

Minutes of Tempsford Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 2008 at 7:30pm in the Stuart Memorial Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting of Tempsford was held on 18th March 2008 with more than thirty residents of Tempsford in attendance.

ACTION

- 1 The meeting was opened at 19:30 by the Chairman of Tempsford Parish Council Adrian Besant who welcomed everyone.
- 2 **Previous Minutes**
The parish clerk read out the minutes of the previous meeting which was agreed and signed by Adrian Besant.
- 3 **Parish Council Report**
Cllr. Adrian Besant introduced the members of the parish council to everyone and explained 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 pie charts to explain income and expenditure.
- 4 **Millennium Gardens**
Steve Cooney gave a brief history of the gardens and how they had been used during the year. Sadly, the lead from the garden wall had been stolen but repairs were underway. Steve Cooney thanked all the helpers and fundraisers for their invaluable efforts during the year.
- 5 **Police**
Cllr Adrian Besant reported that the beat bobby, PC Ross Paterson, attends the council's meetings in May and November. However, no response had been received from him to attend this meeting.
- 6 **Beds County Council**
Cllr. John Scott spoke about the new unitary council which will come into being from April 2009, and then went on to explain how the Confident Communities fund and the Parish Partnership initiatives are used by Parish Councils.
- 7 **Mid Beds District Council**
Cllr Jo Davison reported on housing development and new jobs that are planned for the future as well as the recycling initiative that is in progress within Mid Beds DC.
- 8 **Tempsford Charities**
Phil Russell gave a brief history of the charity explaining that it was originally set up to help the poor and needy of the village. Phil gave a list of the current members of the charity committee.
- 9 **St. Peter's Church**
The Reverend Barbara Ebeling stated that two services per month are held in the church. A lot of fund raising had taken place during the year and events had been well supported by the community. Several groups are active within the church including mother and toddler, youth and house groups. A special remembrance service is held each year in July at Tempsford Airfield. Barbara thanked the Parish Council for looking after the churchyard.
- 10 **Tempsford Bell Ringers**
Jeff Claughton reported that there are six bells in the tower, the oldest dated from 1614. Members come from Tempsford and nearby parishes and they ring for major church festivals and Sunday services. Practice alternates with Blunham church and takes place on Wednesday evenings.
- 11 **Tempsford Methodist Chapel**
Steve Gosling stated that the chapel is over two hundred and four years old and holds three services a month. A well supported chat club provides tea, cakes lunches and outings for the local community. The shoebox appeal was successful with one hundred and four boxes provided by Tempsford.

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- 12 **Stuart Memorial Hall**
Eileen Gosling explained the history behind the building. The hall is well used with lots of activities taking place. A new hall sign, as well as a sound system has recently been installed. The kitchen has also been refurbished. The hall also has a library and a snooker room and Eileen stated that Tempsford community is very fortunate to have such an amenity.
- 13 **Women's Institute**
Betty Russell stated that this is a small informal group that meets once a month, but they vote and have an important voice on national issues.
- 14 **Helping Hands**
Gordon Norman reported that this is a small group set up four years ago to provide community help to those in need, such as gardening, shopping hospital and doctors visits. This is a valuable service and new helpers are always welcome.
- 15 **Tempsford Times**
Alan Tuffnell stated that this local newsletter is delivered free to all households and was set up just over a year ago with the aid of grants and is supported by the Parish Church and the Parish Council. Through local advertising and volunteers it is now fully self funding. A cross section of community activity articles is reported and new ideas and articles are always welcome.
- 16 **The Ivel Sprinter**
David Harrison, the General Secretary of the East Beds Community Bus Association reported that two buses are in operation. This is a registered charity and designed to serve Biggleswade and Sandy rural areas. The service is supported by Beds CC and sponsored by a number of national and local agencies and organisations. It is managed and driven by local volunteers.
- 17 **Tempsford Parish Plan**
Cllr. Dan Clark explained that this is a government supported initiative to help the local community decide and create a five to ten year plan for the future of their area. The group has been granted funding to organise meetings, events surveys and printing. It is expected to take eighteen months to complete. More committee members and community minded volunteers are always welcome.
- 18 **Questions/Comments**
One person asked about section 106 and 137 money. Cllr. Adrian Besant explained where it comes from and how the Parish Council can use it. Other parish problems were raised including:
Sewerage pumps being out of action.
Reduced water pressure in Station Road.
Reduced Electricity supply in Church Street.
The willows trees growing in the ditch at Station Road junction.
Speeding in the village.
Mobile Police Surgery.
Some of these items had already been reported but the Parish Council will report those that haven't.
Cllr. Adrian Besant thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21:25.

Jan Ward
Clerk to Tempsford Parish Council
6th April 2008

I certify these minutes to be a true record of the meeting held on 18th March 2008.

Date	21 st April 2009
Chairman	Cllr. A G Besant