

Minutes of Tempsford Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 19th April 2011 at 7:30pm in the Stuart Memorial Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting of Tempsford was held on 19th April 2011.

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. 15 parishioners were present.

2 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Caroline Maudlin and Jeff & Sandra Claughton.

3 **Previous Minutes**

The clerk read out a summary of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting which had been agreed as correct at the council meeting on 20th July 2011.

4 **Parish Council Report**

Cllr. Adrian Besant reported that the Parish Council had met on 6 occasions throughout the year and the planning committee, under its new format, had met once. AB stated that Town & Parish Council election are to take place on 5th May and there are currently 6 people willing to serve on the Parish Council and one vacancy. AB thanked Cllr Ian Gosling, who has decided not to stand for re election, for all his contributions and work over the last 4 years. The vacancy on the Council will be filled by co-option.

Cllr Besant then went on to introduce the members of the Parish Council to everyone and explained that each councillor was responsible for a specific area and would be reporting on that area this evening

Cllr Donnelly addressed the meeting and explained that his area of expertise was the parish website www.tempsford.org. The website has seen an increase in hits during the year with 97% of people finding the address through Google. The most popular item on the website was the online version of the Tempsford Times receiving 507 hits, in 2nd place was the Millennium Gardens, 3rd place was the Parish Councils page with 309 hits and the village history and useful contacts pages in 4th and 5th place.

Cllr Bettles reported that he was responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the Churchyard and children's play areas and reported that the new contractor was working well and that he would be monitoring grass cutting in these areas over the next couple of months. A yew tree in the Churchyard is causing some concern and the Arboricultural Officer at Central Beds has been contacted with a view to cutting it back. The Children's play areas are also looking in very good condition and the swings and slide in the Station Road area were moved during the year to comply with the recommendations of a ROSPA report. The back boards of the Basket Ball hoops are to be repaired.

Cllr Gosling reported that the Parish Council had taken the decision to purchase two new notice boards for the village as the current ones are starting to look worn. Greenbanes, who have worked with numerous Parish Councils have been chosen to supply the two new light coloured oak boards and these should be erected in the near future.

Cllr Cooney oversees the Parish Cemetery and the Millennium Gardens and stated that the cemetery is looking in good order. He reported that the old part of the cemetery was now closed for new purchases. This decision was taken some time ago as the old burial records held by the Parish Council were not in order and some confusion over plots were causing concerns. The Clerk and Cllr Cooney are to plot out the old cemetery burials on a map currently being drawn up.

The Millennium gardens celebrated its 10th anniversary in December. The railings are to be repainted in June and will cost in the region of £1000 which has been raised over the last 10 years by fund raising events.

Cllr Infield stated that over the last 3 years the grass cutting throughout the Parish had been carried out by In Trim Grounds Maintenance and unfortunately this year they were unable to tender for the contract. Two quotes were received for the current contract and it was decided to employ Mark Zwetsloot for the year to March 2012. Mark is local and has family interest in the Village. The play areas are cut by Councillor and local volunteers.

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The Chairman has the responsibility of highway matters and has regular walkabouts with Paul Joyce of the highways Department at Central Beds Council. There are two main repairs scheduled for the year, being resurfacing of the roundabout and the "ski slope" into Church End and the pavements in Station Road.

Cllr Besant also reported that he was asked to give a presentation at the Town & Parish Councils conference hosted by Central Beds Council in January on the work carried out by Councillors and volunteers in the village.

Cllr Besant & Donnelly have attended a training course run by the Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils on developing chairmanship skills.

Cllr Besant gave a presentation on the council's financial activity during the year using pie charts to explain income and expenditure.

5 Tempsford Charities

The Clerk of the Tempsford Charities sent his apologies and provided the meeting with a written report stating that the trustees continue to meet and manage the Charities limited fund and assets. They continue to award grants to assist community activities benefiting the elderly or sick and relieve poverty or give help and assistance in times of sickness or distress. If any parishioner has knowledge of any particular resident who it is felt is in need of assistance please bring this to the attention of the Trustees.

6 Police

PC Tom Dobinson reported that the crime levels for Tempsford have dropped by 5%. There have been 5 incidents of Anti Social Behaviour and 21 crimes reported. These crimes are 1 violent assault, 3 House Burglaries, 3 other burglaries, 4 criminal damage to vehicles, 6 thefts from motor vehicles and 4 other. The house burglaries were connected to a spate of similar incidents along the A1 corridor from the Black Cat roundabout to Biggleswade. Controls will continue to be carried out and the monthly mobile police surgeries will continue and are to be better advertised with some being held in the evening.

7 Central Bedfordshire Council

Cllr. Tricia Turner, leader of Central Bedfordshire, expressed her sadness that this will be her last meeting as Ward Councillor or Tempsford and thanked everyone for their support over the years. She explained that Central Beds have been focusing on their budget as they have had to find saving of 12 million pounds this year. A further £20 million pounds of saving have to be found for next year. Cllr Turner also explained that she is standing for re election but not as leader of the council.

8 St. Peter's Church

The Rev Margaret Marshall was unable to attend the meeting but gave a written report stating that the membership of St Peter's church had dropped below the level of long term sustainability and the lack of resources both human and financial are taking it toll with only 2 years contingency funds left. The church is also looking for volunteer church wards to assist Rev Marshall.

9 Tempsford Methodist Chapel

Steve Gosling stated that the chapel is 207 years old and holds three services a month. The refurbishment of the kitchen and toilet areas have now been completed and thanked the Parish Council for their donation.

10 Stuart Memorial Hall

Eileen Gosling (Chairperson) updated the meeting stating that the hall is well used with lots of activities taking place. She also reported that unfortunately due to the oil thefts of last year the hall's finances have suffered although books are on the increase. 2 new trustees have been appointed following the departure of Alan Tuffnell who is sadly missed. A bench, plants and planters have been donated to the hall. The Trustees have been in contact with the Parish Council with regard to a small reduction of the area around the base of the War Memorial which will improve the front entrance.

11 Tempsford Chat Club

Carole Gosling reported about the very successful Chat Club and how it started in 2002.

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The club provides a social place for older members of the community to meet, along with tea, cakes, lunches and outings for the local community and have activities planned up to Christmas.

- 12 **Tempsford Times**
Adrian Besant stated that the village bi monthly newsletter is delivered free to all households. A cross section of community activity articles is reported and new ideas and articles are always welcome.
- 13 **The Ivel Sprinter**
Adrian Besant gave a brief update to the members explaining that a new bus has been purchased bring the number to two in service. The service is managed and driven by local volunteers and two new routes covering Upper Caldecote and Old Warden had been added to the service.
- 14 **Questions/Comments**
Cllr Anita Lewis ward councillor for Potton commented that she had attended, along with Cllr Doreen Gurney, several Annual Parish meetings and felt that she need to stated that the presentation by Councillors in Tempsford was by far the best she had attended and that it had given her a very good understanding of Tempsford, its parishioners and the excellent work being carried out.

Amanda Baldwin
Clerk to Tempsford Parish Council
19th April 2011

I certify these minutes to be a true record of the meeting held on 19th April 2011.

Date

Chairman

Cllr. A G Besant