

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in The Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull,
on Monday 20th February, 2017.

Present: Mr M Hughes, Mrs A Hudson, Mr N Hancock, Mrs J Wooldridge,
Mrs D Johnson, Mr A Kent, Mrs L Brierley, together with 8
members of the public.

In attendance: Mrs B Howat - Clerk
Cllr A Wedderkopp – SCC
Mrs Sarah Watson – The Castle School
Rev Adrian Youngs

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting the Chairman invited comments from members of the public relating to items on the agenda, or on issues to be discussed at a later date.

The issue of bright street lighting was raised and whether the Parish Council would consider options for light reduction. The item would be put on the agenda for March.

The problem of cars speeding through Staplehay and Trull was raised by a resident who would be put in touch with PCSO Simon Parry.

It was noted that landscaping on the “village field” in Amberd Lane did not appear to reflect the approved plans. The issue would be put on the agenda for March.

36/17 **Apologies for Absence**

Mrs J Martin-Scott, Ms T Dean, Mr B Pretty.

37/17 **Request for Extended Absence**

Mrs Martin-Scott had informed the Clerk and Chairman that she was unsure when she would next be able to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

Resolved: Mrs Martin-Scott was given a dispensation for extended leave.

38/17 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr M Hughes – item 8a 42/17/0002

39/17 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January 2017**

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

40/17 **Matters Arising**

None.

41/17 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman thanked Councillors and the clerk for their help and patience whilst he had been busy with work commitments and a house move.

42/17 **Police Report**

PCSO Parry had sent his apologies The clerk read his report.

Since 16th January there had been four calls received – 1 theft , 1 missing person, 1 dog bite, 1 found property. One crime was recorded – attempted theft from an unlocked vehicle. The Speed Watch group had not been out during this period. A Beat Surgery would be held at Trull Church Community Centre between 2.30 and 3pm on 7th April.

- 43/17 **Somerset County Councillor Report**
 Cllr Wedderkopp had sought clarification from TDBC on the flood risk assessments for the urban extension in the parish, in particular the difference between the Flood Studies Report and the Flood Risk Assessment. He had received a response via email which he would forward to councillors.
- 44/17 **Request for 20mph limit**
 A Somerset Highways Authority engineer made a site visit following renewed calls for reduced traffic speeds in Wild Oak Lane and Church Road. The engineer agreed that a 20mph limit was needed to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians and that there should be flashing “wig wags” on the existing triangular school sign posts. Since the last request was considered in 2014 the rules over 20mph limit “features” have been relaxed. The feasibility report would determine how far the 20mph limit would extend. This could be implemented through the Small Improvements Scheme which County Councillor Alan Wedderkopp could apply for with all costs covered by SCC. The next round of applications is this summer.
Resolved: To submit an application to Cllr Wedderkopp for a 20mph zone in Trull village centre under the Small Improvements Scheme.
- 45/17 Cllr Wedderkopp gave his apologies and left the meeting.
- 46/17 **Castle Partnership Trust**
 Mrs Sarah Watson, head teacher of The Castle School explained the procedure under which The Castle Partnership Trust had made a bid to open and run a new primary school if the planned urban extension of up to 2000 homes on land in the parish goes ahead.
 Mrs Watson gave details of the Trust’s application to sponsor the new primary school and provided councillors with a copy of the bid which is currently being considered by the Government Department for Education.
 If The Castle Partnership Trust is unsuccessful the school sponsorship would go out to tender.
 Councillors already recognised the need for a new primary school on the development given the lack of capacity to take more children at Trull or any of the other schools in the area, and the developers have made a commitment for construction of the school when 150 houses are built.
 Councillors voted in favour of supporting the Castle Partnership Trust with one abstention from Mrs Johnson.
Resolved: To write a letter of support for The Castle Partnership Trusts’ bid to sponsor a new primary school if the development goes ahead.
- 47/17 **42/17/0002**
 Conversion of outbuilding to an annex at Lower Sweethay Farm, Sweethay Lane, Trull.
 Mr Hughes gave a brief explanation of the works and the reason for the application before leaving the room.
 Mrs Hudson said the proposal was straightforward and there had been no objections.
Resolved: Support.
- 48/17 Mr Hughes returned to the room.
- 49/17 **42/17/0003/T**
 Application to fell one beech tree included in TPO at The Beeches, Honiton Road, Staplehay.
 Mrs Hudson said the application was supported with professional advice. Five councillors voted to support the application with abstentions from Mrs Brierley and Mrs Johnson.
Resolved: Support.

50/17 **Delegated Planning**

None.

51/17 **Decisions by TDBC**

The Clerk reported on the following decisions made by TDBC:-

42/16/0041

Erection of a single storey rear extension at 18 Amingford Mead, Trull.
Conditional approval.

42/16/0039

Erection of a conservatory to the rear elevation of 27 Killams Green, Taunton (retention of works already undertaken).
Conditional approval.

52/17 **Report on infrastructure meeting with Rebecca Pow MP.**

Mrs Wooldridge had attended a meeting organised by the MP to gain an understanding of the concerns around planned urban extensions in Taunton including the 2,000 home development at Trull. The purpose of the discussion was to determine how Mrs Pow might represent the general views to decision makers at the heart of Government. Mrs Wooldridge expressed previously stated concerns over the impact of the development on Trull, and problems caused by the lack of infrastructure. She also provided copies of Council correspondence that had previously been circulated and in some cases sent to Mrs Pow.

The Clerk had since received a letter thanking Parish Council representatives who attended the meeting. Mrs Pow would send a summary of her views to both Central Government and local Councils.

53/17 **Consultation response on proposals for a new council.**

Mr Kent had attended a briefing by TDBC leader Cllr John Williams and deputy leader Cllr Mark Edwards on the consultation for the proposed new council covering the Taunton Deane and West Somerset areas.

His report and the consultation had been circulated to councillors who were asked to respond to nine questions:

1. Do you support the proposal for creating one new council as part of a financial; savings package in order to protect services? *No.*

2. Do you think the new single district council will be able to provide effective a convenient services to you? *No.*

3. Do you have a suggestion for the name of the new council? *No.*

4. The councils considered a number of options for closer working and cost savings. Do you have any comments to make to the Secretary of State on these or other alternatives? *We believe the majority of proposed savings are being realised without the creation of a new council which would only save £0.5 million.*

5. Is it important to you for there to be a civic mayor for the combined area covered by the proposed new council? *Not applicable given the above answers.*

6. Would having a Town Council for the unparished area of Taunton be important to you? *Not applicable.*

7. What would a new single council mean for you in terms of your community and your locality? *We have worries about the potential size of new wards, and election of a new councillor.*

8. Do you think the proposal might lead to any significant impacts on you? If so, what might they be and how could those impacts be reduced? *We have concerns over the proposed urban extension at Trull and how policies on planning, flooding, and infrastructure will be affected.*

9. Do you have any other comments to make on the proposal for a new single council? *No.*

Resolved: To submit the consultation responses as agreed.

- 54/17 **Information signs on KGV Field**
 Mr Pretty had reported that dogs were still being allowed off their leads on the KGV Field because there was no information sign at the entrance beside the Memorial Hall. He would erect a new wooden sign beside the entrance if the Council was happy to provide the materials. Councillors thought there was a sign at the bottom of the field that could be relocated.
Resolved: To ask Mr Pretty to evaluate the need for a new sign or consider relocation of the existing sign.
- 55/17 **Grass cutting costs**
 Parsons Landscapes Ltd had submitted their quotation for grass cutting on the KGV Field in 2017 and 2018.
 The cost of cutting the grass would rise from £133.90 per visit in 2016 to £135.91 per visit in 2017 and £137.95 per visit in 2018.
 Previous attempts to find a cheaper contractor or another contractor willing to take on the work had been unsuccessful.
Resolved: To accept the grass maintenance quotation from Parsons Landscapes Ltd.
- 56/17 **Permission for use of the KGV Field**
 Fundraisers from Trull Primary School had requested permission for a parachute display team to land on the KGV Field during the 2017 Summer Fair. The Fair itself is held within the school grounds but the display by Skydive Buzz from Dunkeswell Airfield would involve dropping around 10 parachutists onto the field. The company had supplied a copy of its full insurance policy and an outline plan of the event.
Resolved: To allow the Skydive Buzz parachute display team to land on the KGV Field.
- 57/17 **Citizenship award nominations**
 Nominations for the 2017 Taunton Deane Citizenship Awards had been invited by the Mayor of Taunton Deane Cllr Vivienne Stock-Williams. Trull Parish Council nominated Mr Jonathan White in 2016 for his work as the Parish Paths Liaison Officer over the years. Members felt there was merit in nominating him again.
Resolved: To nominate former PPLO Jonathan White.
- 58/17 **Neighbourhood Plan**
 The Group was still waiting for a response to its request for intervention from the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government. The group was now considering whether to go ahead with the referendum procedure pending a reply. As the qualifying body the Parish Council would need to agree to any request from the NP Group and correspond with TDBC.
- 59/17 **PFMC**
 A meeting would be arranged for discussion of proposals submitted by the consultants Swan Paul Partnership Ltd.
- 60/17 **Footpaths**
 The gate halfway along Pokes Lane which was repositioned during construction of the access to the Amingford Mead development has a broken spring and is in need of repairs.
- 61/17 **Highways**
 A traffic engineer from Somerset Highways Authority made a site visit to discuss a number of ongoing issues. The following answers were provided:
 1) Request for double yellow lines at Church Road/Orchard Close.
 SHA will make a traffic regulation order for double yellow lines on both sides of the entrance to Orchard Close at its junction with Church Road. This will be included in the next round of TRO's in the summer with the lines painted in the autumn. They will monitor the situation opposite on Church Road.

2) Yellow-lining at Staplehay Cross. There had been no complaints to highways about cars parked at the junction and as the area is too remote from other double yellow lines it is unlikely to qualify for an order. The Small Improvements Scheme already proposed for Staplehay may make a difference.

3) Flooding signs in Dipford Road. The Avon and Somerset Police are no longer promoting this type of scheme and SHA only allow trained highways people to put signs out. As the Council is not seeking an authority to close a flooded road and only wants to put warning signs out there may be a possibility that Mr Kent could receive the appropriate training.

4) The replacement finger post for Staplehay cross has been ordered and should be in place by the end of the summer.

62/17 **Allotments**

There was nothing to report on this item.

63/17 **Open Spaces**

There was nothing to report on this item.

64/17 **Outdoor Working Group**

There was nothing to report on this item.

65/17 **Book Exchange**

There was nothing to report on this item.

66/17 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

There was nothing to report on this item.

67/17 **Alms-houses**

There was nothing to report on this item.

68/17 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

69/17 **SALC**

There was nothing to report on this item.

70/17 **Flooding**

Mr Kent had walked the Mill Stream and enjoyed a discussion with the owner of the Mill House. He had also been called to the area of Bell Cottage and would be returning to address flooding concerns.

71/17 **Community Planning Working Group**

Mrs Wooldridge had joined the Community Planning Working Group run by TDBC to address rural deprivation, planning and development; and help steer policy on development and strategic partnership projects to tackle deprivation. The group is also providing advice and support to partnership projects seeking to improve access to rural services. It aims to find out more about current broadband speeds and coverage in the parish. An appeal would be put in the newsletter for anyone who is able to help collate the information to contact Mrs Wooldridge.

72/17 **Correspondence**

The Clerk introduced items of correspondence which may be of interest to councillors:-

Citizens Advice Taunton - Thank you for Trull Parish Council's donation of £100.

Inside Government - Invitation to 'Reducing the Risk and Impact of Flooding', an interactive strategy discussion on 27th April 2017 in Central London. (£385)

73/17 **Accounts for Payment and Receipts**

The following accounts were approved:-

Payments:

Trull Village Memorial Hall (PC 16/1/17).....	£18
All Saints Church Trull – Printing of newsletter.....	£20
Mrs R Howat Newsletter delivery charge, stamps, ink, stationery.....	£86.64
Information Commissioner Data Protection registration.....	£35
Mrs R Howat Backdated pay rise and holiday pay	£2,000.45
HMRC Tax and NI contributions.....	£1,435.29
Acorn Solicitors Legal services for land at Wild Oak Lane (re-issued cheque).....	£292
Pavilion account Balance of funds from TPC account.....	£564.51

Salary

Mrs R Howat 1/2/17.....	£620.82
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Receipts:

Allotment rent.....	£18
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Paid from Pavilion Account

Xtreme Clean Cleaning January	£72.60
Coomber Security Systems Ltd Fire alarm maintenance	£134.83
Dawn Johnson Curtains	£374.40
Dawn Johnson Curtain poles	£60.93

Paid into Pavilion Account

Balance of funds from TPC	£564.51
Pavilion rents.....	£192.52

74/17 **Matters to Report from Parish Council for inclusion on the next Agenda**
None

75/17 **Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting will be on Monday 20th March 2017, at 7.15pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.34pm.

Signed..... Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....