

TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Tempsford Annual Parish Meeting Held On Tuesday 25th April 2017 at 19.30 hrs in the Stuart Memorial Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting of Tempsford Parish Council was held on the above date with 17 residents, 2 Central Beds Councillor, 5 Parish Councillors, Clerk.

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

Apologies received from Cllr. Liz Bull, Cllr. Dan Clark and Marianne Murphy (Neighbourhood Plan Committee).

2. Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 22nd April 2016 approved and signed.

3. Parish Council Report

The Chairman used an overhead projector to present the Council's Report explaining the list of Councillors, the meetings that were held during the year and expressed that at each meeting there were often 2, 3 or more members of the public which was good. Planning and Finance meetings were also held in addition to the Ordinary meetings. Many topics were discussed and decisions made such as:- play area safety and work on equipment, grants being given, Black Cat and A428 Strategy meetings, grass cutting contract, potholes, litter, dogs, speeding cars, speed watch and speed watch signs, cemetery upkeep, green infrastructure work, new signs to name but a few.

Finance – The Chairman presented a graph of income and expenditure, showing where we obtain our income from and what it is spent on. Largest expense being grass cutting and tree work. For the year 2016/17 the Precept was £12500, but this year the Parish Council have increased it by £500 to £13,000 as work needs to be carried out on play areas.

The Council are continuing to observe the Transparency Code and all financial information is put on the website at the end of the year once it has been audited. All Minutes of each meeting are also put on the website.

4. Report from Central Beds Councillors

Doreen Gurney – As the presentation for the A428 was in Tempsford, everyone will know that there are 3 choices that they have, hopefully they will choose the one that follows the present road. Cllr. Gurney mentioned that she was pushing that we will get small business as a spin off from the new road so give jobs to local people.

Potholes – CBC do have a plan to fill them in and it is a big job, but they are continuing to do this. NHS and Bedford Hospital – possibility it will be made into a good local hospital but with no big trauma cases! There will be cuts.

Adam Zerny – There are many volunteers who help in the village to organise things to make the village a community, which is good.

There are two main things now which are transport and potential housing.

Consultation A428 and Black Cat – there are 10,000 views a week on social media and the CBC does not get across the local feelings for this plan. Which is not good. CBC Local Plan – housing plan for 15 years. Draft plan beginning of June. Vast areas of land locally south of Kiers, Tempsford and Everton. Hopefully it will not be used.

Super-fast broadband – CBC are finally going to bring superfast broadband in July 2017 – Spring 2018.

Adult Social Care – CBC care homes have been inadequate and not good enough. Cllr. Gurney pointed out that two care homes in Luton and Leighton Buzzard since being taken over from CBC have become excellent homes.

5. Police – The Clerk read out an email received from the local PCSO explaining why they did not attend local meeting anymore. The Clerk looked on the uk police site monthly, but they always seem to be at least 2 months behind.

6. Report from organisations within the village: -

Tempsford Charities

This is based in principle to give help to those in need in some way. Discretionary grants were provided as needed and it seems that the people receiving of these grants are extremely grateful and will hopefully continue for many years.

Parish Church

Gloria Jones spoke for the Parish Church of St. Peter's. She started the report with sad news that Reverend Margaret's ill health issues have continued and now with her doctor's advice she will be taking early retirement, returning to the benefice in May and leaving at the beginning of July this year. The Church will do their best to keep things going for now. During the year they have held some very successful events such as Ascension Day at St. Denys Little Barford, it was a good attendance and this year Bishop Richard will be taking the service. Afternoon Tea and Open Church once again was successful, first summer fayre made a profit of £350 which was very good, the Harvest service time as changed and this proved to be good as the attendance was much better, and the Christmas Fayre made over £600 which was excellent. Support for the 12 days of Christmas raised £165 and £500 has been raised over the year from the walkers who like to stop off for tea and cake – their favourite place! However, work needs to be done, such as better heat within the church and guttering. They are a small band of workers, but if there is anyone who can support them by helping one morning with some of these task, they would be grateful for the help. Last year Bedfordshire Archives and Records did a whole report and photographs of properties within the village including the Church which looks wonderful. Do look at their website "Bedfordshire Archives and Records".

Methodist Chapel

Recently celebrated their 213th Anniversary and is the oldest church in Bedfordshire. They continue to have services and hold a monthly, Chat Club which is in its 14th year, "Meet and eat lunch", and new venture "coffee shop", these three are quite often a life line for the elderly or lonely in the village. They still have their Christmas Fayre which is always well attended. The Chapel would like to thank everyone for their support.

Stuart Memorial Hall

Geoff Phipps gave a report on the SMH. On the 3rd April, this year 4 members of the committee stepped down and 5 new members stood. So, there is a new formed committee. The subsequent 1st meeting they came up with a lot of new ideas and are

hoping to have a brainstorming meeting with the village residents for other ideas to have at the hall. They are working on securing a longer-term lease for the museum, organised a new sub-committee to run the important annual village show and are in the process of setting up a new much needed website and trying to run alongside modern social media.

WI

Gloria Jones gave a report on the Tempsford WI reporting that they are proud to be celebrating their 33rd birthday this year. They have had some amazing speakers. They now have 19 members, which means they now have a wide cross section of members from some of the founder members to some of the younger members of the village taking an interest. They did not get their summer outing last year, but hopefully will this coming year. They have increased their darts team over the last two years from 4 to 7 members. They play home games at the Wheatsheaf pub who have been very supportive again this year. In March, they played in the county finals where they managed to come in 2nd place. They had their Christmas meal at the Wheatsheaf and it was another good social evening. Their next meeting will be on Monday 8th May when Gaynor Tinsdale will be talking about working with Braille. All meeting information can be found on the village notice boards.

Museum and Archives

Gaining more popularity, with 30-40 visitors averaging each opening. Together with private openings for various groups and guided walks around the village for the Sandy Tourist Information Centre and some local historical groups. Membership of the Friends of Tempsford Museum has steadily grown over the past 4 years and we now have 107 members, mostly local but some from Scotland, Kent and Sussex some with old family connections. Last year the museum sent out letters to all the long-standing families of Tempsford, those who have been here for many generations, asking them to consider allowing the museum to copy any old family photographs or documents they may have if possible to ensure their long-term preservation. This was a success with over 400 new photos copied together with documents, deeds and old newspaper cuttings. The museum was also fortunate to successful bid on a Ceremonial Sword made in 1898 which belonged to William Stuart of Tempsford Hall. This is now on display in the museum. It is only made possible, through generous donations, membership of the Friends of Tempsford Museum and admission fee that enables them to buy such items. They are now preparing for a huge exhibition of Aerial photographs of Tempsford spanning a period 1945-2016. It will show the change that has occurred in Tempsford. They are hoping to make the museum into a registered Charity and are awaiting their decision. It is open first Sunday of the month 2-4 pm. This month's exhibition will be Tempsford Highways and Byways. We thank everyone for their great support.

Tempsford Times

This magazine started 10 years ago. Kiers are now doing the printing for them. It contains advertisements and what is going on or has been going on. However, it would be good if some residents could bring in a "story" or interesting feature that could be included.

Ivel Sprinter

This has been going for 25 years. A new bus was purchased in March, it did have a few teething problems which have now been resolved.

7. Presentations

Tempsford Estate – A representative of the Estate was asked to give a presentation tonight, but he has had to send his apologies as sadly Mrs. Wynne passed away on Easter Sunday, and he felt it was not appropriate to talk on the estate.

Tempsford Neighbourhood Plan

Andrew Bennett who is Chairman of the newly formed Neighbourhood Planning Strategy Group gave an excellent presentation of what they hope to achieve by doing this plan. He pointed out that it is a legally binding document which gives the village a say in the development that goes on within the village.

To summarize the presentation, the points were: -

Andrew explained the point of the plan, to ensure that we as a village have a say in the development round us. The call for sites there was a huge response and quite large pieces of land near to Tempsford were put forward by land owners. CBC will likely support whatever targets they are asked to meet. The strategy group want to include in their plan, transport links, infrastructure, utilities, broadband, housing including parking allocations, recreation and green spaces including heritage sites, conservation areas and local character, environment including, air, noise, pollution and light pollution. So, they will converse with other local NP groups, find who they are. To do all this, they will define the vision, set up a project plan, agree roles, gather views, opinion, surveys and generally involve the village and get their ideas. They will be transparent and professional. They have access to a 9K Grant, which could be used for consultancy, research and surveys, marketing and printing and possible online costs. He asked the village to keep in touch by email –

tempsfordneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com Facebook - Tempsford Neighbourhood Plan

Twitter @ Tempsford NP. Keep watch for any items that appear on the notice board or in the Tempsford Times. There are still going to be people needed for this project, such as Project Manager, Social Media expert, Web Designer, Legal knowledge, people of influence, transport, housing, recreation, conservation and environment. Cllr. Fraser suggested that they could approach Kiers for help in these areas.

8. The Chairman thanked Andy for his good presentation and the meeting closed at 21.05 after which refreshments were available.

I certify these Minutes to be a true record of the meeting held on the 25th April 2

Chairman Date

*Linda Collins,
Clerk to Tempsford Parish Council 1st May 2017.*