

Minutes of Tempsford Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 18th March 2014 at 19.30 hrs., in the Stuart Memorial Hall

Present:-

Mr. Adrian. Besant	Chairman – Councillor
Mr. Jim Donnelly	Vice Chairman – Councillor
Mr. Chris. Bettles	Councillor
Mr. Dan. Clark	Councillor
Mr. Steve. Cooney	Councillor
Miss Liz. Infield	Councillor
Mrs. Linda Collins	Clerk.
Mrs. Doreen Gurney	CBC Councillor
PC Chris Coppenhall	PCSO
David Beagent	Member of the Public
Jane Gurney	Member of the Public
Tazi Husain	Member of the Public
Simon Fraser	Tempsford Charities, Clerk.
Gary Blick	Member of the Public

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30 hrs. and welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. C. Jameson and Cllr. Adam Zerny (CBC)

2. Declarations of Interest.

No Declarations of Interest were received.

3. Acceptance of Minutes.

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 14th January 2014 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Session.

PCSO Chris Coppenhall presented the crime statistics for the last two months. There were actually no incidents occurring in Tempsford, except for a dog bite. A summary was handed out which showed that over the past 9 years, domestic burglary had gone down, violence against the person had risen slightly, but overall crime had gone down. There had recently been some burglaries in Ickwell, so we are advised to be aware and observant as they usually then go from village to village. PCSO Coppenhall also mentioned that the police were hosting a bicycle marking day at Blunham on Sunday 6th April at 4 pm in the Playing fields. The Chairman asked whether they ever do foot patrols. He replied that it is no longer a thing that happens often. There are too many commitments and vehicles are used more, but not every day. The Clerk asked what was happening with Speedwatch. He said the training was now more local, but did not think anymore equipment had been purchased.

Clerk to contact Sgt Gary Kidd to see what the present situation was.

Mr. Tazi Husain firstly said that he would be writing a book on the history of the village and its families. As it was the anniversary of the start of the 1st World War, Mr. Husain wanted to propose to make it special for this village.

Chairman's initials.....

19th May 2014.

He would like to ask the village that we clean up and restore the war memorial outside the village hall (he has obtained quotes) and move it to the site where the SOE memorial is situated in time for Remembrance Day in November. He believes more people will visit it throughout the year. The Trust still has some funds in reserve which might be used and he thinks the money could be raised from grants and other donations.

5. War Memorial

To follow on from the previous Agenda item, the Chairman put to the Councillors the idea and a) how do we ask the village b) how do we ask the Stuart Memorial Hall.

Each Councillor was asked for their opinion. The general consensus was that for historic reasons it should stay where it is, but that it would be more accessible and would be good to have both memorials together.

David Beagent said that a lot of work needed to be done before it could be in situ by November. Also the Wynne Family needed to be contacted.

RESOLUTION: The idea was to be put to the village at the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th April and that a meeting should be held on the 31st March 2014 to discuss how to canvas the village on the idea. Whatever the village decided it would be accepted by the Parish Council. Clerk to book committee room.

6. Community Emergency Plan.

In the severe weather, notices were put up in the notice boards and in the Tempsford Times. There is a Community Emergency Plan at the moment, but it is out of date. It needs to be updated and a central number available for people to ring in an emergency. Any relevant information to be given to Cllr. Donnelly to put on website. Cllr. Cooney to take the plan and update it.

RESOLUTION : New emergency plan to be created by Cllr. S. Cooney.

7. Tempsford Charities.

The names put forward were discussed by Cllr. Besant (Chairman) and Cllr. Donnelly (Vice Chairman). To keep the balance they needed to appoint a male Trustee and the person needed to be a well known and respected member of the village and to have lived in the village for some time. The names were put to the Tempsford Charities Chairman who was in agreement with them, so the first name on the list was asked and he was willing to take this position. The name is Mr. Peter Bettles of Station Road.

Do the Council agree for this person to take the position of Trustee?

RESOLUTION: All Councillors agreed that the person was suitable.

Action – Clerk to write to Mr. Bettles confirming the position.

The above appointment will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 15th April 2014.

8. Children's Play Area

The Chairman has emailed Neil Meixner, he has read the emails but has not replied. It would appear that he is away until the 27th March. Therefore, no progress has been made on the new play area. The Chairman presented a slide show of the condition of the play area at the moment. Concerns: the ground is very churned up, work items have been left on site and improvements to the fencing have not been made. Neil Meixner has apparently retired, so the Council needs to find out who is taking over from him. The Lease is still not yet been finalised ready for signing.

Chairman's initials

19th May 2014.

Play areas inspection Safety Sheets

Safety sheets were handed to the Clerk from Cllr. Besant and Cllr. Infield.

Station Road – items highlighted were, chain link fence at the bottom needs repairing and made safe, there is a lot of moss on the matting, that needs to be removed as it makes it slippery. Twigs from the willow tree need to be removed.

Chairman suggested that if anyone could meet at 10 am on Saturday to try and resolve the moss situation.

Church End – items highlighted were, missing main right hand gate,(removed due to broken bottom hinge bolt) Chris Bettles will be attending to this. Seat: cable type round wooden slat has come loose; caps needed for bolts – 4 missing; bark on the ground is quite sparse.

The ROSPA inspection is due in May the Clerk informed, so it was suggested by Councillors that the Clerk contact Mr. Tony Davis to see if he can repair the chain link fence. The bolt covers for Church End, the Clerk will contact the supplier of the fort and see if they can supply new ones. Cllr. Infield will contact Mark Zwetsloot to see if he knows how to get rid of the moss.

Action: Clerk to contact Tony Davis and the Suppliers of the fort.

9. Central Beds, Councillors.

Cllr. Gurney informed the Council that work would be starting on the Black Cat roundabout on the 1st April and it will take 6 months.

Cllr. Gurney also informed the Council that the Council Tax would be frozen for 2 years as well as the Precept.

10. Planning

Composting site - The Clerk would be attending the first Liason Group meeting on the 3rd April as the Parish Council representative.

Gravel extraction – None of the Councillors were able to attend the meeting on 6th March, but an email had been received by the Clerk with details of items discussed.

Green Infrastructure – So far bird boxes have been put at Cannock Castle. Other suggested items could not be done until later in the year. It was suggested that Cliff Andrews be invited to come and talk at the Annual Parish meeting. Clerk to invite him. **ACTION : Clerk**

11. Highways

The Chairman gave a report saying that he had little success in obtaining anyone to talk to at the Highways. He would continue to try.

Letters had been received from residents regarding the parking near the Kiers entrance in Station Road. The Chairman had some slides taken to show the situation. The points raised in the letters were quite relevant. The Chairman had already replied to one of the residents as the letter was addressed to the Chairman.

Kiers had not yet “turned round” their travel direction, which may help the situation.

The Parish Council could still continue to put notices on cars to discourage the parking alongside the Stuart Court wall. It was suggested that perhaps “no parking” signs could be put on the wall. Highways Dept (CBC) would have to be contacted for this.

Chairman’s initials..... 19th May 2014.

The footbridge over the A1 is badly in need of clearing of branches and twigs.

ACTIONS: Clerk to reply to other resident re parking. Chairman to continue to chase the Highways Agency.

12. Cemetery/Church matters.

Memorials had been received from Mr. Jim Sawford and Mr. Harold Bettles.

Grass Cutting

Tenders had been sent out by the Clerk to 3 contractors, In Trim, All Green Landscapes and Mark Zwetsloot. Only two had replied - All Green Landscapes and Mark Zwetsloot. The Clerk had previously sent an email to all Councillors regarding the amount of cuts that had been done by Mark Zwetsloot, which greatly exceeded the 14 that was tendered for. If this continued for the following year, the cost of grass cutting would be half the Precept, which would not be acceptable. All Green Landscapes were cheaper by almost a £1000. Mark Zwetsloot had said that he was willing to offer a Contract at the same price for 3 years. Councillors were very happy with the work that Mark had done in the past. It was put to a decision and it was resolved that although All Green Landscapes were cheaper, they did not know what his work was like, so to stay with Mark Zwetsloot on the proviso that only 14 cuts per year were undertaken, 2 hedge cuts and 2 weed controls. Anything further would have to be done at the request of the Council.

RESOLUTION: To keep Mark Zwetsloot for the 3 year contract, but the Clerk to write with the above conditions.

13. Finance

Anglian Water Compensation - All Councillors agreed that the £333.33 cheques for each organisation Stuart Memorial Hall, Church and Chapel be sent out.

Purchase of “back-up” device for Parish Council work - The Council agreed that an external hard drive been bought on which Parish Council files can be backed up when the Clerk uses her computer. This should be purchased for Parish Council work and remain the property of the Parish Council. **Clerk to source one.**

A letter had been received from Stuart Memorial Hall asking for a donation to the repainting of the Hall. The Council agreed to donate £750 to the work of the Stuart memorial Trustees.

RESOLUTION: It was resolved that a donation of £750 be donated.

Bursary – The Clerk asked the Council if they would finance the rest of the training for Cilca and Registration. The total would be £200, but the Clerk was applying for a Bursary of a £100 to help with this.

RESOLUTION: It was resolved that the Council would finance the remainder of the training.

The Clerk informed the Council that she had contacted Mr. Elwes regarding the internal auditing of the accounts for the year end. He had said he would be happy to do it again this year.

Chairman’s initials 19th May 2014.

The below payments were approved by Council for payment by the Clerk.

Date	Payee	Details	Total.
07.01.14	Linda Collins	Wages Jan/Feb	£327.68
		Expenses – Stamps	£13.20
13.01.14	Cllr. Cooney	Stop Key	£5.90
01.04.14	BATPC	Not due until April (but no meeting before then)	£116.00

Reconciliation of Balances as at 24.2.14. (Stat 55).

4% Government Stock holding	£ 19.14
Current Account	£13850.58
Savings Account	£15450.32
Tempsford 2000 Account	£ 753.60
Total.	£30073.64

Parish Action Plan is ring fenced in the current account - £1325.00

Income and Expenditure January and February 2014. (Statement 54 & 55).

Date	Details	Income	Expenditure	Balance.
30.12.13	Balance b/f			£14112.42
09.01.14	t/fer	0.66		£14113.08
13.01.14	Eon		£46.92	£14066.16
17.01.14	Deposit Anglian Water	£1000		£15066.16
21.01.14	Chq 762 Linda Collins		£381.56	£14684.60
22.01.14	Chq 763 Mark Zwetsloot		£885.00	£13799.60
27.01.14	Chq 761 Stuart Mem.Hall		£32.00	£13767.60
06.02.14	Chq 760 Methodist Chapel		£38.00	£13729.60
10.02.14	T/fer savings	£0.68		£13730.28
17.02.14	Deposit HM Treasury	£0.30		£13730.58
24.02.14	Deposit Seamers/Sawford	£120.00		£13850.58
24.02.14	Balance			£13850.58

Balances as per Balance Statement 24.2.14 (Statement 55)

4% Government Stocks holding	£ 19.14
Current Account	£13850.58
Savings Account	£15450.32
Tempsford 2000 Account	£ 753.60
Total	£30073.64

Parish Action Plan is ring fenced in current account – Total Amount £1325.00

Chairman's initials..... 19th May 2014.

14. Correspondence/Emails

The Clerk asked if all emails received by her, needed to be sent. It was agreed that all emails be sent, then Councillors could delete as is necessary.

15. Date of Meetings.

In light of Councillor Clark not being able to attend on 2nd Tuesday of the month, the question was put to the Council “which day would suit everyone”? It was agreed that the 3rd Monday of the month would be used instead. Clerk to contact the Stuart Memorial Hall to change bookings and also to contact CBC of change of dates.

RESOLUTION: Change day of week for future meetings to 3rd Monday of month.

The Clerk pointed out other dates for Councillors to put into their diaries:-

Ivel Forum Meeting on Tuesday 8th April at Broom Village Hall.

Parish Council Conference Tuesday 29th April at Chicksands (6-9 pm).

Meetings for the remainder of the year:-

Monday May 19th - Annual Meeting

Monday 21st July Ordinary Meeting

Monday 15th September Ordinary Meeting

Monday 17th November Ordinary Meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.50 hrs. and thanked the Councillors for attending and their contributions.

Linda Collins

Clerk to Tempsford Parish Council

29th March 2014.

I certify these Minutes to be a true record of the meeting held on the 18th March 2014.

Chairman Cllr. A. Besant

Date: 19th May 2014.