

TRULL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Trull Parish Council held via Zoom on Monday 17th May 2021, at 7.15pm.

Present: Mrs J Wooldridge, Ms T Dean, Mr N Hancock, Mrs A Hudson, Mr S Keen, Mr D Lindfield, Mr B Pretty, Mrs C Tucker & Ms D Johnson.

In attendance: Mrs S Millard-Jones – Clerk, Mr S Lewis - Assistant Director at SWT, Cllr S Wakefield, Cllr A Wederkopp and approximately 4 members of the public.

The meeting was opened at 7.19pm.

05/01 To minute that a quorum is present

9 Parish Councillors were present. The meeting was quorate.

05/02 Election of Chairman/Vice required: Local Authority Act 2020.

Mr N Hancock proposed that Mr L Forgham to be elected as Chairman and was seconded by Mrs J Wooldridge.

RESOLVED: Mr L Forgham was elected as Chairman for the year. Due to Mr L Forgham not being present at the meeting, it was noted that he would sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office outside of the meeting.

Mrs J Wooldridge informed all that she wished to step down as Vice- Chair due to family commitments, she was thanked by all for her hard work over the years. Mrs J Wooldridge proposed that Mr N Hancock to be elected as Vice Chairman and was seconded by Mrs A Hudson.

RESOLVED: Mr N Hancock was elected as Vice Chairman for the year and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

05/03 Apologies for absence

Mr L Forgham

05/04 To note declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests.

None

05/05 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th April 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th April 2021 were agreed and signed by the Vice Chair.

05/06 Matters Arising – Clerk Report.

The Clerk reported the following; Currently working with an energy consultant to review the supply to the Geoff Hewett Pavilion (GHP). The GHP has invoiced for £720 in April inclusive of £400 for scout storage. Many regular hirers are starting to return. Several one-off events booked in. GHP is advertising for a booking secretary and in the process of purchasing of a music licence. Fencing has been erected around the dragon for protection.

05/07 It is confirmed that summons, agendas and other documents will be accepted by email as proper service.

05/08 It is confirmed that the Council is insured with BHIB at a cost of £1,092.94 on a 3-year Long Term Undertaking.

05/09 It is confirmed for continuation of annual subscriptions to SALC & SLCC. 2020 costs were; SALC £605 (based on electors) SLCC £173 (based on Clerk salary).

05/10 Police Report

This had been circulated amongst councillors and will be made available on the website.

05/11 SCC Report

Cllr A Wederkopp reported of concerns with heavy traffic and is investigating this with County.

05/12 SWT Report

Cllr S Wakefield welcomed Ms D Johnson as the new Ward Councillor for Trull, and reported on the following; Voting invitations will be sent out later in the week asking for members of the public to vote on their preferred choice of Stronger Somerset or One Somerset. The Canonsgrove Planning Enforcement matter will hopefully be considered under the full Planning Committee rather than under delegated powers and will, with any luck be resolved by the June Parish Council (PC) meeting. There have been some changes to the SWT committees; The Scrutiny Executive Committee has now been split into Policy Scrutiny and Community Scrutiny, and The Audit Governance & Standards has been split into Audit Governance & Standards Committee.

There are concerns regarding the excessive level of roadworks and concurrently traffic around the town centre and it is looking as though the town centre may be re-opened to ease the congestion – temporarily.

Liaising with District Council regarding the problem at Brookside Close where there are issues with parking and access. Currently working on the 20's plenty initiative which looks at reducing all residential areas to 20mph, and is looking into the possibility of providing additional signage to remind drivers of the speed limit in more prominent locations.

05/13 Moving forward with Canonsgrove – to discuss and agree the mechanism for reporting process with reference to Canonsgrove

There was a discussion on how to streamline the current reporting process amongst the Canonsgrove Working Group and SWT/YMCA, as it was raised at a previous meeting that a lot of information seemed to be duplicated. The

Canonsgrove Working Group suggested meeting with SWT/YMCA 'offline' and reporting back to the PC. Mr S Lewis felt as though Canonsgrove may continue to get mis-represented if this process were to take over.

It was agreed to take the discussions outside of the meeting in order to bring a proposal to the June meeting.

05/14 Canonsgrove Working Group Report

Ms D Johnson reported the following on the behalf of the CGWG; Objections have been submitted to the Variation of the Section 106 related to Canonsgrove. (Planning application 42/21/0031/VSC,) currently showing as 12 in number on the site although others have yet to be displayed. It is hoped that with the objections from your 2 Ward Councillors this matter will now be dealt with under the full planning committee rather than under delegated powers. The Zoom meeting set up by Jonica Walkinshaw(YMCA) and Simon Lewis(SWT) took place on Thursday 13th May. At one point there were 25 people on the call of which 16 were members of the local community. Representing the organisations involved were Chris Brown (Associate Director Development SWT), Charmaine Dyer (Neighbourhood Police Sergeant), Sue Morrice (a Canonsgrove volunteer), Simon Lewis(SWT), Jonica Walkinshaw(YMCA). There were also 2 independent facilitators in attendance. The first hour of the meeting was a presentation from the aforementioned people with the rest of the time allocated to a Q&A. The usual subject matter was debated. Only 4 people felt that further Zoom meetings were a useful way forward. Trull/ Staplehay residents who had responded to the recent survey who were unable to attend were represented by the Canonsgrove workgroup. Following this meeting, the Canonsgrove workgroup would like to suggest the following way forward; • That a regular meeting takes place away from a public setting. This would release valuable time for other Trull Parish Council business and facilitate more productive trust and relationship building. • That this meeting be run under the democratic control of the Trull Parish Council with clear terms of reference. A brief report could then be made at the monthly Parish Council meeting. • That members of the Trull/ Staplehay community be advised that any issues should be fed through to the Canonsgrove workgroup for discussion at the meeting. • Membership of this group would need to be considered but our suggestion would be to include SWT, YMCA, the Canonsgrove workgroup and the police. David Taylor, the church representative has indicated his willingness to be involved with the group.

05/15 SWT & YMCA Canonsgrove Report

Mr S Lewis provided the following report;

Community engagement and consultation

The Council and YMCADG wrote to all residents in Trull and Staplehay in April offering attendance at an online meeting with us, where we would explain about what we were doing at Canonsgrove and answer any questions that people had. We sent this letter to nearly 1,000 addresses in the ward. The letter and approach were agreed beforehand with the Chair of the Parish Council. On Thursday 13th May we held the meeting and 16 residents attended. We invited questions prior to the meeting so that we could tailor our presentation to make it relevant and cover those areas of interest at the meeting. As a result, we had 5 individuals submit a question and a further 18 from the Chair of the Parish Council Working Group who had contacted people that had responded to their earlier survey. We ensured that the content of the presentation covered the majority of these questions and have committed to respond in writing to those we were unable to cover. The meeting included input from the YMCA Dulverton Group Head of Housing, the Council (both on the service aspects and the development aspects), a volunteer from the church and from the Police. South West Councils provided a Business Manager to facilitate the meeting independently. The Council's portfolio-holder for Housing was also present to listen carefully. We then gave around 90 minutes of the meeting over to a question and answer session.

Some key points from the meeting that we picked up:

- There was real anger and hurt experienced by some residents in Trull which needed to be acknowledged. Some people have had bad experiences from Canonsgrove residents.
- People were seeking assurance that the support, provision, policing and overall service being provided was effective, particularly in addressing incidents. We spent a lot of time discussing this and the Council, YMCADG and the Police all concurred that inter-agency communication and partnership was really strong to address issues raised. A request was made that all issues should be reported to the Canonsgrove email address or the police.
- Someone had raised an issue which had not been responded to. The police were able to confirm that the Canonsgrove resident involved had been evicted.
- People wanted action to be taken when antisocial behaviour was being committed.
- There was a preference for a bus Service from Canonsgrove. We shared that our current position was not to provide one as there was already a regular hourly service provided commercially, but we would consider this further.
- People wanted to know what our plans were with respect to finding alternative accommodation. We were able to provide more information on this.
- There was a challenge on how well the support was being provided from both the YMCADG and the range of partners to homeless people – we were able to show that the provision that we had levered in was more comprehensive than had ever been delivered previously for homeless people in our District.
- There was a clear request for all parties to now look forwards, rather than look backwards.
- It transpired that most of the people on the call were already involved in different Canonsgrove groups. 12 out of the 16 residents were either on the Parish Council, the subgroup or the Trull residents' group and were therefore well informed and kept up to date on most of the information through the Parish Council reports and newsletters. Only 4 people were not on one of these groups.
- There was not support for further quarterly meetings (only 4 out of the 16 people supported this)

- There was a general consensus that the Parish Council as the elected body was the best place to report into. There was also general consensus that the current approach with multiple reports from the officers, from the Subgroup and a separate incidents report was not working well and more space was needed for constructive dialogue. We considered whether more of a 'deep dive' every two months with a briefer overview in between would use time effectively. I said that we would discuss this at the PC meeting and ultimately it was a decision for the parish councillors and officer to come to agreement on.

- We agreed that we would tailor our reports dependent on what the Parish Council wanted to know. Suggestions from residents included, regular updates on the S106 progress, ongoing issues in the community and our plans for rehousing residents and progress on this.

Section 106 Variation

We outlined in a previous Trull Parish Council report the position we were taking to seek variation of the S106 Order which is currently being breached through the use at Canonsgrove. The Housing Service has worked with Bridgwater and Taunton College and Stantec, a Planning Agent, to support a submission from Bridgwater and Taunton College to the Planning Section to vary the S106 agreement. The Planning Service have now published this for consultation.

We are aware that a number of points have been submitted already from residents and various bodies in Trull and all of these will be considered and BTC and Stantec will have the opportunity to respond to these. One of these is about the vagueness of the 'two years' proposal for the S106 changes and this point has (or will) be agreed to clearly fix to 31/3/23.

The Planning Officer will ultimately review any submissions and mitigations and then prepare a written report with recommendations. There has been enough objections and comments to the variation order proposal to warrant the decision being taken to Planning Committee, meaning that elected councillors will determine the outcome.

Canonsgrove and Covid

Although it has been difficult to provide a wide range of activities during lockdown, we are now building plans and extending again the range of activities available for our residents and are hoping to provide a similar range to that which was available prior to lockdown. New activities that have been brought back include art classes, more face to face drug and alcohol support sessions and we are about to recommence a gardening club. We recognise the importance of these activities as they not only support positive mental health of our residents, but many are designed as part of their support and development packages and the more engaged they are, the less likely to become involved in negative activities.

We continue to have regular engagement, in person for either one to one work or group sessions (dependent on service) from a variety of specialist services including mental health, and drug and alcohol support. We also continue to have a GP on site once a week running a clinic and very valuable support from Trull Church.

Incidents and anti-social behaviour

We have to start with the tragic news that one of our residents passed away at the start of this month and our thoughts are with their family. The police are not treating this death as suspicious and they are carrying out further enquiries on behalf of the Coroner's office. We are not at liberty to provide any further details at this time.

We reported last month (March 2021) that we had received 1 contact directly from local residents and that there were a further 4 on the police log, however at the meeting we discovered there were a further 2 incidents on the police log (discussed at the Parish Council meeting) so we provide a correction here that there were 7 reported incidents in March. We have seen an increase this month and Appendix A shows 12 incidents that have been reported to us or to the police.

The nature of the ten incidents can broadly be broken down as follows:

5 incidents of erratic walking and appearing to be under the influence, and/or poor mental health - one exposing his posterior.

1 incident of suspected drug taking (individual not identified)

1 incident of suspected drug deal (residents searched but no illicit substance found)

1 incident of urination in a public place

1 incident of dogs off lead and harassing a member of the public's dog

1 incident of littering

1 incident of begging (outside of the Trull area)

1 person getting lost and not knowing way back (first day at Canonsgrove).

Appendix A shows how each of these incidents was addressed

All complaints were responded to promptly and action taken where we were able to identify the resident. We will always respond to any contact received, and provide an update, but due to other work commitments this may not be immediate.

Sometimes we also need to look into the detail surrounding the contact, and establish our resident's involvement, which can mean checking against CCTV and other reporting information. We thank you for your patience and endeavour to come back to you as soon as possible.

The increase in incidents this month puts our running tally for the 7 months at 39. Charmaine Dyne reported at the consultation event last week that there had been an increase in incidents for the past two months but that these had subsided so far this month, however we will continue to monitor and report on this closely.

We acknowledge that it is likely that not all incidents are reported (and therefore there will be an element of under-reporting within our figures) however would reiterate that this will be offset to some degree by a fair number of incidents included in our reporting where there is no evidence that the perpetrator is a Canonsgrove resident and indeed in some cases good evidence that he/she is not (e.g. when CCTV and security logs show no person leaving or entering the site during a relevant timeframe).

That said, we continue to take all complaints seriously, investigate them properly and take action to address them. Our partnership working between the YMCA Dulverton Group, Council and the Police remains strong and positive allowing us to respond quickly and decisively to incidents.

We continue to meet weekly with the Police and have increased the frequency of our night-time patrols with the police to bi-weekly and also increased day time patrols. We also attend the monthly 'Priorities' meeting where Canonsgrove is a fixed agenda item. One of the members of the Rough Sleeper outreach team is available out of hours to ensure 24/7 cover is available and they undertake daily intelligence-led patrols.

Communications with Trull community

As covered in previous Trull Parish Council reports and earlier in this report in the first item, the Council and YMCA Dulverton Group are very keen to improve communications and dialogue with residents and the Parish Council moving forward. We are aware that space has been made on the agenda tonight to discuss a new way forward. As described at the last meeting, we believe that the most appropriate forum to report to should continue to be the Parish Council as the elected representatives of the Trull community. Discussions with the Chair of the Parish Council and with the community last week brought an acknowledgement that the current approach with one report from the Parish Council subgroup providing one narrative, followed by a report from the Council and YMCADG with another narrative and then a further report with separate incident figures was time consuming and did not provide any opportunity for constructive dialogue. Our recommendation is that reports from the Working Group and separate incident reports discontinue and that through the Parish Council we have some time for an open, respectful and constructive dialogue to understand the issues that we need to progress and to be clear about what information the Parish Council requires from us over the coming two years. Assuming these requests are proportionate and reasonable we can then report back in monthly and continue to refine our reporting to meet the needs of parish councillors. We understand that the Parish Council agenda is busy and that although Canonsgrove will undoubtedly remain a priority for the next two years, there are other important issues to be discussed as well. Therefore, it may be appropriate that a more substantive space is given for deeper discussion on an 'every two month' basis and that in the intervening months a report with space for brief questions, answers and requests to be placed on the agenda. It is of course the prerogative of the Parish Council to decide how they want to do this.

We are very keen to move away from a relationship of adversity and conflict to one where we share the same objectives which is to ensure that the Canonsgrove project runs smoothly, with as minimal adverse impact on the community as possible and that we are supporting both the interests of the Trull residents and the residents of Canonsgrove. Our take-away from the community meeting last week was that residents too shared this wish to 'look forward, rather than backwards.'

We believe that it should be possible to draw a line under the past and that future conversations between us can be focussed on better understanding each other's perspectives and improving the relationship between Canonsgrove, Trull and the local community.

05/16 Trull Incident Log

There had been four reported incidents of Anti-social behaviour in addition to those reported by SWT/YMCA.

05/17 Finance

a) Approval of Payments & Receipts

It was **resolved** to approve the following payments and receipts;

Payments

To whom	Account	Description	Net	VAT	Total
S Millard-Jones	TPC	Salary	£872.40	£	£872.40
S Millard-Jones	TPC	Expenses	£74.63	£9.89	£84.52
S Millard-Jones	TPC	PAYE & NI	£12.35	£	£12.35
NEST	TPC	Pension	£26.60	£	£26.60
	TPC		£123.80	£	£123.80
Parsons	TPC	April 2021 Inv 15456	£94.10	£18.82	£112.92
Mervyn Stock	TPC	Bench refurbishment	£23.00	£	£23.00
	TOTAL		£1,226.88	£28.71	£1,255.59
S Millard-Jones	PFMC	Toilet rolls	£2.49	£0.50	£2.99
EDF	PFMC	19/02/21-07/05/21	£289.26	£14.46	£303.72
Parsons	PFMC	April 2021 inv 15456	£485.22	£97.04	£582.26
	TOTAL		£776.97	£112.00	£888.97

Receipts

Bank Interest	TPC	£0.34
Precept	TPC	£15,500

VAT refund	TPC	£1,928.05
		£17,428.39
	PFMC	£0.00

b) Approval of the bank reconciliation

It was **resolved** to approve the bank reconciliation on the 31st April, showing a balance of £58,389.36.

c) To note the Statement of Internal Control

RESOLVED: This was noted and signed by Vice-Chair.

d) To note S137 of £8.41 per elector.

The Clerk explained the S137 Power of Free resource – a power that can be used by the PC if the expenditure is seen to be of direct benefit/in the interest of the local residents. It is calculated in 21/22 at £8.41 per elector. There are 1,846 electors of Trull, which equates to a limit of £15,524.86.

e) To note that the Register of Assets updated for insurance purposes.

It was noted that the Register of Assets had been updated for insurance purposes.

f) To consider the frequency of emptying the litter/dog waste bins

The Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC) had discussed the need to re-instate the fourth bin in the Playing Field, but needed approval from the Parish Council (PC) as it is paid by the PC not the PFMC.

It was **resolved** to approve the additional cost of £6 per bin per empty, twice per week from July to the end of October.

05/18 Planning

Applications for Decision

42/21/0006 & 42/21/0007LB - Replacement and extension of fence height between properties at Middle Sweethay Farmhouse, Sweethay Lane, Trull (retention of works already undertaken). **No comment**

Report on applications considered under delegated powers

None

Report on decisions by SWT

42/21/0003 - Alterations to the extension to the rear of The Old Coach House, Daws Green Road, Trull – **Conditional**

Approval

42/21/0015 - Conversion of garage into ancillary accommodation at Dipford Cottage, Dipford Road, Trull – **Conditional**

Approval

42/20/0002/T - Notification to carry out management works to six Yew trees and one walnut tree within Trull Conservation, Area at Trull Churchyard, Trull – **Split Decision**

42/20/0067 Application to fell one Fir tree and to carry out management works to one Beech tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Trull No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1992 at The Beeches, Honiton Road, Trull (TD547) - **Refusal**

42/20/0064 Replacement of single storey extension with the erection of a two-storey extension to the rear with demolition of garage and replacement of dormer window with velux roof light at The Chapel House, Comeytrowe Road, Trull – **Conditional Approval**

42/21/0008 - Formation of access at Dipford Barn, Dipford Farm, Dipford Road, Trull – **Conditional Approval**

05/19 Comeytrowe/Trull development – proceeding forwards

Mrs J Wooldridge reported that there was a small tweak being made with the substation needed for the E block. It has been confirmed that there will be no space for a church, despite the Church's request, as the space will be needed for a school and community centre. There are concerns with the spine road going over the river. At the fiftieth occupation, the school land will be allocated. The fortnightly meetings between the three parishes have been moved to 4 weekly. There will be a Design Guide Meeting on Thursday 27th May. Ms D Johnson reported that she was no longer able to attend the Comeytrowe meetings due to a work commitment but was happy to stay on the workgroup and be involved. No other Parish Councillor was able to attend the meetings in her place.

05/20 To consider quotes regarding Carters Way

Further to a resident's letter in November, the Clerk and Mr B Pretty had been working on seeking resident opinions and getting quotes for the work. Two options were considered; a) to clear out all of the bushes etc and to completely tarmac, or b) to tidy up the area, so that it becomes maintainable. It was agreed to choose option b) – the Clerk had only been able to obtain two quotes and had shared them ahead of the meeting for consideration.

RESOLVED: to go with Option B at a cost of £868.00 inclusive of VAT

05/21 To consider an expression of thanks to local businesses

It was proposed to write a letter of thanks to all local businesses for their commitment and hard work throughout the first three Covid lockdowns. There were apprehensions that some businesses may be missed, and therefore it was **resolved** to include a piece in the newsletter to thank all local businesses. Ms D Johnson would draft the wording for inclusion in the next newsletter.

05/22 To review the issue and concerns regarding speeding and to consider signage

The Clerk and Ms D Johnson had made contact with traffic management and shared the information that needed to be investigated before being able to make decisions in terms of how to proceed with Speed Indicator Devices (SID). For example, the device needs to be approved by SCC as well as where it will be located, and an individual needs to be trained to move the device around (as it is not advisable to keep it in one location). Any SID considered will be at a cost

to the PC, although CIL money could be used. PC members suggested that they wanted alternatives to the SID investigated such as additional signs and randells. The PC agreed in principle for the Clerk and Ms D Johnson to obtain further information for consideration.

05/23 To review the process regarding Tree Preservation Orders

The meeting was closed

Mr T Smith shared a proposal that had been distributed to councillors ahead of the meeting on the topic of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).

The meeting was re-opened

It was **resolved** to work with the recommended Arboriculturist and to a) select remotely, the top 100 mature trees in the Parish, outside the Urban Extension, not already T.P.O.'d at a cost of £260.00 and to b) Purchase a digital Ordnance Survey plan of the Parish at a cost of £60.00. Two cllrs abstained, Mr B Pretty and 1 other cllr were against and 5 cllrs were in support.

05/24 To discuss village signage maintenance

The white signage in the village is in poor condition and needs refurbishing, but this requires a specialist. It is expected that this would be costly. Ms D Johnson and the Clerk will look into costs involved and feedback at the June meeting.

05/25 Items for the next meeting/agenda.

It was felt that a full discussion would be required in terms of how the PC handle the Trull/Comeytrove development.

05/26 Date for the next Meeting – Monday 21st June.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.50pm.

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