

# TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 IN THE STUART MEMORIAL HALL AT 19.30HRS.

Mr. David Sutton,	Chairman
Mr. Steve Cooney	Councillor
Mrs. Tina Beaumont Goddard	Councillor
Mrs. Tammy Giddings	Councillor
Mrs. Linda Collins	Clerk
Mrs. Tracey Wye	CBC Councillor
Andy Skelhan	Regional Manager – Anglian Water
Grant Tuff	Anglian Water
Mr. Paul Salmon	National Highways
Members of the public	24

The Chairman, Cllr. Sutton welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting for Tempsford, which is as all meetings are, open to residents to attend. The Chairman would talk about what the Parish Council had done during the year, Groups within the village would also talk about their activities. Apology was received from Richard Fuller MP, who could not attend because of a vote that he needed to be involved in at The Houses of Parliament.

### Tempsford Parish Council

Minutes of the of the last Annual Parish Meeting dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were approved and all actions had been carried out. They will be signed by the Chair.

Cllr. Sutton proceeded to explain the Parish Council is a voluntary organisation, no Councillor receives a remuneration. A visual presentation as then given on: -

How much it costs to run the Parish Council, grass cutting being the biggest expense. It is funded by the Precept that is received from Government. Our only other income is from the cemetery. This past financial year, we also had the extra costs of an Election, which is paid direct to Central Beds Council. The Council are trying to keep costs down, and that has been done this year by changing the contractor for grass cutting. The Council have increased the precept this year from £16,000 to £17500. **As a Council we need to keep one-year operating costs in reserve.**

**Neighbourhood Plan** – you may ask why this is still going on. It went to 1<sup>st</sup> consultation, and it came back from CBC and their recommendation, was indicating that we had no development in the Plan so will not work. A housing survey was done in 2009 and needs to be done again. This needs to be presented again, but we need to get a new Grant to be able to do the Survey. This will be done now it is the beginning of a new financial year, we hope then to proceed to finish the Neighbourhood Plan.

**New Park Equipment S106** – As a Council we applied for S106 money, which we found out we were entitled to from some development some years ago, before the rules changed. Therefore, we claimed that money and it has to be used in specific areas. We were able to purchase a new piece of equipment for the small play area in Station Road, Goal posts for the coronation football game, benches and BBQs for the Gannock Castle picnic area.

**Planning** - The Wheatsheaf Public House – had 3 Planning applications put forward. With the comments of the Council and some residents, all 3 planning applications were thrown out.

Lambcourt Farm – We have objected to it, because of the surface water going into the sewer and flooding. Something that is not needed in Tempsford.

**Speeding** – 2 speed cameras have been purchased. One on each side of the village. Last year the speed in the village was: - Church Street 73 mph. Today's speed 43mph. Average 28 mph. 7.7% speeding. Station Road 53 mph. 2.7% people doing. We feel the cameras have made a difference.

**Events** – Picnic in the Park. Stephen Gosling paid for all the mugs for the Coronation, which we “thank him for”. There were races, Tempsford Football Club, put on a football tournament which was well received – thank you. It was a very successful day. In December the Christmas event was held in the Millennium Garden again which was also successful.

**Highway – maintenance** – The roads and pavements are still not good. Cllr. Besant has been chasing Highways continually during the year for some progress. The area near the post box in Station Road, has been tidied up and an extra parking space provided.

**EWR** – They have been contacting people again where land could be affected by the proposed railway. The Council had a meeting with other Parish Councils locally to discuss the railway, the affect it would have on Tempsford and surrounding villages. They were keen for us to join Bfare, however after further investigation, it appeared that the route they were promoting would actually be worse for Tempsford. The rail and a station at Tempsford or near, is all about housing being put here. They will be doing a community event in the Stuart Memorial Hall in July.

**Universal studios** – New theme park to be made at where the old brick works were. EWR are actually supporting it. Could make an impact for EWR! Financially.

All the above was supported by slides for everyone to see. Cllr. Sutton went on to introduce the Groups within the village. Firstly: -

**Stuart Memorial Hall.** - Andy Wines, Chair of the SMH.

The committee want the hall to become a big part of the community. It celebrates its 100-year anniversary next year. Andy went on to explain about the hall and the events in the past year. We have a Committee of Trustees 8 in total from the village, (Steve Ward retired this year who use to run the theatre group from Sandy), that work hard to keep the hall maintained, doing maintenance, admin, and finance. We have a regular stream of rental hirers which we need to keep the hall in the black. We have had substantial refurbishment programme and maintenance is ongoing. In 2023 we increased the hire rates, but despite this we continue to keep our hirers. However, rental alone does not cover all the costs, this is why we need events like, Tempsford village Show, Murder Mystery evening, Adult Panto, Comedy Night, T-Mugs, Book Club, Walkers, Crafters, Beer Club and Sunday Disco (new event this month). We need new people for the committee for future continuance, so anyone interested is welcome to contact me or let anyone know on the committee.

**Richard Fuller MP** – Unfortunately, Richard Fuller could not attend. However, the Chairman, Cllr. Sutton gave a presentation on his behalf.

“Since my visit to meet residents affected by sewage overflows, I have held meetings with Anglian Water and will be holding further meetings in the coming weeks and months. As I am sure is clear to many in Tempsford and the rest of North East Bedfordshire, we need to end finger pointing and create a long term solution to these overflows.

To that end, I am asking local council leaders to give authority to a special commission comprising Anglian Water, local Drainage Boards, The Environment Agency, Parish Councils, local environmental groups and others to work together to create a coherent and shared plan of action; and leadership to hold each agency to account for delivering on their part of that plan. This approach was taken by Norfolk Councils in response to flooding issues and can be a template for a Bedfordshire plan. I will be meeting the Mayor of Bedford Borough later this week to discuss this idea and hope to speak shortly thereafter with the Leader of Central Bedfordshire. - Richard fuller MP

**Central Beds Council - Tracey Wye** – Cllr. Wye reported that they were always there to help. Looking at the year past, the areas they had helped with as much as they could were: - flooding, Planning, enforcement notices, roads, Gannock Castle maintenance, advice Wheatsheaf Public House,

Community energy groups, Community Funding, Community Action, such as lending library and help and neighbour. Also involved with EWR route.

**Tempsford Charities** – Mr. Simon Fraser, Secretary. - Most of the income for the Charity was from land owned to support people. That has become harder. The last 2 years they have gone back to helping people promote their careers and education training. They launched a scheme, but not good at the beginning, but last year has improved. However, the land owned is smack bang where EWR want to go! So, they will get a short-term windfall, but could be difficult in the future.

**St. Peter's Church - Rev. Graham Buckle.** - Thank you for inviting me. St. Peter's Church is struggling financially and people attending. Rev. Buckle thanked the Parish Council for maintaining the church yard. It is the running costs which contributes to the loss every year. There are no reserves. The Parish Share to the Diocese is £6000 a year. Over the last 12 months, St. Peter's have been able to pay 50% of the Parish Share. What we are trying to do, is make a space to be used more regularly, open it up for tea/coffee/cake, for walkers and any other group. Parochial Church Council need more people to come along on the committee. We do have veterans of Tempsford Airfield come along and visit the Church and donate. We have two services a month, one at 9.30am and one at 11 am. It was sad that the Methodist Chapel closed, so the last thing we want to happen is for St. Peter's to close. There will be no where to get married or baptised. Bell ringing has taken off recently and more learners are welcomed. The Annual meeting of the PCC will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 pm so do come along. We want to be progressive in the Church, and to that end I have had some drawings done to put a toilet and kitchen in the Church. We want to do it and feel it is necessary for, walkers, visitors, and the communion. It is now open on the same day as the Museum and same time. Please support us.

**Tempsford Football Club** - Craig Spindler and Joe Lawrence. - The Club has grown – 3 adult teams, Saturday adult team. They want to bring football to Church Street play area for a ladies' youth team. To start an under 10 girls' team. They would like to develop the pitch and coach girls under 10 teams. Joe Lawrence will be running this side of the Club. They need to secure a coach for the ladies' adult team also. So the club would like to liaise with Tempsford PC and bring these plans to fruition and then advertise for recruits.

**National Highways.** - **Paul Salmon** - A year ago they had a legal challenge that delayed the progress by a full year. This has now been decided on and they can continue in earnest. Mr. Salmon went on to show a very good video of the planning A428 and how it will look. It was also good to hear that they will not be using Station Road for big trucks etc., as before, as a new temporary road had been made off the Little Barford Road, which will be used. The little Brook Cottage on the A1 is going to be moved to another place. No water will be pumped into this area, as a drainage system has been built in. Another good thing.

They want to engage with the community – Social Value Fund and Community Fund. So, they have these special Funds that communities can apply for. Community Fund – 250K Nov 23 – Mar 2027 small grants up to 15K. Social Value Fund 1.7 m Nov 23 – March 2027 from 15K – 200K.

You can find these on Website A428 Black Cat Legacy Fund. Starts 1.5.2024 and you have to put an expression of interest in.

Anglian Water - Andy Skelhorn, Regional Manager and Grant Tuff:-

Tankers have been maintained. They hope to remove the tankers this week. If there are any more issues they will return. Infiltration is coming more into the sewers. Blunham pump station is pushing it

down to Tempsford. They are going to spend £100,000 on a survey as mentioned at the public meeting, to find out where ingress is coming in. Also checking all planning, checking laterals (private sewers). Camera in lateral work and then in the main sewers. Any sewers that are not in good repair, we will have to see what we can do for this. They want to set up a multi-agency group, of CBC, Environment Agency, IDB, and Highways. The villages will then be able to go onto the MAG (multi-Agency Group) or Parish Council and see what is being done. Resident – “Can we have a route course analysis”? Most common problem – the survey we do should find out this problem. CCTV will identify any blockage. They do not want to be here next October doing this again. Richard Fuller has said he would chair the meetings of the MAG. A better pump needs to be put into Station Road Pump Station – they are going to look at that.

The Chairman said that they had objected to Lambcourt Farm planning as they were going to connect the surface water to the foul water. Anglian Water said they could not do anything about that!

The meeting closed at 21.50 hours.

