

Trull Parish Council

19th September 2025

Dear Trull Community,

This letter is to inform you of some important changes to the format of the Trull Parish Council's monthly meetings, beginning in October 2025.

We are fortunate to have such an engaged and passionate community that cares deeply about our village. As our parish has grown, so have the number of items on our meeting agendas, and our meetings have become much longer—sometimes lasting up to three hours.

In the past year, we've also experienced an increase in disrespectful behaviour toward our councillors. Being a parish councillor is an unpaid, public service role, and this kind of behaviour is something we can no longer tolerate.

To address these issues and improve the efficiency and civility of our meetings, we have consulted with our governing body and are implementing the following changes:

- A 15-minute public participation period will be held at the beginning of each meeting for questions and comments from residents.
- To ensure councillors have time to review your feedback, all correspondence should be sent to the Parish Clerk by noon on the Friday before the meeting.
- Correspondence must be relevant to items listed on the meeting's agenda.
- The Parish Clerk will select speakers on a first-come, first-served basis, and will prioritise comments to avoid repetition.
- For planning matters, we encourage you to submit your comments directly through the Planning Portal.

As a point of reference, Somerset Council recently reduced public participation in their Full Council meetings, to six members of the public, each with a maximum time of three minutes. If you want to speak, you must submit the text of what you want to say three clear days before the meeting, and, it has to be approved before you are allowed to attend and speak.

We don't want to implement anything quite as rigid as Somerset Council's format. We appreciate the community's input and hope these new measures will make our meetings more productive for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Martine Naughton Chair, Trull Parish Council