

TRULL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Trull Parish Council meeting held at 7.15pm on Monday 21st March 2022 in the East Hall, Trull Church Community Centre, Church Rd, Trull, Taunton TA3 7JZ.

Present: Mr B Pretty, Mr N Hancock, Mrs A Hudson, Mrs J Wooldridge, Mr S Keen,

In attendance: Mrs S Millard-Jones – Clerk & Cllr S Wakefield. There were approximately 7 members of the public.

The meeting was opened at 7.15pm.

03/01 Apologies for absence. Mr J Snailham, Mr D Lindfield, Ms D Johnson, Mrs T Dean, Mr F Clark

03/02 To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests. None

03/03 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st February 2022.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st February 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

The meeting was closed for public participation

A petition was presented to the Parish Council (PC) by residents urging the reduction of speed limits to 20mph. See Appendix 1.

Several residents raised their concerns regarding planning application 42/22/0008 and asked the PC to consider objecting to the application.

The applicant (42/22/0008) explained the amendments that had been made to the application.

A resident's architect explained to the PC that his clients' original planning application had been rejected and explained the reason for the re-submission under planning application 42/22/0017 and urged the PC to submit support to the SWT planning portal with reference to the planning policies in place.

The meeting was re-opened*

03/04 Clerk report

- ICO certificate uploaded.
- Fingerpost restoration will be delayed until the summer. Last two from 2021 order will be finished mid-March.
- Preparation for internal audit I underway.
- Final outstanding allotment payments have been chased.
- New Unity account for CIL funds now open.
- Additional signatory on PFMC Unity bank account in process of being set up.
- S106 allotment information shared with Mrs J Wooldridge and fellow allotmenters.
- Attended the LGR fortnightly meetings.
- SWT Full Council meeting regarding the Community Governance Review. Elections Training. LGR Conference.
- Due to attend allotment training (H&S, policies and site management March 25th).
- A message of thanks had been received from a member of the public who had recently planted a tree on the village green in memory of a colleague.

03/05 SCC Report.

Ms D Johnson provided the following report in her absence;

On Wednesday 6th April the Statement of Persons Nominated for the new Somerset Council election will be published with the election on Thursday 5th May. The deadline for registering to vote is Thursday 14th April and for new postal or proxy votes Tuesday 19th April. <https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/register-to-vote/> If residents have applied for a permanent postal vote in the past, this will arrive automatically. Counting for the Somerset Council will start at 10am on Friday 6th May.

Just a reminder that it is a legal requirement to keep your dogs on a lead on open access land until 31 July. Dogs should be kept on short leads to avoid disturbing ground nesting birds and help to protect ewes and lambs.

Thousands of children and young people eligible for free school meals in Somerset will be able to enjoy free fun activities during the Easter holidays. SCC has teamed up with SASP to deliver the Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset (HHHS) initiative

across the county. Parents will need to get a code from their school to book the activities. Details can be found at www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays.

Support for Ukrainian refugees

Somerset County Council has committed £250,000 to support refugees fleeing war-torn Ukraine as part of a county-wide response to the humanitarian crisis.

They have announced that £200,000 would be made available to ensure any refugees in Somerset receive all the help they need. This may include access to public services, education and health support, housing, travel, food and interpretation services. Sponsoring households may also require support. A further £50,000 was pledged for a new Somerset Ukrainian support fund which is expected to be established in the coming days.

There are a number of ways you can help support Ukrainian refugees.

The Government has announced a new sponsorship scheme called Homes for Ukraine. You can find out how you can offer a home to a Ukrainian family and register your interest on the Homes for Ukraine website.

You can find FAQs about the Homes for scheme on the Gov.uk website. If you're not able to sponsor a family but are looking for other ways to support Ukrainian refugees, you can find out about what to consider when donating and where to donate on the Gov.uk website.

Local charities include:

Charis Refugees

Refugee Aid from Taunton (RAFT)

Taunton Welcomes Refugees (TWR)

Langport Area Refugee Action (LARA)

Refugee Action in Somerset East (RAISE)

This is a fast moving situation, but you can stay up to date with the latest developments in Somerset at www.somerset.gov.uk/refugee-resettlement.

Local councillors had a very successful visit to the Orchard Grove Development Site to see the area where the new Orchard Grove Primary will be built. Staff involved in the project from SCC, SWT and Brookbanks (the developers) attended and were very helpful in answering councillors' questions. It was quite a mud bath on site and sad to see the loss of the green spaces. However, the new carbon neutral school is an exciting project.

I continue to attend meetings at SCC where the future framework for the county is being discussed and planned. We await further clarity on how the Local Community Networks (LCN's) will be operating and which other parish councils will join Trull in its LCN. We know that planning will not be part of the LCN's work, but that there will be opportunities for parish councils to take on further roles in the management of local services.

The issues with the closure of the Honiton Road at Staplehay seem to have eased a little. Caution must be used however for anyone walking or cycling on the surrounding lanes.

Please continue to seek my support with any local issues.

02/06 SWT Report.

Clr S Wakefield provided the following report;

A reminder, as reported to you last month, that there will be a new opportunity for financial support with installing Electric Vehicle Charging points launching in March with Parish Councils able to apply for £1,500. It is likely that any installation will need to be completed by March 2023. I would urge the PC to have another go at installing some in the parish.

Community Governance Review: As you may be aware, a special meeting of the SWT Council held on 3rd March considered the proposed new boundaries for Taunton Town Council (a report from a working group of councillors) which are somewhat larger than the currently unparished area of Taunton. The Council agreed to take matters forward to the second consultation stage which I reiterate will be open and genuine and will consider the views of residents and parish councils too. Trull PC will have to decide whether it wants to remain with its present boundaries except for the Orchard Grove Development or whether it wants the boundary to be set elsewhere.

Government has now passed the Structural Change Order (SCO) that creates the legal basis for a new unitary council in Somerset. It is now the law that a new single new unitary council – Somerset Council – will be responsible for providing both county and district council services from 1 April 2023, and that town and parish council elections together with the unitary elections will all take place on 5 May this year. Nomination papers for candidates for all councils will need to be submitted in person by 5 April.

Those eligible to receive the £150 energy council tax rebate ((bands A-D) are reminded that the quickest way to receive this is to set up a direct debit for council tax payments. To set one up call 0300 304 8000.

SWT RANKED TOP IN CLIMATE EMERGENCY: Somerset West and Taunton has been ranked as the top UK performing council in analysis by the campaign group Climate Emergency UK. The council scored above 90% in the Council Climate

Plan Scorecards, and was identified as one of the few councils to plan for improvement of biodiversity as part of its declaration of an ecological emergency. Dixie Darch is the Executive Member for Climate Change and said: "We are beyond proud to be the top-ranking district council in the UK. We are committed to creating a more sustainable future for everyone, putting climate and environmental responsibility at the heart of everything we do. This involves direct action and policy, partnership working, enabling organisations and communities, leading by example and supporting individuals. The challenge has never been greater for local councils, it is essential we rise to that challenge."

SWT TO PLANT 190 TREES FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE: Somerset West and Taunton Council is planting 190 trees as part of a nationwide project to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. Known as the "Queens Green Canopy", the project encourages individuals and organisations to plant trees across the UK as a tribute to the Monarch's 70 years on the throne and to mitigate climate change. To support the project, SWT has allocated land in its parks and open spaces for tree planting in Hawthorn Park, Taunton and at Culvercliffe, Minehead. The planting and subsequent maintenance work of Taunton and Minehead is being undertaken by SWT's Open Spaces Team. Both schemes serve to provide wildlife rich habitats, as well a glorious palette of colours that change throughout the year.

REGISTER IN TIME FOR ELECTIONS THIS MAY: Voters in Somerset West and Taunton are being reminded to make sure they are registered to vote and able to take part in local elections for the new unitary council for Somerset, and town and parish councils, on Thursday 5th May. Research shows that young people, students and recent home movers are particularly less likely to be registered to vote. So, if you have moved house recently, then make sure you're registered correctly. These crucial elections are for the councillors at county level who will oversee the transition to a new unitary council. The town and parish councillors elected have a vital role too, ushering in a new era of community empowerment. They will be pioneers, drawing on an array of new opportunities, driving real change locally. If you're not registered, you won't be able to have your say on issues that directly affect your day-to-day life in Somerset. It's quick and easy to register to vote, but after the deadline of 14th April, it will be too late. To register to vote, visit register-to-vote before midnight on Thursday, 14th April or contact elections@somersetwestandtaunton.go.uk

03/07 Community Governance Review (R) To consider next stages of the consultation and action required.

Cllr Dean had emailed the chair requesting that the item be deferred until May and to consider the following:

1. Writing to complain to SWAT that the PC's consultation comments were not properly described and discussed under the heading for the Parish. It looked like the PC had made no response at all.
2. Agreeing to a schedule of consultation with the Parish before and during the official consultation period of June and July.
3. Taking planning advice on the implications of the removal of the Urban Extension from our Parish in terms of CIL payments and how that will impact on our infrastructure costs.
4. Taking advice on how the Neighbourhood Plan will be affected by the Parish being divided up.

It was resolved to approve that Ms Dean to write a complaint on the behalf of the PC regarding the poor representation and to defer the matter until the May meeting.

02/08 Elections. Dates and process.

Nomination forms to be submitted by hand by 4pm Tuesday 5th April to the Returning Officer at Deane House. Statement of persons nominated will be at 4pm 6th April. Nomination forms available on the PC website, SWT and Clerk. Pre-election period is from 21st March to 5th May. Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity – circulated.

To note that the outgoing chair is expected to attend the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May. If resigned, he no longer has a vote, but does get a casting vote if there is more than one candidate. If Chair doesn't wish to attend, this can this be done by the vice chair.

03/09 Planning

42/22/0008 Application for approval of reserved matters, following outline application 42/19/0045, for the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of 1 No. dwelling on land to the north west of Applecombe Cottage, Wild Oak Lane, Trull (resubmission of 42/21/0047). To object 4 in support and 1 abstention. To object on the following grounds; 1. It is against the core strategy DM1 (d) which states; the appearance and character of any affected landscape, settlement, building or street scene would not be unacceptably harmed by the development; 2. Overlooking and loss of privacy for Applecombe Cottage. 3. There is no design and access statement as required.

42/22/0014 Erection of a single storey extension to form annexe to the side of Steart Barton, Stolford Lane, West Buckland. To support

42/22/0009/10T Application to fell one Lawson Cypress tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Pitminster No.2) Tree Preservation Order 1984 at 4 Southwell, Trull (TD315). No comment

42/22/0011/12/LB. Erection of garden structure in the rear garden of Trull Green Farm, Dipford Road, Trull. To support
42/22/0015 Erection of 1 No. dwelling (to replace the approved Class Q prior approval 42/21/0041CQ) with associated works and alteration to access route at Chilliswood Farm, Chilliswood Lane, Trull. Permission granted under permitted development. Falls outside of the settlement limits. Highways state no permitted access. Needs full application. To object on the following grounds; 1. Falls outside of settlement limits, so against Core Strategy Policy DM2. 2. Loss of agricultural land

42/22/00016 Variation of Condition No. 02 (approved plans) of application 42/21/0050 for changes to the plans and elevations at 1 Lipe Hill Cottages, West Buckland. To support

42/22/0017 Erection of a first floor with various alterations at Hillbrook Lodge, Dipford Road, Trull (resubmission of 42/21/0012) To support on the following grounds; it will enhance and update the property by creating a lifetime home that fulfils the needs of both current and future occupants, whilst at the same time, future proofing and improving the sustainability of the property. The application allows the applicant to remain in their home by default within their community. Please note that due to there being no planning site notice, residents may not be aware that further requirements are required.

42/22/0018 Erection of a single storey extension to the side, a two-storey extension to the rear, conversion of loft and erection of dormer to the rear and replacement of garage with the erection of a double garage with associated works at Kelmscott, Wild Oak Lane, Trull To support. 4 in favour. Mr S keen to object.

Report on applications considered under delegated powers

42/22/0006/7LB Erection of external canopy with associated porch, installation of 1 No. window and 2 No. doors with internal alterations and removal of small store at The Lawn, Dipford Road, Trull – To support

Report on decisions by SWT

42/21/0082 Removal of Condition No. 07 of application 42/89/0048 (agricultural tie) at Hunters Oak, Sweethay Lane, Trull - Refusal

03/10 Speed Indicator Device (R) To consider recommendations of the Speed Management Working Group. To approve a letter being written to SCC. To approve the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device.

Mr S Keen had circulated a report ahead of the meeting: 20mph limits have been a subject that the PC has discussed many times over the years. The last time a 20mph zone was looked at was when the PC submitted a bid to the Climate Emergency Fund which at the time the PC supported and was ultimately unsuccessful in March 2021. Since then and in response to concerns raised by local residents regarding the speed of traffic traveling along Amberd Lane and Honiton Road the PC paid to implement a speed measurement site in both Amberd Lane and Honiton Road. The data showed that in both locations there is a significant number of speeding vehicles. This note looks to outline what a 20mph zone is and the next steps.

What is a 20mph zone?

20mph zones use traffic calming measures to reduce the adverse impact of motor vehicles on built up areas. The principle is that the traffic calming slows vehicles down to speeds below the limit, and in this way the zone becomes 'self-enforcing'. Speed humps, chicanes, road narrowing, planting and other measures can be introduced to both physically and visually reinforce the nature of the road.

There are examples in Somerset such as Creech St Michael. Somerset are committed to implement outside a run of schools around the county.

20 mph Zones positives

There is a large body of evidence from a wide range of sources that outline the positive impact of 20mph zone which has seen many cities such as Bristol and Brighton implement area-wide 20mph limits.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) strongly supports the use of 20mph zones as they are an effective means of reducing road crashes and casualties. They are very effective at protecting our most vulnerable road users, including children, pedestrians and cyclists, and significantly decrease the risk of being injured in a collision. RoSPA encourages their greater use, especially in residential areas.

An online petition had been submitted earlier in the meeting by residents requesting that the PC approach Somerset County Council to undertake a feasibility study. If they are unwilling to undertake this then the working group would like to get quotes from a professional to undertake a study to allow a case to be made and scheme implementation costs to be generated.

It was **resolved** to submit a request to SCC for a feasibility study as the first stage to obtaining 20mph zones and to obtain quotes for the PC's consideration if SCC were not in support. This request would be put together by Mr S Keen and Ms D Johnson and submitted by the Clerk on the PC behalf.

03/11 Trull Comeytrowe Development (R) To consider the report from the Working Group and the letter to the LLFA.

The letter had been circulated ahead of the meeting prepared by Mr A Kent. It was **resolved** to submit this letter on the behalf of the PC.

03/12 Social media - To consider the creation and maintenance of a Trull Parish Council Facebook profile (R) and to approve the Terms of Reference.

Members had put together some suggestions for the PC Facebook page:

- The Facebook page will be used as a digital notice board. Its purpose will be to extend information and news into the Parish; to improve community engagement; and to raise awareness of what the Council does.
- There will be two admins for security and access (ideally Sammie and one other), and only the admins will be able to post.
- Comments will be disabled.
- Parishioners will be able to engage by messaging the page and if they have something important to add to a post the admin will share their comments.
- We suggest at least one post per week, ideally two.
- Have a FB page item at each PC meeting and choose some posts for the month. Get them into a shared online list that people can regularly add to, then the admin person won't feel under pressure to keep trying to create content.
- Set the page up as a 'government organisation' (one of the options).
- Ideas of subject 'buckets' for posts:
News: roadworks, grants, new developments, working group set up and action, new playground stuff etc etc.
Achievements: Planting bulbs, fundraising.
Requests for help: gardening, help with the Memorial Hall, Speed Watch etc.
Politics: The election (how to get involved), who's elected. Etc. CIL info (how will it be spent? How can people get involved to discuss how it's spent.) Facts and stats about how budget is spent – e.g. grass cutting etc.
Council promotion: Meet your councillors – video blog interview or written piece on the website linked to a post on FB – Meet Councillor..... - Get councillors talking about what they do and what they'd like to achieve.
Facts and Stats: Did you know? Info about the parish and the village.
Promotion of local business – Linked to one page list on the website and open to any business in the Trull Parish area to list their name, address, web link (optional)

It was **resolved** that the Clerk work with members to get the PC Facebook page set up and to include on the next few agendas regarding content.

03/13 TPO Working Group report (R) To consider recommendations
To defer to next meeting.

03/14 Creating a B-Line across the Parish (R)

Mrs A Hudson had been contacted by Queens to consider planting (see email from Queens forwarded by Ann).

It was **resolved** that the Clerk would make contact with Queens and inform them that the PC is in support of the initiative and to clarify exactly what the PC can do.

03/15 Tree Maintenance Working Group

Mr B Pretty explained to members that he had concerns regarding the maintenance of the trees within the village in the coming years and proposed that a working group to be created in order maintain the trees within the village. There are four members of the public who are interested in helping; Charles Maddran, Linda Brierley, Alison Saltrese and Jane Sherwood.

It was **resolved** that Mrs A Hudson would oversee the Working Group and that the Clerk would put together a Terms of Reference for adoption at the April meeting.

03/16 Confidential session. To discuss and approve the Clerk Annual Salary Award back pay and new rate for CILCA qualification (SCP 19).

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was **resolved** to exclude the public and press for this confidential session. The Clerk also left the room.

It was **resolved** to approve the Clerk Annual Salary Award back pay 20/21 and new Spinal Column Point 19 rate due to completion of the CILCA qualification.

03/17 Finance (R)

a. **Approval of Payments & Receipts.**

Payments

To whom	Account	Description	Net	VAT	Total
S Millard-Jones	TPC	Salary, Homeworking & mileage, PAYE, NI & pension	£1,198.64	£4.74	£1,203.38
Somerset Forge	TPC	Fingerposts	£1,265.00	£253.00	£1,518.00
Water2Business	TPC	Allotments	£29.02	£	£29.02
The Old Well	TPC	Planters for the KGV	£891.59	£178.32	£1,069.91
B Pretty	TPC	Plaque	£91.00	£	£91.00
		Sleepers	£114.84	£22.97	£137.81
		Sign	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
		Mileage	£40.50	£8.10	£48.60
			£271.34	£36.07	£307.41
Red Cross	TPC	Donation Ukraine	£200.00		£200.00
EDF	PFMC	12 Feb_16 Feb	£34.91		
S Millard-Jones	PFMC	Cleaning products	£23.77		
Water2Business	PFMC	Water	£80.87		
M Kavanagh	PFMC	Cleaning Feb/March	£168.75		
Memorial Hall	PFMC	Hall hire	£13.50		

Receipts

Bank Interest - February	TPC	£0.27
Allotments	TPC	£42.00
HMRC	TPC	£1,704.75
		£1,742.02
Hires - February	PFMC	£812.50
	PFMC	£812.50

It was **resolved** to pay the above by cheque/internet banking

b. Approval of the bank reconciliation

As of the 28th February;

Treasurers Account: £70,041.81

Main Account: £34,020.96

Covid Account: £188.52

TOTAL: £104,251.29

It was **resolved** to approve the bank reconciliation.

c. To consider the request from the PFMC for planters.

Permission has been given by SCC to place a chicane on the footpath at the end of the pavilion building. The PFMC asked that the PC cover the cost of the sleepers and the planters.

It was **resolved** to approve the cost of £1,069.91 + £91.00(delivery).

d. To approve the SWT quote for bin emptying at £6.66 per empty.

It was **resolved** to approve the expense at £2,077.92 versus the allocated budget of £2,000.

e. To approve the transfer of CIL money to the Unity bank account

It was **resolved** to approve the transfer of £52,794.34 from the Lloyds account to the Unity account in order to keep the CIL money separate from PC funds.

f. To consider a donation for Ukraine work for refugees.

It was **resolved** to round up the ringfenced Covid money to £200 and to make a donation to the Red Cross.

03/18 Audit actions(R)

a. To appoint the Internal Auditor

It was **resolved** to appoint Jill Larcombe as the internal auditor.

b. To approve the General Reserves Policy (R)

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the General Reserves Policy.

c. To adopt the Data Protection Policy (R)

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the Data Protection Policy.

d. To adopt the Grants Awarding Policy (R)To approve the amended Financial Regulations (R)

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the amended Financial Regulations.

The Clerk to ensure all policies are made available on the website.

03/19 Correspondence

None

03/20 Items for the next meeting/agenda.

- The mower – allotments

03/21 Date for the next Meeting – Annual Parish Meeting April 25th 6.30pm followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.15pm

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

Appendix 1

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen of the Parish Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this evening.

Ann Bradford and I, as residents of Amberd Lane are pleased to present a petition for a speed reduction and for a 20mph zone on Amberd Lane and Spearcey Lane.

We have personally canvassed 110 residents, and collected comments from 104 concerned residents of Amberd Lane, Spearcey Lane and the adjacent feeder Lanes in the form of a petition requesting action for the speed limit to be reduced to 20 mph to slow traffic down. These comments are unrelated to the temporary closure of the Honiton Road. Only 6 residents did not sign the petition.

Residents feel the present 30mph speed limit is too fast and unsafe for people walking down our lanes where there are no footpaths and with vehicles driving too fast and too close.

All Pedestrians including children who walk or cycle to school and people with reduced mobility, visual and hearing impairment are at risk from traffic hazards.

Lower speeds mean fewer serious accidents and a beneficial impact on air quality and climate change.

The use of the lanes by increased numbers of speeding large lorries and commercial vehicles has added to the danger to residents and pedestrians.

This is further compounded by the very many concealed driveways and junctions onto Amberd Lane with

poor visibility splays. This causes a danger to residents leaving their properties or turning at the junctions, as fast oncoming traffic cannot be easily seen.

Pedestrians should be able to use these lanes for leisure and enjoyment to stroll down to the adjoining meadow footpaths safely without fear of being hit by car, van, lorry or tractor.

In summary

Pedestrians are at risk.

They feel unsafe.

There is a high and increasing risk of serious accidents.

Many local villages such Creech St Michael, Bishops Lydeard, North Curry (to name a few) have already introduced 20mph zones with great success.

Further afield Bristol and Bath have extensive 20mph zones. By 2023 Wales will have introduced 20mph through all residential areas and Scotland by 2025.

The direction of travel is very clear : speed kills and needs to be reduced wherever possible.

Residents have voiced concerns locally over the past 10 years both in writing and representation to the Trull Parish Council and the County Council regarding the dangers of speeding vehicles on our narrow lanes and have consistently asked for speed reduction measures.

We present this petition and request that the Parish Council note the very serious concerns of residents.

Please support and endorse this to reduce the speed limit on both Amberd Lane and Spearcey Lane to 20mph and forward it to Somerset County Council.

We urge you to take all necessary steps to achieve safer lanes for all usersbe they residents, pedestrians, children, cyclists and transiting motorists.

Please would you be kind enough to append my representation to the Council Meeting Minutes.

Thank you

Elizabeth Langham