

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Trull Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull, on Monday 15th April, 2019.

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

In attendance: Mrs R Howat - Clerk
Cllr A Wedderkopp – SCC
Cllr M Edwards - SWT
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.

106/19 **Apologies for absence**

Ms T Dean.

107/19 **Declarations of interest**

None.

108/19 **Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2019**

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

109/19 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

110/19 **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that Trull Stores had recently changed hands. He welcomed Mr and Mrs Patel to the community and wished them every success with the shop. Recently in the KGV playing field a gang of youths had deliberately damaged the support leg of the toddler's swing. It was roped off and the police were notified. Since then it had been repaired and was back in action. The Council will not tolerate vandalism and any reoccurrence will be reported to the police again.

111/19 **Police report**

PCSO Lyndsay Smith gave an account of incidents recorded over the last month: - two anti-social behaviour, one criminal damage, two road traffic accidents, and one concern for welfare.

PCSO Smith was aware of incidents reported on the playing field and the tendency for youths to gather in the summer months so would try to incorporate open spaces in to the patrol.

112/19 **Somerset County Councillor report**

Cllr Wedderkopp would speak at items eight, 11 and 12 on the agenda.

113/19 The Chairman would alter the order of the agenda to accommodate members of the public who had come to speak.

114/19 **Parking restrictions on Church Road**

Mr Hancock had arranged a site meeting with Mrs Wooldridge and Mr Pretty to discuss parking issues at the junction of Church Road with Orchard Close. They were joined by some local residents.

Mr Pretty had collated data over previous weeks on how many cars typically park in the area and at what times of the day. It was noted that the rise in internet shopping and home deliveries had seen an increasing number of vans and small lorries on the roads. A lot of these use the junction, turning out of Orchard Close, and going left down Church Road. The junction is narrow and any parking on the opposite side of the road, underneath the raised pavement, makes it difficult to navigate resulting in damage to the grass verge and kerb stones.

A number of local people use the stretch of road below the raised pavement for parking and the importance of this was recognised both in terms of overnight parking for residents, plus daytime parking to support the local businesses. The Council would not want to curtail this legitimate parking and does want to support local residents and businesses.

As a result Mr Hancock had recommend that yellow lines are installed along a stretch of Church Road , underneath the raised pavement, starting from a point immediately opposite the tight left hand turning from Orchard Close and finishing just before the raised path reaches the highway . This stretch of approximately 10 metres should give larger vehicles sufficient turning space without having to mount the inside kerb. It would also continue to provide parking space for about seven vehicles.

Wider issues of traffic volume and parking during school pick-up and drop-off times were raised by residents. Although a lot of parents use the main car park in the village, there are many that also park along Church Road wherever they can. This creates a danger for parents and children walking along that narrow stretch. Local residents also struggle to come out of their driveways during these busy periods as cars are parked right up to the edge of their entrances. Delivery lorries also have difficulty trying to go down Church Road during these busy periods.

These concerns would need to be addressed in conjunction with local groups including Trull Primary School, All Saints Church and residents. Although it was noted that attempts to address these issues and speeding had been made on several occasions.

Resolved:

1) To submit the revised parking restriction request to SCC for implementation as part of the first Taunton Parking Review if not sooner.

2) Mr Hancock, assisted by Mrs Wooldridge, to arrange an initial meeting with Trull School, All Saints Church and local residents to discuss the wider issues on Church Road.

115/19 **Traffic speeds in Amberd Lane**

The police had installed a device to monitor traffic volume and speed along Amberd Lane following ongoing concerns of residents. PCSO Smith circulated the latest data which showed that between 14th and 20th March, 749 vehicles were recorded driving through Amberd Lane. Of these only 4.9% (37 vehicles) were travelling in excess of the speed enforcement threshold (35mph). The maximum recorded speed was 55mph. The average speed recorded was 25.4 mph, and 85% of all vehicles were travelling at 30mph or below.

Of those travelling in excess of 30mph, the average recorded speed was 34.8mph, with 85% travelling at or below 39mph.

The report concluded that Amberd Lane does not appear to have a problem with speeding as 95.1% of vehicles were travelling at or below 35mph.

There was concern that the data was captured in only one direction over one single week. It was suggested that devices should be installed in both directions for two similar periods for a larger study. PCSO Smith would ask if this was possible.

It had been brought to the attention of the police that 20mph signs had been put up on lamp posts in Amberd Lane. They would have to be removed unless they had been placed with the permission of the Highways Authority.

The police are proceeding with plans for Community Speed Watch patrols in Amberd Lane and want to hear from anyone interested in joining the Speed Watch Group.

- 116/19 **Electric car charging point**
Mr Kent had continued to work on the business case for an electric car charging point in the village and recently briefed the Parochial Church Council who were fully supportive. An informal meeting with some members of the Memorial Hall Committee would take place before a full briefing would be given at their Committee Meeting on 9th May where Mr Kent hoped to gain their agreement in principle. He hoped to be in a position to present a full business case at the next meeting of Trull Parish Council on 20th May. Cllr Mark Edwards said Somerset West and Taunton Council supported the installation of charging points in principle and has money in the budget to allocate up to £1,000 for individual projects. He added that if Trull Parish Council were to proceed it would have his full support. He mentioned a forum in West Somerset which is already looking at other grants available. The Clerk said several parishes had responded to an appeal through SALC for anyone with experience of car charging point to get in touch. These had included the forum mentioned by Cllr Edwards.
- 117/19 **42/19/0006**
Trull Green Farm, Dipford Road
Conversion of part of garage to ancillary accommodation with patio, fencing and gates. Retention of works already undertaken.
Resolved: Support.
- 118/19 **42/19/0008/LB**
Trull Green Farm, Dipford Road
Various internal and external alterations. Retention of works already undertaken.
Resolved: Support.
- 119/19 **Delegated planning**
There were no delegated planning decisions.
- 120/19 **Decisions by TDBC**
42/19/0004
Erection of a single storey and first floor extension with conversion of garage to annexe at 9 Bradbeers, Staplehay.
Conditional approval.
- 42/19/0005
Raising of roof with construction of first floor and erection of front and rear extensions at Windsong, Amberd Lane, Trull.
Conditional approval.
- 42/19/0003
Erection of conservatory and open porch to the front of 6 Patricks Way, Trull.
Conditional approval.
- 121/19 **42/18/0038**
Wells Orchard, Sweethay Lane.
Attention had been drawn to the possible breach of a planning condition regarding the tree protection plan which states that existing trees and hedges should be retained. One tree had been recognised as being in poor condition and it was stated that approval had to be given by the Tree Officer for dead wood to be removed but it would appear that two trees have been cut down.
Resolved: To write to the Tree Officer asking for an update on the work that has been carried out, whether it conformed to the planning conditions and whether the trees are protected by a TPO.
- 122/19 **Incursion into Trull Meadow**
Following information that a piece of land at Trull Meadow had been sold to the owners of six properties in Queens Drive by a local developer and that fencing had put up, Ms Dean had written to SWT as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Group

asking for an investigation and for the protected status of the Meadow to be upheld. The Clerk had since written asking for the Parish Council to be kept updated, and the unparished ward Cllr Stephen Martin-Scott had also become involved.

Planning enforcement had replied to say they were looking into the situation and any possible breaches of planning.

Since then the Parish Council had been made aware of a similar offer to buy parcels of land on Trull Meadow being made to residents of several properties in Wild Oak Lane by the landowner Queens College.

It was accepted that there is nothing to stop landowners selling all or part of the Meadow but there were concerns raised about the lack of clarity over the restrictions on protected land and the need for planning consent for a possible change of use.

A suggestion from Cllr Martin-Scott that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of buying the land was not pursued.

Cllr Edwards, who is Chairman of Governors at Queens College, said he was not specifically aware of this sale but felt the Council's approach was sensible.

Resolved: To write to SWT expressing concern at the latest offer of sale and the implications of this on the protected Local Green Space of Trull Meadow particularly as it would interfere with the existing right of way.

123/19 **Honiton Road drains**

Cllr Wedderkopp had been liaising with the SCC highways engineer over the ongoing problem of water across the Honiton Road when there is heavy rain. This issue had been taken up with SCC Highways department on a number of occasions and the Parish Council had been advised in September 2017 that a works order for the service provider to carry out an investigated dig had been made. Cllr Wedderkopp had asked to see the works order but was still waiting for a reply. In the meantime the resident had written to SCC again attaching pictures of the most recent occurrence.

Resolved: To write to SCC highways re-enforcing the request for urgent action before there is an accident, and asking for an update to the position communicated in September 2017.

124/19 **Tree management on Trull Green**

Tests on the remaining three Black Poplars had been carried out by Arboricare Ltd and a condition report would be received shortly.

Mr Pretty had asked the companies who had previously given quotes for crown work on the large tree for an updated explanation of the work they intended to carry out.

Each of them confirmed that they would do work to raise the crown, reduce the spread over the neighbouring property and increase light. The quotes were £130 from Chris Grove Associates, £180 from Arboricare and £350 from Ashculme Ltd – all plus VAT.

Mr Pretty recommended that Arboricare be given the contract, and asked to liaise with the neighbouring homeowners.

Resolved: Arboricare be given the contract for work on the large tree at £180 plus VAT.

125/19 **Year end accounts for 2018/19**

Mr Hancock presented the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019. The end of year accounts for the KGV Playing Field were noted with an explanation that funding may be sought from the PC to help with safety surfacing.

Resolved: To approve the accounts for 2018/19.

126/19 **The Village Field**

The initial spraying of weed killer had been carried out by Gordon Matravers who would be back to complete the job to tie in with the grass cutting being carried out by Josh Ralph.

Two quotes had been received for cutting back branches from a group of trees on neighbouring land that were hanging over the Village Field one from Arboricare at £750 plus VAT and another from Brian Lenthall at £600 plus VAT.

Mrs Brierley questioned whether these trees are actually on the Village Field or adjoining land as it did not seem clear from the Land Registry title plan.

Resolved:

1) To accept the quote from Brian Lenthall to carry out work to the overhanging branches from neighbouring land at £600 plus VAT.

127/19 **SCC Chairman Awards**

A letter had been received from a man in Williton asking for Trull resident Philip May to be considered for nomination for the SCC Chairman's Award. Mr May has raised money for charity through arranging Country Music nights over the last 30 years. However, much of his support comes from Devon and members were not familiar with his name or work so the request was not supported.

128/19 **Neighbourhood Plan**

There was nothing to report on this item.

129/19 **KGV Field/Pavilion**

The PFMC had met in April to discuss the status of the Swan Paul designs and play equipment maintenance. It also received a report on Pavilion activities and approved the end of year accounts. The Swan Paul recommendations had been noted but the absence of any NEAP money from the Amberd Lane development to initiate new projects meant they had been put on hold indefinitely.. The PFMC will focus on maintaining the existing equipment. It was also hoping to put down more of the rubberised safety surface but would need to ask the Parish Council for funding to help with this.

130/19 **Footpaths**

Mr Pretty had been carrying out work to address small problems reported on the local footpaths but responsibility for issues still rests with SCC Rights of Way. The owners of a property in Wild Oak Lane whose garden borders Carters Way had written stating their intention to plant a new hedge along the boundary which they would maintain on both sides.

131/19 **Highways**

There was nothing to report on this item.

132/19 **Allotments**

Work was almost complete on the Community Plot which was being regularly used as a social space by tenants. The adjoining plot had been taken on by tenants who had made a big difference in the space of weeks.

133/19 **Open Spaces**

There was nothing to report on this item.

134/19 **Open Spaces Working Group**

There was nothing to report on this item.

135/19 **Flooding**

Mr Kent had received useful correspondence offering a local perspective on the recent report from Somerset Rivers Authority entitled "Review of Developer Sustainable Drainage Systems in Somerset".

136/19 **Trull Village Memorial Hall**

There was nothing to report on this item.

137/19 **Alms-houses**

There was nothing to report on this item.

138/19 **Parish Lands Charity**

There was nothing to report on this item.

139/19 **Trull School/Pre-School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

140/19 **Book Exchange**

The book exchange had been painted by Mr Pretty.

141/19 **SALC**

There was nothing to report on this item.

142/19 **Correspondence**

The Chairman had received a letter from Highways England Ltd. requesting permission to carry out ecological surveys on the KGV Playing Field and the Village Field as part of their assessments for the proposed dualling of the A358. Mr Kent had contacted HE Ltd to ask for further information and had been told the surveys would look at habitats along the Sherford Stream, although this did not imply a preferred location for the scheme. The Clerk would respond giving permission.

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

Somerset Waste Partnership – March briefing.

Alun Griffiths – J25 April Newsletter

143/19 **Accounts**

Payments:

Trull PCC

Newsletter printing.....£12

Trull Village Memorial Hall

(hire 18/3/19).....£18

Mrs R Howat

Stamps/newsletter delivery, ink.....£79.78

Ashculme Ltd

Felling black poplar.....£420

David Moy

Community plot materials£132

Parsons Landscapes Ltd

Trull Green grass cutting.....£110.71

HMRC

NI contributions.....£90.72

Salary

Mrs R Howat

Minus NI and Pension contributions)..... £912.65

144/19 **Matters to Report from Parish Council for inclusion on the next Agenda**

None.

145/19 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 20th May 2019.

The Chairman noted that Mrs Brierley and Mr Langham had decided to stand down from the Parish Council at the next election and thanked them for all their work.
He closed the Meeting at 9.32pm.

Signed..... Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....