

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Trull Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull, on Monday 18th March, 2019.

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

In attendance: Mrs R Howat - Clerk
Cllr A Wedderkopp – SCC
PCSO Lyndsay Smith

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.

69/19 **Apologies for absence**
None.

70/19 **Declarations of interest**
None.

71/19 **Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2019**
Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

72/19 **Matters arising**
Minute 60/19 The Taunton Area Cycling Campaign (TACC) had replied to thank the Parish Council for supporting its campaign to improve the local cycle network. It would put the suggestions for improvements on the agenda for the next TACC meeting.

73/19 **Chairman's report**
The Chairman reported that all the play equipment on the King George V playing field is now in working order.
The village was recently flooded with signs about a teak and rattan furniture sale in the Memorial Hall. They were put up without permission and following discussions with the Deputy Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee, many of them were taken down. Steps have been taken to ensure this does not happen again.
Two sleeping bags had been noticed in the bus shelter on Honiton Road and were reported to the PCSO. They had since been removed.
Thanks were given to local artist Sarah Thomspen-Engels who had repainted the dragon in front of the Pavilion.
Work on enlarging and improving access to the M5 off junction 25 will start in the spring and last for two years.
Trull Players will present a murder mystery in the Memorial Hall on 26 and 27 April.

74/19 **Police report**
PCSO Lyndsay Smith gave an account of crimes recorded over the last month: - one theft, one antisocial behaviour, one road related and one missing person. There had been a spike in thefts from motor vehicles in other parishes. PCSO Smith advised that no valuables are left in vehicles.

75/19 **Somerset County Councillor report**
Cllr Wedderkopp had met with Amberd Lane resident Tony Langham to discuss ongoing problems with traffic volume and speed. Alan would support the request for

speed restrictions and traffic calming measures. He would be present at a meeting with Mr Langham and the SCC Highways Portfolio holder Cllr John Woodman.

76/19 **42/18/0034**

Cutsey Pavilion, Cutsey House.

Change of use from ancillary to residential dwelling (retention of works already undertaken). Appeal.

The applicant was invited to address the meeting. He explained that the application had been wrongly listed with the inclusion of "retention of works already undertaken" but these works had actually been approved through the planning process at the relevant stages. The building had historically been let to tenants and the applicant was seeking to formalise this. He did not feel the planning authority had given sufficient opportunity for discussion before making the delegated decision.

Resolved: Support. Trull Parish Council believes that this application should be granted as it provides low cost accommodation for a local worker using an otherwise redundant building. Unfortunately Trull Parish Council did not receive notification of the original application for change of use but would like to confirm its support now.

77/19 **Delegated planning**

There were no delegated planning decisions.

78/19 **Decisions by TDBC**

42/19/0001

Erection of single storey rear extension on the west elevation at 103 Killams Green, Taunton.

Conditional approval.

42/18/0051

Replacement and upgrade of flood lights at Trull Lawn Tennis Club, Sweethay Lane, Staplehay.

Conditional approval.

79/19 **Urban Extension S106 update**

The S106 agreement had not yet been signed. When completed it will be published for all interested parties to see on the TDBC (SWT) website.

80/19 **Garden Town engagement**

Following the designation of Taunton as a Garden Town in 2017, and after input from the community and stakeholders, TDBC had produced 'The Vision for Our Garden Town'. The draft document is intended as a platform for more detailed work, and will influence future plan-making and development management decisions. Initial responses to the document were being sought but there would be further opportunities to engage. The document had been circulated to Councillors for consideration ahead of the meeting.

Resolved: To submit the following response: Trull Parish Council appreciates the aspirational concept encompassed in the document. However, what is needed is an integrated vision for the future that addresses the infrastructure to ensure we have sufficient road capacity for the planned growth, sufficient schooling and medical facilities, better and more regular bus services to connect the town with the countryside, universal high speed broadband to allow the growth of the business community and better more accessible recreation facilities.

81/19 **Parking restrictions on Church Road**

The revised TRO shortening the extent of the proposed double yellow lines in Church Road to allow space for three vehicles to park to the east of the junction had been published. However, further representations were received which resulted in the Highways Engineer recommending that the scheme be withdrawn and time allowed for the Parish Council to discuss the options in more detail and put forward new proposals to be considered as part of the Taunton Parking Review. The Review

would be the first to be undertaken by SCC under its recently announced scheme for a rolling programme of comprehensive reviews of on-street parking controls, looking at each community in turn to ensure a fair balance between the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. Consideration would be given to ensuring safety, keeping the key routes free of congestion and the appropriateness of existing restrictions.

Councillors felt that other options including widening of the junction on one side could be considered, along with measures to address parking issues along Church Road.

Resolved: A site meeting would be arranged by Mr Hancock to discuss the options which would be put forward at the next meeting for submission as part of the Review.

82/19 **Traffic speeds in Amberd Lane**

PCSO Lyndsay Smith reported that the police had installed a device to monitor traffic volume and speed along Amberd Lane following the ongoing concerns of residents. It would remain in place for two weeks after which the data would be analysed and shared with the Parish Council. Mr Langham felt that the device should have been placed between the junctions for Spearcey Lane and Honiton Road. PCSO Smith said she would pass the comment on.

The police are also assessing Amberd Lane for its suitability for Community Speed Watch patrols. The existing Speed Watch sites in the parish are also being re-assessed. PCSO Smith had established contact with the remaining members of Community Speed Watch group and located the hand-held speed detection device. New volunteers need to be recruited, trained and insured under the force policy.

Anyone interested in joining the Speed Watch group should contact PCSO Smith. The Chairman thanked her and the police for their pro-active work.

83/19 **Black Poplars on Trull Green**

The dead Black Poplar had been felled by Ashculme Ltd and the trunk taken to a local green space to provide a habitat for wildlife. Mr Pretty reported that the tree surgeon had stated it was probably the most dangerous and rotten tree he had ever cut down. The only thing preventing the tree from falling was a small four inch strip of wood that could have given way at any time. A condition report had been requested for the remaining three Black Poplars and was being carried out by Arboricare Ltd. Mr Pretty was keen to appoint one of the companies who had previously given quotes for crown work on the large Maple tree. The Chairman advised that consideration of the quotations would be deferred to the next meeting.

84/19 **Electric car charging point**

Mr Kent gave a presentation on his proposals for an electric car charging point in the Memorial Hall car park with an estimated breakdown of installation and running costs. This was based on a double charging socket located by the Memorial Hall which would need to be agreed by the Memorial Hall Committee. The projected cost would be £3,235 plus VAT which would be offset by the Government grant of £1,000 and a grant of £1,000 from TDBC bringing it down to £1,235 plus VAT.

The amount of electricity consumed would be notified each quarter by the provider. This could be paid by either the PC or Memorial Hall, depending on agreement. The Parish Council would own the equipment which comes with an initial three year warranty. Engineering support would be included within the contract including an on-call service. After the initial three year period, there would be a small annual charge for an extended warranty and the data and management information system service. Councillors were concerned at precisely how the arrangement would work with the Parish Council investing in equipment on land it did not own, and electricity being taken through a third party's supply.

Resolved:

1) The Chairman is authorised to hold formal discussions with the Memorial Hall Committee and Parochial Church Council about the logistics and financial arrangements relating to the charging point, with a view to coming back to the Parish Council with a fully costed proposal.

2) The Clerk would seek advice from SALC and its members on their experience of similar schemes.

85/19 **A358 Community Liaison Forum**

Mr Kent had attended the inaugural meeting which had been called to explain how the forum would work during the design phase of the A358 dual carriageway scheme. Some 40 delegates attended on behalf of parishes and associations representing groups such as the Ramblers, bridleway users and cyclists. Further work has been done by Highways England to include concerns raised in the initial consultation. There are a number of challenges to be considered such as resilience, capacity to cater for the next 15 years, and cost. An announcement on the final choice of route is promised in the spring. This will be followed by 12 months of further consultation, including a public hearing, before formal submission to the Secretary of State for approval. That could take a further 18 months after the spring announcement. Given the need for competitive tendering, it could be three to four years before work starts. Highways England will be managing the work to ensure that there is no deviation from what has been agreed and will then take over the road in its entirety. All the funding will be provided by the Government – no SCC funding is required. The next meeting will be after the formal announcement.

86/19 **Honiton Road drains**

A resident had notified the Council that water is still going across the Honiton Road when there is heavy rain, taking days to stop as the water comes off fields further up the road. This is an ongoing issue which the resident and Parish Council had taken up with SCC Highways department on a number of occasions and had been led to believe was going to be resolved in the 2018/19 financial year. The Parish Council had been advised in September 2017 that a survey had been carried out to investigate the operation of the system. It showed there was a blockage which caused the gully to resurge with debris and mud. The Highway Superintendent was creating a works order for the service provider to carry out an investigated dig to determine the reason for the blockage, which they thought was either hedge root ingress or utility damage. Mr Wedderkopp would take this up with the highways authority and report back with a status update.

87/19 **The Village Field**

A manhole cover in the Village Field had been removed and dropped back into the manhole where it had stuck in the opening. It was reported that the incident had been witnessed and was carried out by six boys on the afternoon of Saturday 2 March. Wessex Water was informed and after initially denying any responsibility, they came to put the cover back in place after being reminded of their undertaking in the signed 104 agreement. They can put a padlock on the manhole cover if it is considered necessary in the future.

Mrs Brierley had received one quote for management of weeds in the Village Field from Gordon Matravers. The cost to spray the field would be £100, and the chemicals would be approximately £130, both plus VAT (the chemical price was subject to change as a review is due in March).

The tree condition report undertaken by Arboricare Ltd had been received and circulated to members. It contained a number of observations and recommendations which would need to be studied in detail.

There was a pressing need to cut back branches from a group of trees on neighbouring land that were hanging over the Village Field, posing a danger to the public.

The Clerk had received confirmation from the solicitors that Land Registry Transfer Deeds in respect of two properties at Amingford Mead had been inspected. Whilst each Transfer Deed contains the grant of numerous rights, all those rights granted are in respect of services which cross the Amingford Mead estate. There is no reference to any rights which either property might have over the land that was transferred to the Parish Council.

Resolved:

- 1) To accept the quote from Gordon Matravers to spray the weeds.
- 2) To seek quotations from Arboricare Ltd, Ashculme Ltd and Brian Lenthall to carry out work to the overhanging branches from neighbouring land.
- 3) The Village Field Working Group would study the tree report in detail and report back with recommendations.

88/19 **Neighbourhood Plan**

Ms Dean had been informed that a piece of land at Trull Meadow had reportedly been sold to six properties in Queens Drive by a local developer, and the homeowners had put up fencing. Ms Dean was authorised to write to TDBC as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Group to ask for an investigation and for the protected status of the Meadow to be upheld.

89/19 **KGV Field/Pavilion**

There was nothing to report on this item.

90/19 **Footpaths**

There was nothing to report on this item.

91/19 **Highways**

Blagdon Hill Road would be temporarily closed to traffic to enable the USL Group to carry out BT Pole project works. The closure would extend from Adcombe View northwards for a distance of 140 metres. The work would begin on 26 March and is expected to last for 3 days between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

92/19 **Allotments**

There was nothing to report on this item.

93/19 **Open Spaces**

Mr Pretty requested permission to put the doors back on the noticeboard at the junction of Pokes Lane with Church Road as it was becoming unusable.

94/19 **Open Spaces Working Group**

There was nothing to report on this item.

95/19 **Flooding**

There was nothing to report on this item.

96/19 **Trull Village Memorial Hall**

Mr Langham had been appointed as Vice Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee.

97/19 **Alms-houses**

There was nothing to report on this item

98/19 **Parish Lands Charity**

Mrs Clark had been appointed as Treasurer of the Parish Lands Charity.

99/19 **Trull School/Pre-School**

There was nothing to report on this item

100/19 **Book Exchange**

The book exchange had been scrubbed down and was waiting to be painted by Mr Pretty.

101/19 **SALC**

There was nothing to report on this item.

102/19 **Correspondence**

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

- Somerset Waste Partnership – February briefing.
- Alun Griffiths Ltd - M5 Junction 25 roadworks.
- Somerset Rivers Authority – Consultation letter.
- Citizens Advice Taunton – One day closure letter.
- SCC Chairman – Awards information.
- Somerset Citizens– Invitation to founding Assembly.

103/19 **Accounts**

Payments:

Trull PCC
Newsletter printing.....£12

Trull Village Memorial Hall
(hire 18/2/19).....£18

Mrs R Howat
Stamps/newsletter delivery.....£20.04

Arboricare Ltd
Village Field Tree Report.....£540

Brian Pretty
Petrol, book exchange paint£49.76

Acorn Solicitors
Village Field searches£21

Salary

Mrs R Howat
Minus NI and Pension contributions)..... £912.65

104/19 **Matters to Report from Parish Council for inclusion on the next Agenda**

None.

105/19 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 15th April 2019 preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.12pm.

Signed..... Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....