

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Trull Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull, on Monday 16th July, 2018.

Present: Mrs J Wooldridge, Ms T Dean, Mr B Pretty, Mrs A Hudson, Mrs L Brierley, Mr L Forgham, Mrs A Clark and Mr D Langham together with four members of the public.

In attendance: Mrs R Howat - Clerk
Cllr A Wedderkopp

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.

223/18 **Apologies for Absence**
Mr A Kent, Mr N Hancock.

224/18 **Declarations of Interest**
Mr D Langham – item 15, relating to the employment of spouse.

225/18 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th June 2018**
Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

226/18 **Matters Arising**
The Clerk had received a response from the Head Teacher of Trull Primary School supporting the request for a 20mph speed limit. The School would continue to liaise with Somerset County Council's highways department.
The Comeytrowe Consortium was organising a joint update for Trull, Comeytrowe and Bishops Hull Parish Councils at a mutually convenient time and location.

227/18 **Chairman's Report**
The Vice-Chairman, Mrs Wooldridge, said the fire brigade had extinguished a small fire on the verge of the High Path, possibly caused by a discarded cigarette in the dry weather. The bank outside Trull Church Community Centre had since been cut back on request. Mrs Wooldridge reminded everyone that roadside verges are still the responsibility of SCC who could be informed of excessive or hazardous growth via their website. TrullFest was due to take place on the KGV playing Field on Saturday (21st June).

228/18 **Somerset County Councillor Report**
The County Council budget for Small Improvement Schemes had been reduced from £1.5m a year to £1.5 over three years which will make it difficult to get money for a 20mph limit in Trull. Cllr Wedderkopp suggested a lollipop lady or walking bus as alternative options or waiting for CIL money from the Comeytrowe/Trull development to fund traffic calming.

229/18 **42/18/0011**
Change of use of agricultural building to equestrian at Grassy Rivets, Lipe Hill Lane.
Resolved: Support.

230/18 **42/18/0015**
Two storey extension to the side at The Barn, Lower Sweethay Farm.
Resolved: Support

231/18 **42/18/0022/T**

Application to fell one Ash tree in TPO at The Paddock, Trull Road.

Resolved: Object on the grounds that there was no written arboricultural advice or other diagnostic information on the condition of the tree and no mention of a replacement tree offered in the application form.

232/18 **Delegated Planning**

There were no delegated decisions.

233/18 **Decisions by TDBC**

There were no decisions notified.

234/18 **Update on the 20-year Transport Plan and A358.**

Mr Kent had attended a presentation on the proposed Transport Plan where he hoped that concerns about traffic density due to the planned development at Comeytrove/Trull would be addressed. Unfortunately the officers had nothing new to offer, but mentioned some detailed traffic monitoring that had taken place including at Compass Hill. SCC subsequently sent the data which was collected in 2014 and showed an average of 30 cars per day. They believe that Park and Ride buses are the solution to the expected increase in traffic with short stretches of the A38 as a bus only lane. There had been further correspondence since the meeting between Alan Paul of the Comeytrove Residents Action Group and Somerset County Council over a further meeting to discuss specific concerns including the need for a southern link road, and better visibility of the traffic data.

The Highways Agency is reviewing the comments received since the last consultation on dualling of the A358 and is expected to announce the preferred route towards the autumn. Mr Kent heard at the recent transport strategy meeting that the expectation is they will select the route involving a new roundabout and access at Killams, because this is less expensive and opens up the long term opportunity for further development the other side of the M5. If correct, this makes the development of a southern ring road solution that will keep traffic away from Trull even more important.

235/18 **Ward Boundary Consultation**

Mr Kent had attended a briefing about the proposed ward changes by the Boundary Commission. A report with draft recommendations contained the original response from Trull Parish Council to Taunton Deane and West Somerset Council's own consultation which was to approve the proposed changes in principal. Mr Pretty said that Pitminster Parish Council did not agree with the proposed warding and felt it was a retrograde step. However councillors felt it was a logical suggestion.

Resolved: To reply with the same response that it was a local suggestion to which Trull Parish Council agrees in principal.

236/18 **Management of the Village Field.**

The transfer and land registry for the Village Field is now complete and Trull Parish Council can begin to manage the field as landowner.

Suggestions had been received from some local residents for a policy to include details about the boundaries of the land, the maintenance liabilities and the roles and responsibilities of other parties with an interest in the land.

It was also suggested that the Village Field is used to foster wildlife and wild flowers consistent with the Section 106 requirement that the land is used for recreation, open space and a nature reserve.

Councillors were keen to ensure the land is managed for the enjoyment of all parishioners including dog walkers. The Clerk suggested that a working group could be established to consider the day to day use and management of the field with interested members of the public or people with relevant expertise to be co-opted as appropriate. It may also be possible to encourage local people to help with general maintenance on a voluntary basis to keep costs down.

Mrs Wooldridge noted that as soon as the Council is in a position to do so it will make sure that benches are provided in the Village Field as requested by Mr Archer who is willing to donate a bench. Mrs Wooldridge is also willing to donate a bench.

There had been several enquiries about the current condition of the field and it was suggested that the grass should be double cut as soon as possible with care taken around the newly planted trees.

It was also suggested that the five bar gate giving vehicular access to the field is secured to prevent unauthorised access. Two padlock and chains sets could be purchased with a key provided to Wessex Water to gain access to the drains and the Amingford Mead Management Company for access to maintain the attenuation pond.

Resolved:

1) A policy defining the boundaries, liabilities, responsibilities and use of the Village Field will be drawn up by the Clerk for consideration and adoption at the September meeting.

2) A working group will be established consisting of Mr Forgham, Mr Langham, Mrs Brierley, Mrs Clark and other interested parties. The Clerk will draw up a Terms of Reference for consideration and adoption at the September meeting.

3) Mr Pretty and Mr Forgham were given delegated authority to engage a contractor to double cut the grass as soon as practicable up to a cost of £200.

4) Mr Forgham was given delegated authority to purchase two heavy duty lock and chain sets for the five bar gate up to a cost of £150.

237/18 **Management of trees at Trull Green**

Mr Pretty had engaged with residents on the future of the poplar trees at Trull Green after the Tree Officer at TDBC had confirmed that one had died and another was dying. The majority of residents were in favour of felling the trees and replacing them. There was also a request to reduce the size of the tree in the corner at the far end of the green.

The Tree Officer had further advised that the dead tree could be felled using a five day notice and an application could be made to remove the other poplar trees if necessary.

Resolved:

1) To get three tree surgeons to give a quote for felling the dead tree and an opinion on the condition of the remaining trees.

2) To apply for a five day notice to fell the dead tree.

238/18 **Hedge Management**

The Parish Council had received two complaints about overgrown vegetation on local paths which were causing a danger to pedestrians who were being forced to walk in the road in some cases. A request had also been received from the Clerk at Bishops Hull PC asking if anyone had details of local contractors who could carry out verge maintenance and cut back overgrown vegetation. The resulting correspondence with other clerks revealed that most parishes were experiencing similar problems with overgrown paths and verges and all had difficulty getting SCC to take any action. Norton Fitzwarren PC recommended a contractor that they use. Bishops Hull PC circulated details of the Strimmer Project which is run by SCC and gives training for volunteers to maintain rights of way.

All Clerks agreed that the first course of action is to encourage members of the public to report problems on footpaths and highways to SCC using the "report it" function on their website. This ensures the correct authority is aware of any problems and can take steps to address them. The Clerk would give details of this links in the newsletter.

Mr Pretty would look into the cost of training as part of the strimmer project.

239/18 **Report from the PFMC**

A number of issues were discussed at the PFMC meeting in July including the recent inspection report that focussed on the need to improve safety surfacing. Since the meeting, the lock on the lower gate into the playing field been replaced and the zip wire repaired. The kick wall is due for installation at the end of July although repairs to the roundabout are still outstanding. The Committee agreed to a budget of up to £800

for six wall lights and a slight increase in the hire costs for the pavilion which had been unchanged for the past four years. Minor vandalism had been occurring and the police are aware but the problems in Trull are relatively minor compared to other similar facilities. There was concern at the current arrangements for cleaning the Pavilion regularly and in particular for users to leave it in a clean and tidy state. The Pavilion Manager would monitor the situation and report back if necessary.

240/18 **Membership of the SPFA**

The annual subscription for membership of the Somerset Playing Fields Association was due for renewal. Councillors were in agreement that membership fee of £15 was good value and worthwhile although it should be paid from the King George V playing field funds.

Resolved: Payment for membership of the SPFA for the year would be made from PFMC funds.

241/18 **Nominations for the SCC Chairman's Award**

Councillors had decided that Mr Pretty deserved to be nominated for his outstanding contribution to the parish in his role as a councillor and through many charitable acts as an individual.

Resolved: To nominate Mr Pretty for the SCC Chairman's Award 2018.

242/18 **Reporting role for Trull Pre School**

Mr Langham had noted that there was no report on Trull Pre School in the parish council meetings despite it playing an active part in the community. He had volunteered to take on the role if the Parish Council were in agreement. The Clerk advised that he could combine this with his reporting role for Trull School.

Resolved: To appoint Mr Langham to the reporting role for Trull Pre School.

243/18 **Neighbourhood Plan**

There was nothing to report on this item.

244/18 **KGV Field**

There was nothing to report on this item.

245/18 **Footpaths**

There was nothing to report on this item.

246/18 **Highways**

SCC highways had finally inspected the finger post opposite Dipford Road which had pointers facing the wrong way, and advised that the arms were seized and there was a possible requirement for additional spacers to adjust the height. However, it could not be repaired as budgetary constraints and a lack of Government funding means that resources are being diverted to the mandatory safety and hazard signs on the principal network. After further correspondence during which SCC recommended removing the post altogether, they were finally able to move the pointers enough to resolve the problem of a potential hazard for pedestrians. Mr Forgham had been to inspect the finger post and considered it to be satisfactory for the time being. SCC have now facilitated a scheme where Parish Councils can, under the guidance of the county council, voluntarily carry out condition surveys on the finger post signs in their area and undertake certain maintenance and refurbishment works using local volunteers who have successfully attended a training workshop. Volunteers will be restricted in the main to preparation and painting works while other more specialised works will be carried out by qualified contractors funded by the Parish Council. It was also noted that local companies could be asked to sponsor the refurbishment of finger posts in some cases.

- 247/18 **Allotments**
The hedge bordering the entrance to the allotment on the left from Wild Oak Lane had been cut back following a request to the owner of the property. He had apologised for not attending to it sooner as he was unable to do it himself and his gardener had been ill. Mr Pretty noted that he would be prepared to help further in future.
- 248/18 **Open Spaces**
There was nothing to report on this item.
- 249/18 **Open Spaces Working Group**
There was nothing to report on this item.
- 250/18 **Flooding**
There was nothing to report on this item.
- 251/17 **Trull Village Memorial Hall**
A Special meeting of the Committee would be held following notice from the Vice-Chairman Paul Leeder that he intended to stand down. The Clerk had received a letter being sent to all hirers reminding them of their duty to ensure the building is left clean and tidy with all rubbish taken away.
- 252/18 **Alms-houses**
Mrs Hudson gave a brief explanation of the Charity and its purpose for the benefit of the new councillors. The properties were being fitted with new external doors.
- 253/18 **Community Planning Working Group**
There was nothing to report on this item.
- 254/18 **Trull School**
There was nothing to report on this item.
- 255/18 **Book Exchange**
There was nothing to report on this item.
- 256/18 **SALC**
The Clerk had enquired about training courses for the new councillors but there was no date set at the moment. The Secretary had indicated that the cost for SALC to come to Trull and provide training for all councillors was only slightly higher than training for three individuals if the Council was interested. Members felt that training was only required for the three new councillors.
- 257/18 **Correspondence**
The Clerk introduced items of correspondence which may be of interest to councillors:-
TDBC – new ‘Customer Hub’ (Reception Area) opening hours.
SRA – End of year report 2017/18.
Somerset Waste Partnership – June briefing.
- 258/18 **Accounts**
- Payments:**
Trull Village Memorial Hall
(PC 18/6/18)).....£18
- All Saints Trull PCC
Newsletter printing.....£20

HMRC NI contributions.....	£30.24
Nest Pension contributions (April/May).....	£20.42
Mrs R Howat Newsletter delivery/stamps/stationery	£23.80
Parsons Landscapes Ltd KGV Grass June.....	£662.16
Parsons Landscapes Ltd Trull Green June	£108
Ron Vining Maintenance Jan/June	£150
Brian Pretty Asset management	£6.95
SALC Chairmans training.....	£30
SALC Planning training.....	£30
Land Registry KGV Field.....	£80
<u>Salary</u> Mrs R Howat (minus NI and Pension contributions).....	£912.65

Receipts:

None

259/18 **Matters to Report from Parish Council for inclusion on the next Agenda**

Mrs Clark gave her apologies in advance of the September meeting.

260/18 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 17th September 2018, at 7.15pm.
A provisional date of Monday 20th August had been set aside for urgent planning applications only.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.05pm.

Signed..... Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....