

**MINUTES OF TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY  
2025 AT 7.30PM IN THE STUART MEMORIAL HALL, TEMPSFORD**

Mr. David Sutton	Chair
Mr. Adrian Besant	Vice Chair
Mr. Steve Cooney	Councillor
Mrs. Tina Goddard	Councillor
Mr. Chris Bettles	Councillor
Mrs. Tammy Giddings	Councillor
Mrs. Teresa Gilman	Clerk

<p><b>Chairman's welcome</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and formally let everyone know that Councillor Knott had tendered his immediate resignation on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025. He then explained the process for finding a new Councillor.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the new Parish Clerk Janice who would be taking over from Teresa Gilman at the end of January 2025. The Council thanked Teresa Gilman the outgoing Parish Clerk.</p>	
<p><b>83. Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>There were none</p>	
<p><b>84. Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were none</p>	
<p><b>85. Minutes</b></p> <p>It was resolved that the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were an accurate account and duly signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p><b>86. Public Session</b></p> <p>A Member raised concerns that the turning circle was being used for parking making it difficult for the bus to turn.</p> <p>A welfare unit and two cars had been abandoned outside the Housing Association homes on Station Road.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Sutton to speak to owner of the parked vehicle.</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Besant to speak to Scott Terry about parking signs</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Giddings to report it</b></p> <p><b>Clerk to contact Housing Association and ask them to tidy it up</b></p>

<p><b>87. Report from Central Beds Council</b> There was none.</p>	
<p><b>88. Clerk's Report</b> The Clerk gave an update about a complaint from a resident and made Members aware of a parishioner's report about a person needing help from the police.</p>	
<p><b>89. Clerk recruitment update</b> The new Clerk had been employed and had started in January 2025. During the rest of the month the outgoing Clerk would be handing over work to the new Clerk.</p>	
<p><b>90. Finance</b> Members received the Finance report and a report from Scribe the new accounting software package. Members received a report from the Clerk about Scribe the new account software. A Member asked for a more detailed report. The Chairman and Clerk explained that the Scribe accounting software package would make that easier going forward. It was agreed that the Clerk and the Chairman would have access to Scribe.</p> <p>Councillor Cooney gave an update on the Christmas Carol event at the Millenium Garden in December 2024. £93.69 was raised after costs. Councillor Cooney would transfer the money to the account.</p>	
<p><b>91. Budget setting 2025-2026</b> Members discussed the budget for 2025 – 2026. It was proposed, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b> to pass the budget for 2025 – 2026.</p>	
<p><b>92. Precept</b> Members discussed an increase to the precept. It was proposed, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b> to increase the budget to £18,000 which was a 2.9% increase.</p>	
<p><b>93. Policies</b> Following a complaint from a parishioner the Clerk had drafted an up to date Complaints procedure which the Members discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would produce a second draft.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk explained that NALC's Social Media Policy template didn't fit with the Tempsford Parish Council Official Group. The Clerk suggested that the page be changed so that it was for the use of the Council to provide community information and updates on the Council's work rather than a group where anyone can post updates. Members discussed this. It was proposed, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b> to change the Facebook page in line with the Clerk's suggestions.</p>	<p><b>Clerk to produce second draft and hand to incoming Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk to draft a policy in line with the modified page.</b></p>

<p><b>94. Anglian Water</b></p> <p>The temporary drainage system that Anglian Water had put in place had worked. The Chairman confirmed that Anglian Water had not confirmed if the system would be in place during the winter of 2025/2026.</p> <p>The Council would review how well it had worked at the next Parish Council meeting however they wanted to keep the system in place.</p>	
<p><b>95. Flooding</b></p> <p>The Chairman gave an update on the multiagency meetings that he chaired. That particular group was the most successful in getting things implemented. It was confirmed that £1.2 million investment to the infrastructure was needed to fix the problem.</p> <p>The Environment Agency was producing an infographic to explain the water flow through the River Ouse.</p> <p>The Chairman urged Members to ask parishioners to fill in the Environment Agency's flooding survey so the Environment Agency had evidence of flooding. There was also the Flood:RE insurance scheme available to those who had been flooded.</p>	
<p><b>96. Crime Statistics</b></p> <p>There were 7 crimes reported in November</p>	
<p><b>97. Grants</b></p> <p>Councillor Giddings gave an update on the A428 grant application. Councillor Giddings asked for RoSPA reports so that she would be able to apply for a grant for playground equipment. She would also get quotes for play equipment.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Sutton to send the RoSPA reports to Councillor Giddings.</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Giddings to get quotes in order to apply for the Grant</b></p>
<p><b>98. Highways and pavements</b></p> <p>Councillor Besant gave an update. Central Bedfordshire Council had confirmed that the bridge would be resurface in March 2025.</p> <p>The lights at the link road and junction with Station Road needed to be repaired. The bollards in the area also needed to be repaired.</p> <p>There were many ongoing problems including the path on Church Street which was very slippery and therefore dangerous.</p>	

<p><b>99. East West Rail</b></p> <p>The Chairman and other Councillors had attended a consultation meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The Chairman gave an update about the meeting. Members discussed the favoured North route. There had been assurances about any noise disturbance but there could be disruption to the village. Richard Fuller MP was keen to know the Parish Council's response.</p>	
<p><b>100. Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>The deadline for responses to the Housing Survey Needs was 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024. There had been four responses. This was to be added to the Neighbourhood Plan so that it could be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Sutton to send to Members</b></p>
<p><b>101. Speed indicator device</b></p> <p>Councillor Besant gave an update on the speed indicator devices. Both had to be charged and a new battery was required for one.</p>	<p><b>Councillors Sutton and Besant to charge the devices and get a new battery</b></p>
<p><i>Clerk's note – 9:38 Councillor Sutton left the meeting</i>  <i>9:39 Councillor Sutton returned to the meeting</i></p>	
<p><b>102. Developments</b></p> <p>There were no updates on developments.</p> <p>Members discussed unapproved building works.</p>	
<p><b>103. Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p> <p>The Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The Annual Parish Council Meeting would take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</p>	
<p><i>Clerk's note – 9:52 Councillor Cooney left the meeting</i>  <i>9:54 Councillor Cooney returned to the meeting</i></p>	

The meeting closed at 9.56pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

I certify that these Minutes to be a true record of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Signed  
Chairman

Date