

**Minutes of Tempsford Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 20th July 2015 at 19.30 hrs. in the Stuart Memorial Hall**

Present:-

Mr. A. Besant	Chairman – Councillor
Mr. J. Donnelly	Vice Chairman - Councillor
Mr. D. Clark	Councillor
Mr. C. Bettles	Councillor
Mr. S. Cooney	Councillor
Mr. S. Fraser	Councillor
Mrs. E. Bull	Councillor.
Mrs. L. Collins	Clerk
Mrs. Doreen Gurney	Central Beds Councillor
Mr. Adam Zerny	Central Beds. Councillor
Members of the public	4

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30 hrs.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from PCSO Lucy Bartlett.

2. Declarations of interest.

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 18th May 2015 were accepted as a true record and were signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. The General Power of Competence.

The Chairman explained that as the Council's Clerk had now gained CiLCA, and that the present Council had all been elected, this makes Tempsford Parish Council eligible to use "The General Power of Competence" – a wide ranging power which enables the Council to do anything an individual can do, without breaking the law. The Clerk gave some examples, but it is more used in Town Councils and bigger Parish Councils. However, she had been advised by BATPC, that it is worthwhile making a resolution that Council could use it, even if they never do. It can be used at any time during the 4 years of the present council. A vote was put forward as to whether the Resolution should be passed.

Outcome - 6 votes for 1 vote against.

Resolution: To Accept The General Power Of Competence

5. Police Report

Lucy Bartlett PCSO was not present, but she had emailed the Report to the Clerk. There had been only 1 report of criminal damage in Church Street, Tempsford – the offender had gained entry to the electricity substation and removed 5 metres of copper pipe and then made off in an unknown direction.

6. Public Session

4 members of the public were present, 3 residents, 1 daughter of resident. The daughter of the resident was concerned about her mother's new neighbours and a domestic incident that had taken place that day. She had been in touch with Aragon Housing and explained that it was causing concern to her mother. It is a 2 bed property housing 3/4 children, one older lady and one youth (16/17 yrs), her carer, plus dogs. The other residents attending the meeting were all present to put their views of this situation. They agreed that the type of house is inappropriate to the needs of the family. A discussion took place as to why local people do not get offered it first.

Councillor Doreen Gurney agreed that by rights the village people should have first choice. She will look into the situation and information was given to enable her to do this.

Other items mentioned by residents were:- pavements are getting very bad and drains in the village seemed blocked, which is the reason for flooding, hedges along paths need to be trimmed by residents, becoming difficult to walk along, especially with a buggy.

Broadband – Councillor Donnelly wanted to know when the village was going to get high speed broadband. It is badly needed for people working at home. CBC Councillors said that BT had put forward the only tender. They estimate that it will be completed by 2019, but Tempsford should be sooner. Alternatives were mentioned, but this could prove a problem if anything goes wrong.

7. Central Beds., Councillors.

Cllr. Zerny – rail related news. It has been formally announced that the level crossing closure project has been shelved. (Council had received a letter confirming this and the Chairman had discussed it with Network Rail).

Cllr. Gurney – She is hoping that the Black Cat flyover and A428 improvement will go ahead.

8. Planning

CB/TRE/15/00251 – Tree Works, pollarding to trees in Tempsford Hall.

RESOLUTION: No objections. Clerk to inform CBC Planning.

9. Central Beds., matters.

a) Trees on link road – Clerk contacted Highways to report the dead trees on the A1 link road. Apparently they came out and inspected them and then sent an email to the say “no further action required at the moment”.

b) Amphibian fence – to find out if it can be taken away. Councillor Clark believes we would have to contact a licence practitioner first.

Clerk to contact CBC Highways to ascertain what needs to be done.

c) Bins – outside Gannock House. Clerk contacted Central Beds Waste which confirmed that bins should not be left out on the pavement. They would get the Waste Service Officer to look into it.

Clerk to contact CBC Waste service to check what progress had been made.

d) Electricity – Street lights. The Chairman and Clerk had compared the street lights with the CBC list which does not appear to be up to date. The Council believes that CBC should actually be paying for the electricity for them all. Cllr. Gurney also agreed. The cost of the electricity to the Parish has doubled since the last bill. After discussion, it was resolved that:-

RESOLUTION: To cancel the direct debit, send the bill back with a letter explaining that Central Beds pay for them. Contact Network UK and tell them that we do not have any lights to pay for. Clerk to attend to.

e) Speed indicators – Cllr. Besant had had a discussion with Kiers as they were looking to instal speed indicators in their grounds using a company called JG Engineering. Clerk will look into cost of similar equipment for use within the village. Cllr. Clark said that anything that goes on the Highway must comply with TSRDG. Cllr. Donnelly commented that there needs to be evidence to prove speeding before money is spent on this equipment. Clerk is still awaiting data from the speed tubes that were placed in Station Road. Perhaps a further survey could be made with the tubes positioned in a better place (e.g. nearer the children’s playground).

f) Bollards – Cllr. Clark had written to Highways requesting a 142 licence to put bollards on the highway. A plan/sketch has been drawn to show where they will be positioned.

g) Signs – Cllr. Bettles mentioned that he had suggested “beware of deer” sign be put on the link road and asked that this be followed up. Finally the Chairman mentioned that the link road resurfacing done in June was very satisfactory and he had sent a complimentary letter to CBC commenting on a satisfactory project.

10. Play areas.

- The Clerk read out the email received from Mark Zwetsloot with 2 ideas for the grass in the play area. After discussion, it was resolved to go for the 2nd idea. “Spray field again as before in the later part of the summer, reseed the areas of the field that are bare and fill a couple of holes that are in the field with top soil. Then when the ground is softer, roll to start to get the bumps out. The cost would be £85 for spraying, to patch up areas £100 and each time rolled £35. This would be an on going process.”

Resolution – 2nd suggestion from MZ. be accepted

- **Gannock Castle** – MZ would charge £150 to clear up all cuttings - It was resolved to have this done. **Resolution – Instruct MZ to clear the cuttings. Clerk to contact.**
- **Memorial Green** – Only cut when needed. £15.00 a cut. **Resolution It was resolved to inform MZ to cut the memorial green ONLY when needed. Clerk to contact.**
- Repairs to play areas – The Clerk had contacted Tony Davis and the new play inspectors to tender for this to be done. Mr. Davis had not come back with a price, but the inspector had said he would sort it out. **Clerk to contact both again.**
- New play area – dogs are going into the new play area where football is played. New “no dogs are allowed” signs are urgently needed. The last signs were done by Gordon Norman. Cllr. Cooney to contact Mr. Norman.
- Bollards for play area. These are on order and will be installed by the next meeting.
- Suggestion of goal posts in new play area. Cllr. Cooney suggested 5 a side goal posts. The position of the basketball post needs to be carefully considered before it is moved into the new area. **Clerk to look into cost of goal posts.**

- Safety sheets not completed. Chairman to discuss with Cllr. Bull how to do them or change them.

11. Church/Churchyard

a) **Cemetery hut** – this has been treated with woodworm treatment by Cllr. Cooney.

b) **Grave Markers** – Cllr. Cooney suggested we could sell them for house numbers only to residents of Tempsford as a piece of history. A suggestion was made that they might be sold at the village show for say £5 each, with the profit going to organisations or church. It could be advertised in the Tempsford Times as well.

12. Finance.

The Clerk explained about the payments that needed to be approved.

Invoices approved for payment by the Council.

Date	Payee	Details	Total
30.5.15.	Linda Collins	May wages Allowance Expenses ink cartridges	£157.13 £10.00 £16.79
01.06.15	Mark Zwetsloot	May grass cutting.	£890.00
02.07.15	Mark Zwetsloot	June Grass cutting	£641.00
30.06.15	Linda Collins	June wages Allowance Expenses, stamps, paper, photocopying and woodworm treatment.	£157.13 £10.00 £47.19
	Total.		£1929.24

Also Council approved payment to Mr. George Elwes for the internal audit (Smile Train). £50.00

The Clerk explained the Bank Statements as set out below:-
Bank Statements Nos. 71 & 72 As at 30th June 2015.

			£	£	£
Date	Ref	Details	Expenditure	Income	Balance.
Balance	b/f				15120.34
11.5.15	t/fer	Savings interest		0.68	15121.02
28.05.15	Chq 806	L.Collins March/April wages	346.79		14774.23
28.05.15	Chq.809	Mark Zwetsloot March/April	1046.50		13727.73
02.06.15	Chq 807	Clements Play Management	96.00		13631.73
05.06.15	Chq.808	OHM Electrics – Defibs install	351.81		13279.92
09.06.15	t/fer	Saving interest		0.61	13280.53
10.06.15	Deposit	500482 Re Mark Seward		220.00	13500.53
15.06.15	Chq 811	Zurich Insurance	759.25		12741.28
16.06.15	Chq 810	BATPC Councillor Training	20.00		12721.28
22.06.15	Chq 812	Land registration replacement	40.00		12681.28
24.06.15	Deposit	500483 Memorial		40.00	12721.28
29.06.15	Chq 805	Dataflame Web (J.Donnelly)	33.59		12687.69
Balance		As at 30.6.15			12687.69

Tempsford 2000 Account.

As at 30.6.15. Balance..... £712.60

Balances as per Bank statement 30th June 2015.

Current account	£12687.69	Bank Statement
Less o/s chq	£226.00	
	£12461.69	Cash Book Balance.
Savings Account.	£15450.32	
Tempsford 2000	£712.60	
Total	£28624.61	

Parish Action Plan is ring fenced in Current account - £1325.00

Note: Once payments agreed today are paid the current account balance will be £10482.45

The Clerk asked if it would be possible to leave the small savings interest in the savings account rather than transferring it into the current account as at present. This would mean that at the end of the financial year we could get a statement for audit. This is not possible at the moment as no transactions are made in the account. Council resolved this could be done. **RESOLUTION: to have the interest kept in the savings account. Clerk needs to get a letter signed by two signatories.**

External Audit – BDO emailed the Clerk to say that the fence recently installed should be on the Report as an Asset. This was not realised by the internal auditor as the land does not belong to the Council. However, if we do not do this, they cannot pass the accounts. Therefore, the Clerk has put it on the Report as an Asset, but BDO will charge £30.

13. Green Infrastructure

Millennium Garden – a work party is needed to lay the path edging. It has been delivered and paid for by BRCC and is stored at Angus Lammie's farm.

Esme Wood – bridge across the ditch. The Chairman had spoken to Henry Spencer re this installation, but they are waiting for Probate for Captain Wynne to be given, and then Permissive Rights will be re-established. The Estate is also looking to renew the fence and entrance gate to the path off Station Road.

Amey offer – this was an email sent to Councillors offering help with a project.

Clerk to look to see if she can find the email and see if they can help in someway.

Daffodils –Cllr. Donnelly asked if he could purchase some more daffodils for the village. Council agreed this could be done. **RESOLUTION: To go ahead and purchase daffodils.**

14. Defibs

Awareness course booked for Tuesday 4th August at 7 pm in the Stuart Memorial Hall. Flyers to be put round the village.

15. Transparency Code

The Clerk had spoken to Louise Ashmore whose advice was that we do not need to have a separate website on which to publish information; we can use the one we have and just put all the information onto it that is required. **Clerk to liaise with cllr. Donnelly to put information onto website.**

16. Correspondence

Cllr. Bull - reported on New Councillor training. It was a useful course. Clerk asked Councillors if they needed to be sent a list of emails she had sent them before each meeting. Councillors agreed that there was no need for it.

17. Date of next meetings.

Cllr. Donnelly could not make the next meeting on the 21st Sept, and asked if it could be changed. Dates suggested, 1) 28th 2) 23rd September. November meeting will be 16th.

Clerk to arrange and check dates with Stuart Memorial Hall to change the September date.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.40 hrs, and thanked the Councillors and members of the public for attending and their contributions.

I certify these Minutes to be a true record of the meeting held on the 20th July 2015.

Chairman – Cllr. A. Besant

Date 28th September 2015.