

Tempsford Parish Council

Minutes Of Tempsford Annual Parish Meeting On Tuesday 15th April 2014 at 19.30 hrs. in the Stuart Memorial Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting of Tempsford was held on the above date with 21 residents attending, plus 2 Central Beds Councillors, 6 Parish Councillors, Clerk, and 2 speaking visitors.

The meeting was opened at 19.30 hrs by the Chairman of Tempsford Parish Council, Cllr. Adrian Besant, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Previous Minutes:

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th April 2013 were approved and signed.

3. Parish Council Report :

The Chairman introduced the other Councillors that were present and the Clerk. He reported that Cllr. Conor Jameson had resigned because of moving from the village and that a Notice had been put on the Notice Board, of the vacancy, the closing date being 2nd May 2014. He then went on to report what the Council had done during the previous year and items that had been raised.

Affordable Housing: majority of village against it, existing plan now ended.

Speedwatch: the Council is trying to recruit volunteers to run it,

Composting site: formation of Liaison Group to meet twice a year and receive reports of odours.

New play area in Station Road: preparation and legalities still ongoing to get it sorted; the Parish Council will still have to spend a lot of money on it for fencing to ensure safety.

Highways: traffic problems with traffic at Kiers entrance in Station Road, cars parking on verges near Kiers so that sight line is dangerous, also spoiling the verges. Any suggestions as to how to overcome this problem would be appreciated. Other problems dealt with included blocked drains, and poor road signs (CBC have at last responded to this).

The Chairman reported that the Councillors also attended other meetings such as the Ivel Forum meeting, Town and Parish Conference as well as their own Parish meetings during the year.

The Chairman presented the finances of the year using charts and graphs to explain the income and expenditure.

Anglian Water – compensation had been received from them, so the Chairman explained how that had been distributed to the village. Anglian Water had and was still continuing to improve the sewage problem in the village, by increased pumping capacity, new pump, stopped ground water getting into the system and non-return valves. The system should now cope.

4. Report was give by Councillors from the Central Bedfordshire Council.

Cllr. Adam Zerny gave a report on what he had been involved in during the year such as flood water, smells from composting site, and issues regarding broadband. He had attended the Tempsford Show and commented how it has been a pleasure to be a Ward Councillor.

Cllr. Doreen Gurney gave a report that she had also been involved in the composting site and Liaison Group formation, 4 BUPA homes for the elderly that had been closed, 2 had been re-opened, Bedford and Milton Keynes Hospitals organisation and the future of Biggleswade Hospital.

5. Reports from organisations within the village

Methodist Chapel

It is 210 years since the Chapel was built – oldest Chapel in Bedfordshire. Not only is it used for worship, but for a Chat Club, Meet and Eat. A Choir practises every week in the Schoolroom. There is the Shoebox appeal and Christmas Fair. Some windows have been replaced, but others need to be done.

Chairman's initials

Tempsford Charities:

Simon Fraser explained the constitution of the Tempsford Charities and its object for relief to sick, poor and elderly, giving grants in form of cash or kind that may be needed. There are 4 Trustees that administer the Charities. There was a vacancy this year for a Trustee. The Parish Council has the responsibility of nominating trustees, and a name had been put forward and accepted. Therefore, Peter Bettles was accepted as a new Trustee.

Stuart Memorial Hall

As a small committee they had achieved an enormous amount. Quiz, Summer Raffle, Village Show which Mishal Husain had opened and was a great success, Burns Night Supper, Car boot and table top sale. The Hall has been repainted in some areas, gents toilet refelted, stage curtains have been repaired. The outside needs to be painted and new windows. New members would be welcomed on the committee.

WI

Tempsford WI is thriving with the addition of some new young people. There are lots of new speakers and there is a visit to a golf driving range arranged. They have their usual Christmas meal.

Museum and Archives

The Museum opened last July. Approximately 20-30 people come to the museum when it is opened monthly. Some new items have been obtained. At present there is an exhibition of WW1 memorabilia.

Tempsford Times

The Tempsford Times is now being printed by Kiers, which saves the Parish money and it is printed in colour! It was originally set up as sharing between the Parish Church and the Parish Council.

Andrew Gwilliam

Andrew is the Rights of Way Officer at CBC. He covers the area of Tempsford, Stotfold and Old Warden.

He had brought along some maps of the footways, and one to keep for the Parish Council. His job was to work with local land owners so that footpaths, rights of way etc., could be kept open and also opening up new ones. He welcomed people to ring him and discuss any footpaths, or any suggestions to link one place with another – circular routes.

Steve Davey – Highways – Black Cat roundabout

Mr. Davey explained that the new roundabout would be a 1/3rd larger than now. He produced plans for people to look at. The traffic lights on the roundabout will be operating 24 hrs and not part-time as originally planned. They are now looking to start work June 2014 which will last until January 2015.

Tazi Husain

Mr. Tazi Husain gave a presentation of his idea of relocating the Cenotaph which is outside the Stuart Memorial Hall at the moment. A good discussion followed on the history of the memorial, its present state and condition, and other pros and cons of the proposal, and about the proposed village vote on it. It was explained that it was not the Parish Council or the Hall that put the idea forward. Mr. Husain will fund the removal, but he will also try and fund raise. A vote at the meeting was taken about refurbishment of the memorial: it was agreed that if it is not to be moved it will still be renovated (it is understood that there is a government package for this.) It was suggested that if it is moved, that a sign is put to explain where it was originally. The Chairman asked the meeting, if they had any ideas for marking the start of the Great War. Some villagers were having a candlelight vigil. Any suggestions would be gratefully received.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions. He invited everyone to stay for refreshments and view the plans for the Black Cat roundabout. The meeting was closed at approximately 21.45 hrs.

I certify these Minutes to be a true record of the meeting held on 15th April 2014.
Chairman Date.....

Linda Collins, Clerk to Tempsford Parish Council. 30th April 2014.