

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Trull Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull, on Monday 17th September, 2018.

Present: Mr A Kent, Mr N Hancock, Mrs J Wooldridge, Ms T Dean, Mr B Pretty, Mrs A Hudson, Mrs L Brierley, Mr L Forgham, and Mr D Langham together with 12 members of the public.

In attendance: Mrs R Howat - Clerk

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.

261/18 **Apologies for Absence**

Mrs A Clark

262/18 **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs L Brierley – item 7 (0027).

Mr D Langham – item 7 (0030) and item 9.

263/18 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th July 2018**

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chairman subject to the following changes:

227 should read - TrullFest was due to take place on the KGV playing Field on Saturday 21st July.

228 should read - The County Council budget for Small Improvement Schemes had been reduced from £1.5m a year to £1.5m over three years which will make it difficult to get money for a 20mph limit in Trull.

264/18 **Matters Arising**

The Chairman had received a letter from Otterford Parish Council objecting to the district council boundary changes proposed by the Boundary Commission. They did not want Pitminster and Corfe to form part of the Trull district and proposed a Blackdown Ward consisting of Churchstanton, Corfe, Otterford and Pitminster instead with a Trull and Hatch Ward encompassing West Hatch, Bickenhall, Orchard Portman, Staple Fitzpaine and Curland. Trull Parish Councillors had raised no objections to the Boundary Commission proposals in the consultation at their July meeting and were not in favour of the alterations proposed by Otterford PC. The Chairman had replied to Otterford PC reaffirming Trull PC's position.

265/18 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman had attended the Licensing Service of Reverend Andrew Wadsworth at All Saints Church, Trull on 5th September, and the Civic Service to recognise the work of local councils on 17th September.

The kick wall had been installed and was being well used despite one or two minor niggles.

266/18 **Somerset County Councillor Report**

Cllr Wedderkopp had sent his apologies after being admitted to hospital for treatment to injuries sustained in a fall from his bicycle. The Clerk would send a get well card on behalf of the Parish Council.

- 267/18 **42/18/0026**
 3 New Road, Trull.
 Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey extension.
Resolved: Support.
- 268/18 **42/18/0027**
 8 Sweethay Close, Trull.
 Erection of one and a half storey extension.
 The application had been opposed by neighbours who were invited to address the meeting along with the applicant and architect.
 Members considered the arguments for and against including any possible material considerations. An initial proposal to object on the grounds of the extension being overbearing was rejected by two votes to five with one abstention from Mr Kent. A subsequent proposal to support the application was carried by five votes to two with one abstention from Mr Kent.
Resolved: Support
- 269/18 **42/18/0030**
 Dipford House, Dipford Road.
 Erection of single storey extension, replacement garage and pool/studio building.
Resolved: Support subject to clarification of drainage arrangements and the existence or not of a window on the north side of the courtyard in the proposed floor plan.
- 270/18 **Delegated Planning**
 42/18/0024 - Single storey extension at Taringa, Honiton Road.
 Support.
- 42/18/0025 - Variation of condition to approved plans at The Barn, Middle Sweethay Farm.
 Support providing the landscaping scheme has been approved before work is allowed to start.
- 271/18 **Decisions by TDBC**
 42/18/0022/T
 Application to fell one Ash tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Trull No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1986 at The Paddock, Trull Road, Taunton (TD346).
 Conditional approval.
- 42/18/0006
 Erection of two storey extension on the north elevation at Middlewood, 1 Patricks Way, Trull.
 Conditional approval.
- 42/18/0019/T
 Application to carry out management works to one oak tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Trull No.1) Tree Preservation Order 2001 at Malindi, Trull (TD909).
 Conditional approval.
- 42/18/0015
 Erection of two storey pitch roofed link side extension with velux windows at ground and first floor on the front (east) elevation, full length glazed window with Juliette balcony with glazed balustrade at first floor on the rear (west) elevation, glazed apexes at ground and first floor on the south elevation at The Barn, Lower Sweethay Farm, Sweethay Lane, Trull.
 Conditional approval.

42/18/0018

Erection of first floor extension, conversion of garage and car port to habitable accommodation, replacement front door and external cladding at Conifers, Dipford, Trull (amended scheme).

Withdrawn by agent/applicant.

272/18 **Update on the Comeytrowe Consortium**

The Clerk reported that no alternative dates had been offered for the proposed briefing to parish councils from the Comeytrowe Consortium. The Clerk had requested an update of the progress of the Section 106 agreement from TDBC which said there are two outstanding issues of detail that will need to be agreed before the s106 can be signed and the outline planning permission issued. These relate to the detail of eligibility for the affordable housing units and the transfer of the education land. As soon as the S106 has been signed the planning permission will be issued and both will be posted on the website. It will also appear in the weekly list of decisions.

Resolved: To press the Comeytrowe Consortium on dates for the parish council update.

273/18 **20-Year Transport Plan consultation.**

Mr Kent would be chairing a meeting with members of Comeytrowe and Bishops Hull Parish Councils, the Comeytrowe Residents Action Group and SCC officers to discuss specific concerns over the draft 20-year Transport Strategy "Connecting our Garden Town". The meeting is intended as an opportunity to question officers and make observations which will be taken as official feedback to the public consultation. Trull Parish Council had raised several concerns when the document was first published and discussed in January -

1) How the spine road through the development from the A38 will interface with Honiton Road in the heart of the village and how the increased traffic will be accommodated down Trull Road and into Taunton via Compass Hill.

2) Rat running from the proposed roundabout on Honiton Road through Trull to the Killams area in order to avoid queuing, creating a danger to the many young and elderly residents of Trull village which has no pavements.

3) The threat of a possible new motorway junction on the outskirts of the Parish at Killams Avenue.

4) Concern over sections of ring road that "could be constructed in the future", and whether these might include a further link from the A38 to any proposed new motorway junction through our parish.

Resolved: To reiterate the concerns already made and raise additional concerns over the viability of the proposed park and bus facility in light of recent doubt over the future of park and ride sites in Taunton, and the number of heavy goods vehicles coming through the parish down Blagdon Hill due to the weight restriction on the Corfe road.

274/18 **Traffic speeds in Amberd Lane**

Residents on Amberd Lane, Patricks Way and Spearcey Drive were calling for traffic calming measures and a reduced speed limit following concerns over the volume and speed of traffic on Amberd Lane. They had requested the support of Trull Parish Council after approaches to SCC and the local MP were unsuccessful.

SCC said their records show there have been no personal injury collisions along Amberd Lane, so is unlikely they would be able to consider any proposals for traffic calming measures at this time. The local MP felt unable to provide further assistance if SCC do not have the resources to consider any traffic calming measures but recommended contacting the local police if vehicles are breaking the existing speed limit.

The Trull Police Community Support Officers have said they will endeavour to patrol the area; however, they have not received any calls relating to speeding vehicles nor vehicles causing an accident or near miss along the road.

Parish councillors agreed that vehicle speeds on Amberd Lane were sometimes excessive especially during the morning and afternoon rush hour when people used the road as a short cut.

Resolved: To write to SCC in support of the request for traffic calming and a lower speed limit in Amberd Lane.

275/18 **Safety concerns at the Bell House crossing**

Concern over safety at the junction of the privately owned Bell House road with Pokes Lane had arisen again after a man on a mobility scooter emerged from the footpath, chicaned through the metal barriers and hit a car as it was entering the drive of Bell Cottage recently. This was followed shortly afterwards by a cyclist on Pokes Lane crossing the road at speed without looking.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the issue of safety along the widened stretch of Pokes Lane and its' junction with the Bell House road was previously discussed at a meeting of the Parish Council in June 2015. Councillors were concerned that removal of the spring latch gate had created a hazard, and this prompted a safety audit by SCC which concluded there was no increased danger. However, ongoing efforts by Mr Pretty with residents and the County and Deane ward councillors, had resulted in SCC deciding that bollards should be provided, primarily to prevent vehicular access but also to help slow down cyclists emerging onto the road. The barriers were duly installed but there is no signage and no visibility of the footpath from the road approaching the Bell House, or of the road from Pokes Lane to the right.

Following the latest incident the residents felt that spring latch gates should be reinstated or the metal barriers should be moved closer to each other so that cyclists and mobility scooters have to stop and manoeuvre around them. Mr Kent said a sign should also be put in the road warning motorists they are crossing a public footpath and to stop and look before proceeding, however, this would be a matter for the owners of the private road to consider.

Councillors felt it was important for the safety of all parishioners that signs were erected on Pokes Lane warning pedestrians and cyclists that they were approaching a blind crossing.

Resolved: To write to the Rights of Way officer at SCC asking for warning signs to be erected on the Pokes Lane footpath either side of the Bell House road.

276/18 **Parking issues on Honiton Road**

A resident on Honiton Road had been experiencing persistent obstruction issues since the traffic calming measures at Staplehay Cross were put in place, possibly due to customers of the neighbouring garage needing to park somewhere. They had difficulty getting in and out of their driveway, and were also concerned for a neighbour who requires access for carers. The obstructions were causing a safety hazard as even when the drive is accessible it is difficult to see oncoming traffic. The resident had written to SCC requesting that an 'H' bar was painted on the road to remind people not obstruct the driveway. SCC said it would only consider painting an H Bar as a last resort if asked to do so by the Police. They advised the resident to contact the Police on each occasion the driveway is obstructed. After a number of occasions the Police would contact SCC directly and request an H Bar. The Police also have regulatory powers to prosecute and in certain circumstances to remove vehicles that are causing an obstruction. SCC also advised contacting County Cllr Alan Wedderkopp who might consider stepping in. Parish councillors agreed that the obstruction was unacceptable and that cars were increasingly being parked inappropriately in several areas of Honiton Road causing a potential hazard.

Resolved: To write to SCC giving support to the request for an H Bar and drawing attention to other instances of inappropriate parking in the vicinity.

277/18 **Cessation of gritting on Trull Road**

Mr Kent had received a call from the Somerset Gazette asking for his views on the proposed cessation of gritting on the Honiton Road as part of cost saving measures being considered by SCC. He replied that Trull Parish Council Council would be concerned as the road carried a high volume of traffic, particularly in the morning and

evening. It had also been noted that salt for use by parishes would no longer be provided for free.

Resolved: To write to SCC expressing concerns at the increased risk to traffic on Trull Road and Honiton Road particularly at Bradbeers and Canonsgrove, if gritting is not carried out.

278/18 **Management policy for the Village Field.**

The Council had agreed at its July meeting that a policy defining the boundaries, liabilities, responsibilities and use of the Village Field should be drawn up by the Clerk for consideration and adoption. A draft policy had been circulated to Members who raised further questions over maintenance of the boundary hedge between the houses in Amingford Mead and the Village Field, rights of way into the Village Field from those properties, and whether there are fishing rights on the Sherford Stream which forms part of the Village Field.

Resolved: The Clerk would seek to establish:-

- 1) Liability for maintenance of the boundary hedge between the houses in Amingford Mead and the Village Field.
- 2) Any rights of way into the Village Field from those properties in Amingford Mead.
- 3) Any fishing rights on the Sherford Stream which forms part of the Village Field.

278/18 **Terms of Reference for the Village Field Working Group**

Following the decision to establish a working group to consider the day to day use and management of the Village Field the Clerk had drawn up a suggested Terms of Reference. The document had been circulated to all councillors for consideration ahead of the meeting.

Resolved: To approve the Terms of Reference for the Village Field Working Group.

279/18 **Gift of a bench for the Village Field**

Former Parish Councillor Don Archer wished to donate a wooden seat for the Village Field if the Parish Council would meet the cost of a concrete plinth. He had suggested a location for the bench between the footpath and the hedge, just past the oak tree coming from the footbridge direction, one side or other of the existing wooden gatepost. Mr Archer had requested permission to put a plaque on the bench saying: *In affectionate memory of the All Saints Strollers 1984 - 2015*. He had previously led the church walking group for 30 years

Resolved:

- 1) To accept the gift of a bench for the Village Field in the location suggested.
- 2) To meet the cost of a concrete plinth.
- 3) To approve the wording on the plaque "*In affectionate memory of the All Saints Strollers 1984 - 2015*."

280/18 **Management of trees at Trull Green**

Mr Pretty had obtained three quotations covering several options for management of the poplar trees at Trull Green after the Tree Officer at TDBC had confirmed that one had died and another was dying.

All three had agreed that the dead tree posed a safety risk and should be removed as soon as possible. There were also concerns over the integrity of the three other trees – one having a decayed base liable to fracture, another having a hollowed trunk with an expected lifespan of less than five years, and another with a decayed root system and expected life span of five to ten years. Having been on site with all three tree surgeons, Mr Pretty recommended Ashculme Ltd to fell the dead tree. Members felt that a full condition report was needed on the other Poplar trees in order to make an informed decision which could be referred to if a request was made to fell or carry out management works. A resident of Trull Green was invited to speak saying the advice of the tree surgeons should be followed if the trees are a danger to the public.

Resolved:

- 1) To commission Ashculme Ltd to fell the dead Poplar tree and remove arising debris at cost of £350 plus VAT.
- 2). To commission a detailed report on the condition of the remaining Poplar trees.

- 281/18 **Hedge Management**
Mr Pretty had been tasked with obtaining quotes for hedge maintenance on Council-owned land but found there was a lack of workable or affordable options. Andy Burrows, who had previously carried out work for the Council was available at a reasonable price so due to the worsening condition of several Council-owned hedges a decision was taken to commission one-off hedge maintenance on the Village Field, the KGV Playing Field and the Trull Allotments. This was carried out at a rate of £40 for the first hour and £30 for the second hour. Councillors felt this was a reasonable maintenance option going forward.
Resolved: To commission Andy Burrows to carry out hedge maintenance on Council-owned land on an annual basis.
- 282/18 **Safety surfacing on the KGV Field**
This item was deferred for consideration by the Playing Field Management Committee at their meeting on October 1st.
- 283/18 **Wildlife and tree planting on the KGV Field**
This item was deferred for consideration by the Playing Field Management Committee at their meeting on October 1st.
- 284/18 **Permission for a fireworks display on the KGV playing field**
Trull Scout Group had requested permission to use the KGV playing field for its annual firework display on Saturday November 3rd. A copy of their Public Liability insurance had been provided.
Resolved: To approve Trull Scout Group's request for use of the KGV playing field.
- 285/18 **Report on Battles Over commemorations**
The Parish Council in partnership with All Saints Church, Trull Scout Group and the Trull Parish Archive Group is organising an event as part of 'Battle's Over', an international commemoration marking 100 years since the end of World War I. Parishioners will be invited to join the tribute to the fallen at the KGV Playing Field on Sunday November 11th 2018. Trull Parish Council Chairman, Anthony Kent, will begin the ceremony by reading A Nations Tribute at 6.50pm. At 6.55pm a local trumpeter will sound the Last Post, and a beacon will be lit at 7pm, followed at 7.05pm by the All Saints Church bell ringers Ringing Out for Peace. An exhibition will be manned in the Geoff Hewett Pavilion from 4.30pm and a request had been made for refreshments to be provided.
Resolved: The Parish Council will meet the cost of refreshments in the Pavilion during the Battles Over commemorations.
- 286/18 **New Allotment Tenants Agreement**
Several plot holders had suggested updating the tenancy agreement in order to make the duties of being a plot holder clearer and get unused plots moved more quickly to new people. The proposed agreement had been circulated to councillors for consideration.
Resolved: To approve the new Allotment Tenancy Agreement subject to the addition of a clause stating that no livestock shall be kept on the allotments.
- 287/18 **Neighbourhood Plan**
There was nothing to report on this item.
- 288/18 **KGV Field**
A handle on the Proludic Twinfly had been handed to the Parish Council after becoming detached. The Clerk was contacting the manufacturer and Parsons Landscapes Ltd to discuss the problem and possible solutions.
- 289/18 **Footpaths**
A gate at the junction of Pokes Lane with Amberd Lane had been replaced by SCC after its condition deteriorated rapidly.

290/18 **Highways**

The proposals for parishes to fund ongoing SID installations had been put on hold following the departure of the programme officer from SCC.

Following a request for traffic calming in Comeytrove Road SCC would refurbish the white centre lining and give way markings. It would also arrange for new 30mph road roundels to be painted. Speed readings taken in 2014 showed the mean average speed to be 21.7mph. Due to the low speeds recorded and the fact that no collisions were recorded by the police, SCC cannot allocate any further budget at this time to carry out more works in Comeytrove Road.

291/18 **Reports**

The Chairman took the decision to defer further reports due to time constraints.

292/18 **Correspondence**

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

Somerset Waste Partnership – August briefing.

Chief Inspector Simpson, LPA Commander for Somerset West – Neighbourhood policing questionnaire.

293/18 **Accounts**

August 2018

Trull Village Memorial Hall
(PC 16/7/18)).....£18

Otter South West Ltd
Village Field£144

David Moy
Community Allotment.....£154

TCCC
EA meeting.....£12

Proludic
Zip wire repairs.....£1,921.49

Salary

Mrs R Howat
(minus NI and Pension contributions).....£912.65

Receipts:

None

September 2018

Payments:

Trull Village Memorial Hall
(PC 20/8/18)).....£18

All Saints Trull PCC
Newsletter printing.....£20

Mrs R Howat
Newsletter delivery/stamps/ink£76.05

Parsons Landscapes Ltd
KGV Grass
August.....£496.62

Parsons Landscapes Ltd
Trull Green August£108

GB Sport and Leisure
Kick wall supply and installation£23,287.20

Owl Garage
Roundabout repairs£90

Water 2 business
Allotment (22/2/18-29/8/1)£250.61

Salary

Mrs R Howat
(minus NI and Pension contributions).....£912.65

Receipts:

TDBC
Grant.....£1,285

TDBC
(PPA grant (shelter).....£6,500

294/18 **Matters to Report from Parish Council for inclusion on the next Agenda**
None.

295/18 **Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting will take place on Monday 15th October 2018, at 7.15pm, preceded at 6.30pm by the annual meeting of the allotment tenants.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.14 pm.

Signed..... Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....