

TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 24TH APRIL 2023 IN THE STUART MEMORIAL HALL AT 19.30HRS.

Mr. David Sutton,	Chairman
Mr. Adrian Besant	Vice Chairman
Mr. Simon Fraser	Councillor
Mr. Steve Cooney	Councillor
Mr. Joe Lawrence	Councillor
Mr. Chris Bettles	Councillor
Mrs. Linda Collins	Clerk
Mrs. Tracey Wye	CBC Councillor
Mr. Blackshaw and Brendan Wilson	Anglian Water
Mr. Paul Salmon	National Highways.
Members of the public	6

The Chairman, Cllr. Sutton welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting for Tempsford, which is as all meetings are, open to residents to attend.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Tina Goddard.

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting dated 26th April 2022, were approved and all actions had been carried out.

The Chairman gave a presentation of how the Parish Council works, how it is funded by the Precept. It has been increased to £16,000 for this coming year, and the other income is from the cemetery. Grass cutting is our biggest expense. Other costs include, cemetery maintenance, play area – maintenance and inspections. We are hoping to upgrade part of the small play area this year with S106 money. Painting and repairs have already been completed at the larger play area in Church Street, undertaken by the Councillors themselves. Repairs have been completed in the cemetery of a new fence which was blown down in the wind. The Council are hoping to get another speed indicator camera. We also had an incident this year where a lot of black plastic bags, fan, and trays, were sadly dumped in the cemetery – what was left of cannabis production. This all had to be disposed of. The Police were informed.

The Council are still working on the Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2035. Section 14 Consultation completed. Next step Section 16 Consultation, before the Referendum takes place.

Other subjects discussed and acted on are: - A421, EWR, play area maintenance – ROSPA report, but the Parish Council got together as a work party and did repairs and painted items to the Church Street play area. S106 funding secured for small play area in Station Road.

Planning – 2 significant plans were objected to: - The Wheatsheaf public house which was actually withdrawn and the Vanilla Alternative - retrospective planning for caravan/mobile home and outside patio buildings.

Highways Maintenance – The Council have repeatedly expressed concern for the state of the road at the Everton Junction. Some pavements have been partly repaired in the village.

Speeding – the Speed indicator has been used and displayed in the village both in Church Street and Station Road. There is a difference when positioned. Plan to purchase a second camera. Average speed 27, but highest 64 in Church Street. Station road 47 highest.

Station Yard – Problems with Hermes distribution centre – too many vehicles coming down Station Road, some too fast and windows covered by parcels. There was a cannabis factory discovered in the yard and was being maintained under human slavery. We have not heard anything since. The residents of Station Yard and complained about the situation at the Yard but have received no response from CBC or the owner.

Events – Queen’s Jubilee and the King’s Coronation Picnic in the Park.

CBC COUNCILLOR – TRACEY WYE.

Councillor Wye thanked the residents of Tempsford for the past 4 years for their support. She mentioned the bad condition of the roads and pavements and has found it embarrassing – CBC now have a new contractor and they are going to keep on top of it? The list of pavements and roads have been submitted – again and they are looking into it again. Planning – Adam has tried to keep the Wheatsheaf pub and will support as much as he can. Station Road and Hermes – they do try and hide behind legislation. She also sits on the planning committee and also licensing.

Charities – Simon Fraser

There was not a lot to say as not a lot had changed. Objective is to provide food whoever needs it, many years ago. Now, it is to give modest grants for something that a person may need, as well as training, development in their careers. They advertised it last year, but no one came forward. they will advertise it again this year.

St. Peter’s Church

St. Peter’s is on the brink of going under. The heating is expensive and with very little attendance. So, they need to encourage people to attend and find ways of raising funds for the Church. Graham, thanks everyone for all the help that is given at the moment.

Methodist Chapel

The Chapel is closing, and the final service will be on Sunday 25th at the Chapel 6pm. Try to encourage as many people as possible to attend the last service of this very old Chapel.

Tempsford Museum and Archives – Steve Cooney

The Museum continues to thrive and attracts lots of interest through its interesting exhibition of topics. Membership of the Friends of the Museum stands at 118. Through the year, there has been history societies visiting the museum for a presented talk of the history of Tempsford and then tea and cake served. Bedfordshire Local History Association, Roxton History Group, Langford History Group, Sandy Historical Society and the Bedford LHS and Sharnbrook Local History Group. We continue to receive items of historical interest, lovely, engraved watch in memory of Esme Stuart and much more. We are trying to archive all the items for prosperity. We celebrate our 10th Anniversary this year in August, and we look forward to continuing in the years ahead. We thank everyone that helps with the museum on open days and baking the cakes, also all the donations and support. For more information visit the Museum website.

TMUGS – Anne Francis

Tempsford Meet Up Group was formed mainly because the WI closed in the village, no pub or shop hence TMUGS.

We have had a successful quiz night and have formed various successful groups – Book Club, Tempsford Craft Club, Walking Club, Beer Appreciation Club. It is not exhausted and more could be formed. It is advertised in the Tempsford Times, Notice Board and on the Community Facebook page. So, keep a look out for future activities.

Stuart Memorial Hall – Brian Harrison

Events – The Tempsford Village show, restarted last year after Covid and will be running again this year. The hall participated in the Jubilee Celebrations, held a Murder Mystery evening, which was very successful and next year we hope to hold an Adult Panto in January. Bookings are all back to pre-covid. Grants were obtained and the hall is looking good. Perhaps now we can have fun rather than hard work. Extra CCTV installed, running costs have increased because of electric and oil costs, so the hire fees have had to be increased. We want to encourage the community to come and use the hall.

Tempsford Football Club – Joe Lawrence

Joe Lawrence stepped down as Chairman at the beginning of the year. They have obtained players from other clubs that have folded. Apart from playing football, we like to think we help communities with mental health and good positive impact. The future is to get more Tempsford people playing in the team. We all share the dream of actually having a pitch in Tempsford. We are organising the football matches for the Coronation Picnic in the Park. Joe then shows a video of past matches.

National Highways – Paul Salmon

National Highways were asked to attend to give an update on the A421. Firstly, he spoke about the replacement of the central reservation on the A1. This due to finish in June 2023. The 40 mph is for the safety of workers and to make people slow down especially where there are no barriers. An operative was nearly injured, so reason for slow speed. National Highways are the stakeholders of the A421. Brochures were handed out. There has been a legal challenge against the Secretary of State, it has been to court twice and this is holding up the progress. They are doing a lot of archaeological digging etc. There is 92% support for the scheme. Hopefully the project will start December 2023 – Jan 2024.

Questions asked: - **1)** Impact on the village – housing! **Answer** – we are not building roads to facilitate housing, but the Government has made it as such. **2)** When construction starts some construction traffic will come down Station Road. **Answer** – There will not be a huge amount and they will work with the residents. **Resident** – Open dialogue at all times helps to keep fears and worries at bay, so keep in contact with the residents with such a big project.

Mr. Salmon said that they would be happy to come along with their mobile van to the village show in September, which would enable people to come and talk to them.

Anglian Water – Mr. Blackshaw. /Brendan Wilson.

Further upgrades have been done in Station Road as there has been an erosion of concrete pipes. A lot of groundwater recently has proved challenging. It has not been too badly of late.

Questions **1)** When will you draw a line on how many houses should be on the sewer towards Tempsford? Too many houses being put in Blunham and Great Barford. **Answer** – they try and work with the builders. It does not always work! **2)** Why have they not followed the idea of taking the pipe across the field away from Tempsford to the sewage plant? There had been flooding in Sawford Meadows and it smells awful. **Answer** - They were not aware that this was an option to take the pipes across the field.

General discussion on surface water and the fact that the pump had been changed in Station Road, it had no real concerns now. It was mentioned that the drinking water pressure was low.

Gravel extraction behind Church Street – they had no news on this only that they were surveying in case they can get gravel from there.

The Chairman asked that they take away the questions that been put to them and look into them and perhaps get back to the Parish Council.

Tempsford Times – Adrian Besant.

Its costs about £1200 a year to produce. We need to get some advertising in there or reduce the contents which would be a shame. We need a new Advertising Manager, so that the adverts can fund the Tempsford Times. It has been funded in the last couple of years privately.

The meeting closed at 21.40 hrs., and everyone was offered refreshments and people had a chance to stay and chat about various topics.

I certify these Minutes to be a true record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 24th April 2023.

Chairman Date