also be doing and they have been doing an excellent job if I may say so.

I am hopeful too that the opposition from the Galmington Stream action group will have persuaded the developers to re-site their pumping station away from the flood risk area and away from adjacent existing houses. We wait to see what happens there next but pressure is being exerted.

As regards the One Somerset proposal from David Fothergill and SCC, we await the decision of the minister concerned if as expected the meeting of SCC at the end of the month resolves to pursue it. I will limit my remarks to say that at SWT we feel after just one year as a new Council we have now really got going with all of the projects we have planned to improve our town and district. It seems the wrong time in the midst of the pandemic to be planning a further major re-organisation particularly after the merger of West Somerset and Taunton Deane Councils did not bring the 'savings' which were promised but instead delivered an organisation on its knees and with huge staffing issues which we have only just resolved. If it goes ahead we think that there will be elections to the new council in 2022 or 2023 and a new town council for Taunton (which we are currently planning in any event) will be formed. The local area networks they envisage are like small councils without elected representatives or the officer back up needed to administer them - how will that work I ask? If interested please do look at the 'business' case on the One Somerset website. It is full of assumptions which in our view are unsupported by evidence and we believe are misleading and it suggests that finance is a big issue. It may be for SCC but the four districts concerned have been prudent and none of them are financially compromised at present.

Please do note that although I am away this week I am available if anyone has any concerns or issues which they want me to raise. I have this week written to a resident of Amberd Lane, where concern about traffic speed remains strong, to suggest how matters may be progressed with SCC, which is the highway authority.

07/09

Planning

a) Applications for decision:

i) **42/20/0022** Footpath Diversion Application Public Footpath reference T29/11. South West Taunton Comeytrowe
RESOLVED: Unanimous support to approve the application.

ii) **42/20/0033** Replacement of conservatory with the erection of a single storey extension to the rear of 83 Killams Green, Taunton.
RESOLVED: Unanimous support to approve the application with the recommendation that the new windows on the North side would be frosted.

iii) **42/20/0031** Application for approval of reserved matters in respect of appearance, landscape, layout and scale, following outline application 42/14/0069, for Phase H1A for the erection of 75 No. dwellings, hard and soft landscaping, car parking including garages, internal access roads, footpaths and circulation areas, public open space and drainage with associated infrastructure and engineering works with additional details as required by Condition No's 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23 on land at Comeytrowe/Trull.

The meeting was paused for public comments.

A feeling of unease and mis-trust is being felt by residents at the lack of information being shared, in particular referring to online documentation which has since been removed and is no longer available to view. Feeling that the meetings are being held unprofessionally and that there appear to be some closed-door meetings between planners and developers taking place that may affect the final outcome.

The meeting was resumed.

RESOLVED: A report would be submitted opposing the planning application on the following basis (in brief); No evidence of Foul water strategy. Requirement for an updated Surface Water Drainage Strategy for the entire Urban Extension. No evidence of 'A detailed scheme for surface water drainage and watercourse proposals for that phase'. No evidence that 'a Construction Environmental Management Plan' has been agreed by the Council. Condition 15 - has not yet been agreed by the Council. Conditions 18,19,20 relating to wildlife need up-to-date (within the past 12 months prior to commencement of work) wildlife surveys. They are currently not compliant. Condition 21 - lighting strategy - the applicants states that this is not relevant for this parcel of land but it is still a condition which needs to be discharged prior to a decision. The District Council has an obligation to follow the guidance on garden town planning, namely, it should provide 'high quality distinctive homes'. These are not. It should provide 'green space' - the so-called 'Key Central Space' in this proposal is basically a road with a few trees beside it. And it should be future proofed - which these houses are not. We are also concerned about the documentation online, in particular the copies of the 5 emails which were dated June 12th which appear to have been removed. These are key to understanding how the applicants have been consulting with the Council over the validation of this application and we would like to see them relisted on the website.

The Chair agreed to contact Rebecca Pow on the conduct of the planning officers and developers.

iv) **42/20/0030** Replacement of garage and connecting passageway with the erection of a two-storey extension to the side and rear of Springfield, Comeytrowe Road, Trull.

RESOLVED: Unanimous support.

v) **52/20/0012** Replacement of conservatory with erection of a single storey extension to the rear of 28 Bradford Close, Taunton.

RESOLVED: Unanimous support.

b) Report on applications considered under delegated powers.

No report.

c) Report on decisions by SWT.

No report.

- 07/10 Councillor's roles.**
The Chair suggested that this may be a time for discussing whether councillors would like to change their current roles, but asked that unless there were any issues that this be an issue that could be adjourned until the September meeting.
RESOLVED: There was unanimous support to adjourn this until the September meeting.
- 07/11 Somerset One Survey Response (Unitary Council).**
The key points are:
- The number of "district" councillors would halve yet the workload will not change
 - Local Community Networks (LCNs) will only meet 6-8 times per year
 - No mention of how LCNs and PCs will be funded to take on the additional responsibilities
 - Potential impact on parish precept – county precept will also rise
 - Parish councillors are volunteers not necessarily with the skill sets needed to take on the responsibility.
 - No detail on how this would directly affect PC's
 - New responsivity could include minor road and footpath repairs, minor development control, planning applications, street cleaning, safety and neighbourhood watch, local climate initiatives, social housing liaison, enforcement of environmental health issues.
- RESOLVED:** To review the position at the September meeting.
- 07/12 VJ Day Commemorations.**
The question was posed that due to the current circumstances, whether or not should anything significant take place to commemorate the event. The Church are not planning anything, neither do SWT appear to be. Two-minute silence being planned at 11am.
RESOLVED: Unanimous support for Mr A Kent to cancel the piper and speak with the church regarding a small memorial in the churchyard.
- 07/13 Electric Car Charging Point.**
A revised quote has been received from Podpoint that includes a safety circuit to protect the charger, should the Memorial Hall power demand exceed capacity. This has increased the original quote by £248 to £3747.65 excluding VAT. The PC already have £1500 grant from SWT and £2000 set aside in the budget. Mr A Kent proposed that the £2000 already set aside, would be increased to £2500 in order to cover additional costs.
RESOLVED: This was unanimously supported.
- 07/14 Speeding on Honiton Road.**
There was a speed watch meeting last week, that didn't happen due to illness.. In observing drivers, it did appear as though out of 297 vehicles observed, only 2 braked violently. Hopefully there will be more to report at the next meeting, following the analysis of the data obtained from the Speed Data Capture box.
- 07/15 Pokes Lane/footpath/cycle-path - Skateboarding**
The meeting was paused for public comments.
Concerns were raised by members of the public – in summary;
- Children and parents shouldn't be being reprimanded for skateboarding.. Disappointment regarding the erected sign stating that no skateboarding is permitted. Believe that the path is a dual use path following the Amingford Mead development.
 - Parts of the path through the playing field are the safest place in Trull for young people to skateboard
 - The path provides a very important alternative to cycling on Honiton Road for about ¼ of the overall village, especially for those with children.
 - The Public Footpath designation does not necessarily prevent cycling, given that landowners can permit cycling on Footpaths across their land and the Parish Council is party to the s106 legal agreement for Amingford Mead which enabled the footpath/cycleway.
- The meeting was resumed.
- It was confirmed that the path is a footpath and not a cyclepath. However, it is a moot point, as the guidance around this area is a minefield. There are no legal widths or designs only recommendations and for a footpath to become a shared cycle path it needs highways to agree, and erect signage, SCC highways are responsible for the footpath not the PC. It is at the discretion of the land owner as to whether they allow bicycles or skateboards to be used on the footpath. The PC are awaiting guidance on this and will know what next steps need to be taken, then.
RESOLVED: A majority vote supported removing the skateboarding signs.
- 07/16 Youth Gatherings – Conduct.**
Although there have been numerous incidents regarding swearing, underage drinking and improper conduct, there is little that the PC are able to do. The PC have liaised with the police to improve presence, however, only the police are able to enforce any measures.
RESOLVED: To encourage members of the public to report all concerns directly to the police. If any issues are raised with the PC, then to place on the log that the PC hold regarding issues, and to direct members of the public to the police.
- 07/17 Trull/Comeytrove Development**
Discussed in the planning item.
- 07/18 S106 monies available.**
The PC have £148 to spend on outdoor recreational equipment. It was agreed that a bench would be a good way to spend the funds. A shortlist of benches was shared with the PC ahead of the meeting.
RESOLVED: Unanimous support to purchase the Bromley Straight Back bench at a cost of £228.
- 07/19 Newsletter**

The clerk asked for ideas on how to improve the attraction of the newsletter. A suggestion was made to make contact with the Church and Memorial hall in terms of local events, and how the PC may be able to support.

- 07/20**
- Reports on the following (if appropriate):-**
- a) **Neighbourhood Plan**
Nothing to report.
 - b) **KGV Pavilion**
A working party is needed in order to get rid of the old tables and excess chairs. A date will be sent out soon for request of help. Lots of documentation has been put together to support the re-opening of the pavilion with regards to hirers and paying a deposit for keys. Currently advertising for a Booking Secretary and cleaner on a voluntary basis.
Allotments
Seeds for Fothergills green courgettes have been recalled due to them being very bitter when cooked and causing diarrhoea and vomiting.
 - c) **Footpaths**
No report.
 - d) **Highways**
Ongoing issues for a resident which is in hand with the clerk and highways.
 - e) **Open Spaces**
No report.
 - f) **Village Field**
It was suggested that it would be a good idea to obtain quotes regarding making the weir more accessible for members of the public who may be disabled or have buggies.
RESOLVED: Unanimous support to obtain quotes.
 - g) **Flooding**
No report.
 - h) **Trull Village Memorial Hall**
Chompies chip van will not be at the Memorial Hall this week, due to issues with the van
 - i) **Alms houses**
No report.
 - j) **Parish Charity Lands**
No report.
 - k) **Trull School**
No report.
 - l) **Book Exchange**
Looking to re-open in the coming weeks.
 - m) **OS Working Group**
No report.
 - n) **SALC**
No report.

- 07/21**
- Litter bins in the King George V Playing Field.**
The Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC) voted unanimously for the litter bins to be re-instated along with the approval of the bins to be emptied on a bi-weekly basis April – September and revert to a weekly cycle for the remainder of the year. The PFMC requested approval of the decision taken at the PFMC meeting.
RESOLVED: There was a resolution passed by majority to re-instate the bins and set up the contract with SWT for emptying.
The PFMC requested approval to spend a further £300 on an additional bin for the playing field, to be sited by the Spider, as per previously agreed.
RESOLVED: There was a resolution passed by majority to support the purchase of the additional bin.

- 07/22**
- Trees, plants and bench for Carter's Way**
The PC were asked to approve an expenditure of up to £150 for a black cherry plum tree, along with some buddleia bushes and lavender. No bench was required.
RESOLVED: Unanimous support.

- 07/23**
- Matters of Correspondence for Report.**
Karuna Tharmananthar From Extinction Rebellion Taunton has been in contact with the PC regarding the Climate and Ecological Crisis and asked if any of the PC Councillors would be interested to attend a Zoom webinar.
RESOLVED: Clerk to respond and set up a Zoom webinar for the Parish Councillors interested.

- 07/24**
- Finance**
- a) To re-appoint the Clerk as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer.
RESOLVED: Unanimous support to re-appoint Mrs S Millard-Jones.
 - b) **Accounts for Payment** The following were approved for payment;

To whom	Account	Description	Total	
S Millard-Jones	TPC	Salary	£1957.30	
S Millard-Jones	TPC	Expenses	£41.14	
HMRC	TPC	PAYE & NI	£191.11	
NEST	TPC	Pension	£118.74	
Came & Company	TPC	Insurance renewal	£1529.00	
David Moy	TPC	Wood chip	£115.00	
Parsons	TPC	June	£110.71	
SALC	TPC	SALC& NALC Affiliation Fee	£605.22	
SALC	TPC	Essential Clerk P2	£30.00	
SALC	TPC	Essential Clerk P3	£30.00	
				£4728.22
J Rusinek	Covid-19 Account	Phone bill for Support group	£16.44	
				£16.44

ARC Plumbing	PFMC	Service the hot water cylinders	£144.00	
Parsons	PFMC	June	£387.36	
				£531.36

c) Receipts Received

Bank Interest - June	TPC	£1.53	
		TOTAL	£1.53
EDF	PFMC	£1371.68	
Pavilion Hire	PFMC	£48.00	
		TOTAL	£1419.68

d) Bank Reconciliation to 30th June 2020.

RESOLVED: Unanimously approved.

e) Money available for spending.

RESOLVED: Clerk to provide a financial report at the September meeting against budget.

f) Zoom charge for the month.

This will be cancelled due to no meeting in August.

g) Approval of adding chair as signatory and setting up 2 step authentication process

RESOLVED: Unanimously approved.

h) Approval of SALC & NALC Affiliation Fees.

RESOLVED: Unanimously approved.

07/25

Date of next meeting;

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21st September at 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21.37.

Chair Signature..... Date.....