

Agenda Item: 01/07

A recent planning decision (42/25/0020) from Somerset Council contains several inaccuracies regarding the Parish Council's position. Specifically, the report appears to rely on public conjecture rather than our official records and recorded findings. It is deeply concerning that a higher-tier authority would issue public statements that misrepresent the processes and conclusions of another government body, as this ultimately misleads the community regarding our level of engagement and our actual stance.

The Chair would like to propose we write to Somerset Council Planning and include the following points for consideration:

- **Misrepresentation of Parish Engagement and the Proposed Trust:** The report includes local representations suggesting that the proposed Trust for the north part of Trull Meadow lacks transparency or that the public was excluded from discussions. These claims are based on conjecture rather than fact. The Parish Council's engagement regarding the creation of a Trust, intended to be secured via a Section 106 Agreement, was conducted with the sole purpose of providing long-term protection for the meadow.
- **Clarification on Development Intentions:** The report highlights concerns that the land protected by the Trust was "ripe for development". We wish to state clearly that the land in question had, and has, no plans for development. The Parish Council's support for the Trust was a proactive measure to ensure this land remained protected in perpetuity, a detail that has been obscured by the inclusion of negative public speculation in your official report.
- **Reliance on Unverified Public Comments:** Trull Parish Council is concerned that the Planning Officer's report gives undue weight to local representations that question the Council's resources and willingness to enforce legal agreements. These are subjective opinions that do not reflect the Parish Council's official standing or capabilities.
- **Failure to Use Official Reporting:** Despite the Parish Council being an important statutory consultee, the report notes our "abstention" from voting without accurately reflecting the context provided in our official reporting documents. The Parish Council was advised by our legal representation to abstain from the vote on the planning application because we had chosen to engage in the Trust and thus did not want to be conflicted.