

Minutes of Tempsford Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2009 at 7:30pm in the Stuart Memorial Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting of Tempsford was held on 21st April 2009 with approximately twenty residents of Tempsford in attendance.

ACTION

- 1 The meeting was opened at 19:35 by the Chairman of Tempsford Parish Council Cllr. Adrian Besant who welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 **Apologies**
Apologies were received from PC Ross Paterson, Cllr. John Scott, Cllr. Mrs Jo Davison and Rev. Margaret Marshall.
- 3 **Previous Minutes**
The parish clerk read out a summary of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting; the meeting agreed that they were correct, and were signed as such by Cllr. Adrian Besant.
- 4 **Parish Council Report**
Cllr. Adrian Besant introduced the members of the parish council to everyone and explained their roles and areas of activity that had kept the council busy during the year. Cllr Besant also reported on the council's financial activity during the year using charts to explain income and expenditure.
- 5 **Parish Website**
Cllr Jim Donnelly spoke about www.tempsford.org and gave a statistical account of visits to the site as well as the information that is available.
- 6 **Millennium Gardens**
Steve Cooney gave a brief update of the gardens and what had been done during the year.
- 7 **St. Peter's Church**
Sandra Cloughton spoke in the absence of the new rector, Rev Margaret Marshall, saying that she is settling in slowly and wishes to get to know the people of Tempsford. It is hoped that she will be able to move into the residence in Great Barford in June.
- 8 **Police**
Cllr Adrian Besant gave out copies of crime statistics and read out a report received from the beat bobby, PC Ross Paterson (who attends the council's meetings in May and November) stating that the crime level for Tempsford is low but there has been an increase in the Ivel villages as a whole. Arrests have been made but residents still need to remain vigilant and report anything that appears suspicious. The owner of the unruly dog in Mill Lane was arrested and faced a court case; there has been no report of any issues following the court case. The next mobile police surgery will be held on 15th June 2009.
- 9 **Tempsford Methodist Chapel**
Steve Gosling stated that the chapel is 205 years old and holds three services a month. Various functions are held regularly and have been well attended and proved successful.
- 10 **Tempsford Chat Club**
Carole Gosling reported about the very successful Chat Club and how it started in 2002. The club provides a social place to meet along with tea, cakes, lunches and outings for the local community. Carole brought along a photograph album for attendees to view.
- 11 **Stuart Memorial Hall**
Eileen Gosling (Chairperson) updated the meeting stating that the hall is well used with lots of activities taking place. Some decoration and cleaning had taken place during the year. The hall is also used by a national philatelist club, due to its situation on the A1 main trunk road it is in an ideal position for folk who travel from the north or south.
- 12 **Helping Hands**
Allan Tuffnell reported that the group's aim is to provide community help to those in need, such as gardening, shopping hospital and doctor's visits. This is a valuable service and new helpers are always welcome.

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- 13 **Tempsford Times**
Alan Tuffnell stated that the local newsletter, delivered free to all households, is now showing a small profit. The team are looking at using the profits towards introducing some colour into the magazine. A cross section of community activity articles is reported and new ideas and articles are always welcome.
- 14 **The Ivel Sprinter**
Adrian Besant gave a brief update to the members explaining that they are seeking funds to purchase a new bus. This is a registered charity and designed to serve Biggleswade and Sandy rural areas. The service is managed and driven by local volunteers.
- 15 **Tempsford Parish Plan**
Cllr. Dan Clark explained that the Parish Plan is moving forward now and several events had taken place recently with more to follow during the next few months. Interest from the local community had been encouraging. A final questionnaire is planned to be issued in later this year and the actual plan completed next year. This will provide local community and the parish council with a five to ten year forward plan that has been created by local people.
- 16 **New Central Bedfordshire**
Cllr. Tricia Turner, leader of Central Bedfordshire, gave a brief account of how the new unitary authority has evolved and what is happening now and also planned for the future. Cllr. Turner spoke about the forthcoming elections on 4th June 2009 and explained that there will be two councillors representing this area.
- 17 **Peoples, Projects, Partnership (P3)**
Steve Halton, the P3 officer for this area within Central Bedfordshire, explained that the aim of P3 is to encourage local community groups to get into, enjoy, improve and understand their local countryside. He went on to give examples of projects recently undertaken in other local areas. Steve will be working with Tempsford Parish Plan group to promote this issue.
- 18 **Questions/Comments**
Steve Gosling mentioned the sewerage problem at bottom end of Station Road. It was resolved that the Parish Council would write to Anglian Water with a copy to Central Bedfordshire to raise this issue.
Cllr. Tricia Turner stated that several villages have water problems and Central Bedfordshire is grouping these issues together to work through with Anglian Water.
- Following no further questions or comments Cllr. Adrian Besant thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21:25.

Clerk to
action

Jan Ward
Clerk to Tempsford Parish Council
22nd. April 2009

I certify these minutes to be a true record of the meeting held on 21st April 2009.

Date

Chairman

Cllr. A G Besant