

TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF TEMPSFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 24th March 2019 AT 19.30 HRS IN THE STUART MEMORIAL HALL

The Annual Parish Meeting of Tempsford Parish Council was held on the above date with 10 residents, 3 representatives of the Ivel Sprinter, 2 Central Beds Councillor, 6 Parish Councillors, Clerk, in attendance.

The meeting was opened at 19.30 hrs by the Chairman of Tempsford Parish Council, Cllr. Adrian Besant who welcomed everyone to the meeting and suggested that it should be called Annual Village Meeting, as it was a chance to thank everyone in the village, welcome and share ideas to improve the village. The village has a lot to consider, not just Brexit! but things like, thousands of houses in this area, the new A421/428, East West Railway, CBC Local Plan which is due to be inspected soon. We have a lovely village and area, which is why we settled here and play our part in keeping and maintaining what we cherish. So, we are here to find out what happens in our village.

Minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting held Wednesday 25th April 2018, were published in the Tempsford Times and on the webs site, also available from the Clerk. There were no matters arising, so they were duly signed by the Chairman, as they had been approved at the Ordinary Meeting held on the 24th May 2018.

1. Apologies

No apologies had been received by the Clerk. One received by the Chairman, Meryl Besant.

2. Parish Council Report

The Chairman went onto give a presentation of what the Council has done over the past year and what it has cost. One of our Councillors resigned last year because of re-location, so one member of the public Mrs. Tina Beaumont Goddard responded to the Parish Council for a Councillor. She was co-opted onto the Council at the meeting held on the 16th July 2018. 6 Councillors stood for the new Election term, because Cllr. Dan Clark resigned. Only one person put forward for nomination, so she will be co-opted onto the Council at the next Annual Meeting.

The Council meet 6 times a year, including planning meetings and other meetings that may have to be called. The Council did attend Ivel Forum meetings in the past, but CBC suggested that a Community Board be formed, but unfortunately, there was not much enthusiasm for it. Two meetings were attended by Councillors with Alistair Burt, Local Infrastructure, East/West Rail, A421/428 meetings. Councillor Clark attended frequent Police Priority Meetings at Kempston and felt that it was an important meeting and should be continued by another Councillor now that he was resigning.

The Cemetery/Churchyard is an important area that the Council must upkeep. The fees for burial were looked at and increased in January 2019. These have appeared in the Tempsford Times and on the website. Work has also been done in the Churchyard by a work party of Councillors to tidy some of the trees. There is still a lot of work to be done, which needs to be discussed with the new Vicar. As a Parish Council, we would also like to

thank Cllr. Chris Bettles for building a new gate at the Churchyard and repairing the gate in the cemetery.

Highways – Repairs have been done on the Little Barford Road, including the camber, potholes and two new Tempsford signs have been erected at each end of the village, which look good.

Play area - We are in the process of replacing one of the springers, and pigeon perches have been put on the swings to prevent bird droppings. The fort has been mended, and again we have Cllr. Bettles to thank for that.

Finance - The Chairman, presented a pie chart of the financial income and expenses. Council have set a tight control on expenditure, to allow a specific fund to help groups in the village. Our biggest expense is grass cutting, but we do obtain the best contract that is available. Legal fees were an expense this year, as we have had to register the Parish Council's land. The cemetery is the Council's only income, unless we can obtain any grants that become available.

"Keeping in Touch" – Tempsford Times is a way of keeping in contact with what is going on in the village, as well as the notice boards, BUT now we have "Facebook".

Cllr. Fraser has initiated this and has been running it for a couple of months, but now is here to launch it as Tempsford Parish Council "Facebook" page. It is a way of supplying a digital newsletter, we need to pass information to people quickly, to listen to what residents have to say and to support other community groups. Why do we need social media "it is not the future, it is today"? The type of items we want to put on are, helpful reminders, road closures, events, crime taken place, emails from CBC – we can share all this with the village. It is NOT for, advertising, marketing, replacing any other formal feedback method. Not for people just to put anything on, it is not for people to put comments on. Only the Parish Council's elected users will post anything on it. So, 1) use it 2) promote it within the Parish 3) let us know if we can help your group

Report from Central Beds Councillors

Cllr. Gurney congratulated Tempsford Parish Council on their work. Cllr. Gurney spoke of how quickly things were moving on, A428, Black Cat roundabout, and she was keeping in contact with the departments. Regarding the East/West Railway, she had been in long discussions with the Chief Executive and suggested they should speak to the local people. There was a debate on where it should go into Bedford, although the money was already there for the Wixams. If the railway comes to Tempsford, the idea is to develop a large housing development. Cllr. Gurney also touched on how the crime rate had increased in Everton and Potton. She congratulated the Stuart Memorial Hall on their recent lottery win. The village should stick together and achieve what they want for Tempsford.

Cllr. Zerny – CBC Local Plan ready for public enquiry in May and June. The building proposed for this area is completely inappropriate. He was still fighting to remove the proposed developments from Appendix 7. East West rail – he believed they know what they want and are sure it is this that will bring the most houses. The local landowners had already put on the website a brochure of a "market town" at Tempsford. However, this had now been removed. He finished with saying that Tempsford has so much to be proud of as a community.

Reports from organisations within the village: -

Tempsford Charities - Cllr. Simon Fraser presented a report as Secretary of Tempsford Charities – Tempsford Charities has existed since 1962, following a merge of two prior local charities dating back to 1847. In its early years, the two prior local charities were established with the intent to provide food and financial aid to the poor and needy of the Parish. In its recent form, Tempsford Charities provides financial support, services or goods to residents considering unfortunate circumstance, illness or injury – or to give assistance to persons preparing for a trade to earn a living. In the last year it was agreed to once again support the Ivel Sprinter, this bus service being recognised as a vital support for the community. Further grants were agreed, which supported community groups and those struggling with illness, even providing some support to a young member of the parish. The Charity can make such grants as a consequence of the income through rent on farmland that the charity owns. This is facilitated by the new estate agents, Strutt and Parker who continue to support the charity and have this year agreed to increase our income and even provide a further donation to the charity. The trustees have thanked them. The grants are discretionary and as such I will not disclose the individuals who are beneficiaries. However, one area we very much like to support is those that are starting out with their careers. Whether in further education, or through self-employment where the individuals are less able to financially support themselves, the charity is able to provide a modest grant. Accordingly, the trustees would be very grateful for any assistance that the Parish Council could provide to modestly raise awareness of this opportunity, for example utilising social media to promote the opportunity and gather expressions of interest in advance of a Trustees meeting.

Tempsford Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. Bettles was the only person from the Neighbourhood Plan at the meeting and he reported that the Plan was 80% complete and a lot of hard work was taking place now.

St. Peter's Church – The Chairman gave the report. 2018 was a strange year for St. Peter's. With no Priest-in-charge and down to only one or two regular worshipers, it was decided it should become a chapel of ease. This meant there would be no Sunday services, other than St. Peter's day, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day, plus the veteran's service which is always well attended by the veterans and their families. Sadly, we did not hold any Summer or Christmas Faye; as we have very few members, we are finding it hard to continue. In November, we had the licensing of our new Priest in charge, Reverent Graham Buckle and welcomed him and his wife Davina, to the Benefice. He took our Christmas Eve service and it was very well attended. In 2019 Rev Graham has reinstated our two Holy Communion services, one at 9.30am and one at 11 am every month. He is trying his best to keep St. Peter's going, but without regular worshipers, we are not sure for how long; the services we have had until now have not been well attended. At our Easter service, sadly only 5 people attended. We all have busy lives, but considering in the Village Survey, the Church came top of the list of things villagers would hate to lose, it is very sad.

Methodist Church – Stephen Gosling gave a report. We are still here, just surviving. We have 2 services a month, 6pm in the summer and 3pm in the winter. 3 main monthly "get togethers" are held, Chat Club, Meet and Eat and the Coffee Shop. These are all very well supported. Repairs to the roof of the Church have recently been undertaken, but if we are to continue, we need the support from the community.

Stuart Memorial Hall – Brian Harrison, Chairman of the Hall reported that they had improved the bank balance by £3000. Bookings were increased. However, two classes had

been lost Tia Chi and Yoga, and it seems no-one from Tempsford attends classes at the hall, we really need to participate more in this area. No major repairs were done, although the gents toilet roof was leaking so this was a small repair. A grant from the National Lottery of £10,000 had been obtained for the Fire and Emergency needed at the hall, which was essential for the hall to continue to open. The hall had to put £2000 towards it. Events were the village show, BBQ. We hope to organise more in the coming year. The National Lottery contacted the hall to ask if we would like to try for a lottery grant award of up to £50,000, but we had to win this amount by votes. We did not think we had a chance at all but are very pleased to announce that we won the grant of £50,000, which will be used for updating disabled facilities and general redecoration.

Tempsford WI - Kay Quinn gave a report for the WI. They meet on the 2nd Monday of the month and have 17 members age ranging from early 30's to 70, but we can always do with more members. They have lots of successful meeting and talks on a variety of subjects, such as dogs for health, flower arranging, Africa, and much more and of course a Christmas meal.

Tempsford Museum and Archives. The Chairman Steve Cooney reported. We have 107 members and on average 40/50 visitors attend every month. Artefacts and photos donated regularly at each opening. We are not a profit-making organisation – all our income goes to pay our rent and public liability insurance and any surplus money goes into a fund to purchase anything on the open market through auctions etc., that we feel is of historic value to Tempsford village. Donations of items have continued to pour in since we opened 6 years ago so much so that we were running out of space and so we approached the SMH to lease the former Library for storage of Archive and to allow visitors to sit and view the archives allowing free movement in the main museum room. Thanks to one of our members, new shelving was made for the room saving us about £1000. The purchases this year have been a new display cabinet, vast archive of RAF Tempsford and many other photographs, postcards, wills, papers and other ephemera associated with Tempsford. Apart from our normal opening Sunday, we have a packed year of activities – on our last open day, which coincided with the Stuart Memorial Hall open day, we agreed to open Free of Charge to all visitors to support the hall committee in their bid for a £50,000 lottery grant vote. The Museum Trustees add our congratulations to them on their success in obtaining that grant. Visit to Bomber Command Veterans day at Godmanchester again to promote the Museum, Willington Historical Group will be visiting the museum on 15th May, again promoting the museum at the Porch Museum in Godmanchester on June 8th, a trip out to The National Arboretum on 15th June and the RAF Tempsford Veterans summer meeting on June 29th. Village Show we will be open and a talk for the Roxton History Society in November. So, a thank you to everyone that support the Museum.

Ivel Sprinter – Terry Wood, Chairman of the Ivel Sprinter spoke but also Graham Daniels, Treasurer and Robert Emmett who organises the driver rota were in attendance. Terry believed the Ivel Sprinter originated here in Tempsford and has since grown to a 6 day a week service with 34 volunteer drivers still calling here every day. He knows the timetable has a predominate place in the Tempsford Times, but unfortunately there has been a substantial fall here in numbers over the past year or two, which is something we would very much like to see change and any ideas you may have to encourage local people to use the bus would be most welcome. As the majority of passengers tend to be elderly, we took the decision last year to purchase a new bus that has low entry without steps to make easier access. This has proved to be popular and we are seeing an increase in passenger numbers in other areas. It has however proved to be a bit warm in the summer months as it does not

have any opening windows, so we are in the process of having air condition fitted. Over the next few months we will be reassessing our routes and times as passenger numbers in different areas change over the years and we feel there is a need to make some alterations in order to keep to the published timetable and try to include villages such as Roxton who at the moment do not have a bus service. Being a voluntary service, we rely heavily on grants and donations to keep running and ensure we have sufficient funds to enable us to purchase a new bus when the times arises. We are, therefore, very grateful for the donation and support given to us each year by Tempsford Parish Council and Tempsford Charities.

Proposed Football Team in Tempsford - Joe Lawrence wants to start a Tempsford Football team. He has lived in the village all his life and wondered why there is now no football team. He has approached the Parish Council and Kiers for support. They are training now regularly on a Thursday. Keir's have offered a £200 donation for equipment. A kit has been purchased. Joe feels it would be a great thing for community spirit. They are now part of a League. They cannot have home game on Tempsford field as there are no changing rooms, but it is his vision to do so at some point. They will have to use another pitch, such as Everton, Blunham or Roxton. Any support would be most welcomed.

The Chairman ended the meeting and thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting and offered everyone to stay for refreshments.

I certify these Minutes to be a true record of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 24th March 2019.

Chairman Date.....