

MINUTES OF 2021 TEMPSFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 19.30 HRS IN THE STUART MEMORIAL HALL, TEMPSFORD.

Mr. Adrian Besant	Chairman
Mr. David Sutton	Councillor :- V Chairman
Mr. Steve Cooney	Councillor
Mr. Simon Fraser	Councillor
Mr. Chris Bettles	Councillor
Mrs. Tina Goddard	Councillor
Mrs. Linda Collins	Clerk.
9 Residents of the village	

Covid precautions were taken by public and Council.

The Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and said that the September Parish Council meeting would follow straight on after this meeting had concluded, and that you are quite welcome to stay for that meeting, but do feel free to leave if you wish. He pointed out that there was naturally not a lot to report as the pandemic has severely curtailed a lot of activities within the village, even the holding of the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting, and the 2021 one until now, when we can at last meet together in person. We can all understand that there may not be much to report therefore, and anything of any significance has already been recorded in the *Tempsford Times*. It is good to look back on these copies and realise just how important it is that these are kept in the museum as a village record.

Apologies were received from Brian Harrison, Stuart Memorial Hall, Rev. Graham Buckle St. Peter's Church, Andy Bennett, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and Melissa Lucas, Speed watch Co-ordinator.

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2019 were signed by the Chairman.

Report from Parish Council

Last full Parish Council election was in May 2019, Dan Clark had just resigned – the remaining 6 Councillors were re-nominated and only one other person was nominated so all 7 places were filled, and no election was needed. Lisa Filby attended the May and July meetings, but not the Sept and Nov: she then resigned. The vacancy was publicly announced in line with CBC and one person expressed an interest and was co-opted at March 2020 meeting.

Jim Donnelly resigned in June 2021. 2 people expressed an interest after the public announcement, again in line with CBC. They have been interviewed and a vote to co-opt one will be taken at the Parish Council Meeting following this Annual Parish Meeting. We thank them both for their interest and enthusiasm for the village and we encourage both to continue whichever way the decision goes. The present Council will continue until the next full election in 18 months' time.

The Council has met regularly every 2 months, all details are in the Tempsford Times, maintaining village churchyard, cemetery, and other green areas, reported road and path problems to CBC, worked with Anglian Water re drainage and sewerage problems and dealt with planning applications and matters brought to its attention by residents regarding public nuisance, traffic, litter. Councillors have attended online and public meetings with Highways England regarding the A428 extension and with East West Rail development and held a more recent public meeting under Covid regulations re EWR plans.

Finance – the cost of maintaining this work is met basically through the Parish Council Precept which is included in your Council Tax. How that money is spent has been audited and is recorded in the Tempsford Times (copies are available for you to take away)

Report from Central Beds Councillor – No Councillor from CBC was present.

Report from Organizations in the village: -

There were written reports from the Speed watch Co-ordinator and the Neighbourhood Plan Secretary.

Tempsford Charities Report (Secretary – Simon Fraser)

With Covid restrictions, no meetings were held. Before the end of the year, they hope to have a meeting. There have been no cases that have been put to the Charities that need help. The land which funds the Charity is part of the land

which EWR may need for the railway. Discussions are underway, but the ethos is still to continue to support the village as long as they can. EWR have made a substantial donation to the Charity.

Neighbourhood Plan Group – email sent to Clerk by Secretary to be read out at Meeting.

“The Chairman is away at the moment, but he confirms that he has almost completed the setting up the necessary website which will be used for the Regulation 14 consultation. The Plan and all the accompanying documentation will be made available on the new website for both the Statutory Consultees and the parishioners to view and to comment on over the required 6-week consultation period. We will notify everyone as soon as the website is “live” and available. The secretary just wanted to add – that a number of people still seem to think that the Neighbourhood Plan is about preventing the railway line, Black Cate roundabout changes/A428 etc., but of course as previously mentioned on a number of occasions, neighbourhood plans have no influence, unfortunately on national infrastructure developments or on Local Authority plans for new towns. Neighbourhood plans can only set out the vision of how communities wish to develop over the years. Our Plan and its accompanying Character Assessment is based on an understanding of our area and of the views, aspirations, wants and needs of Tempsford’s community – those aspirations, wants and needs being provided by the residents in their responses to our original Parish wide survey.”

Speed Watch Co-ordinator – Not able to attend : email read out.

“Police device availability – as previously communicated, Bedfordshire Police has confirmed they are lacking working devices so have recommended that for ease we should buy our own. This cost would be approximately £2,500 so not insignificant. Volunteer involvement – We have 5 volunteers (excluding myself) who have completed the online training and now need to go through device training at the Police Station in Kempston Road. We really need to bring together the entire group if we can, to make the training worthwhile for Juliet who runs the scheme, and at the last ask, only two volunteers responded and none of the dates aligned. However, this is symptomatic of a broader issue. Unfortunately, since the New Year, only two of the volunteers have responded to any of the requests I have made, so the Police think we should put our Scheme on hold for now? Next steps – I am happy to do another push with the existing sign ups to see if I can get an answer one way or another in terms of their wish to be involved. If, as I suspect, some now wish to drop out, we can then look at whether to do another recruitment drive”.

Tempsford Museum and Archives (Steve Cooney)

The Chairman reported that the museum was doing very well at the moment. The Museum had approached CBC during lockdown and was successful in obtaining a substantial grant which has helped a great deal with the loss of revenue. Some of the money was used to obtain further exhibitions pieces to do with the Stuart family. The museum opened in August for the first time since last March - it was a small attendance, but in September it had increased again with new faced appearing. During lockdown, the Chairman has helped people with Family History Research and reorganised the museum. The Tea Room is very popular and has become a social get together for some people. There will be an open day for the Highways Agency to come along and discuss and explain the archaeological dig in Tempsford on the 26th September in the Stuart Memorial Hall, 10am-4pm.

Tempsford WI, Parish Church and Methodist Chapel

Sadly, the Parish Council Chairman reported that the WI has decided not to continue. It has been in the village a long time and it is sad that it has ceased. The Parish Church and the Methodist Church are both struggling as well, so any help would be very much appreciated by them.

Tempsford Football Team (Joe Lawrence)

The Football Team is going from strength to strength. There was more planning over the summer. Sadly, we have lost our first two games, but it is all about playing together. Training at One Leisure in St Neots, so working within our budget. I am the only actual person living in Tempsford who is in the team. We did have 4-5 at one time. Home games are played at Bedford Meltis Social Club – the long-term goal would be to play in Tempsford – that is the vision. Our oldest player is 61 . The pitch in Tempsford is not good enough to play League games on, and there are no changing facilities. The Football Team does have Facebook and Instagram pages. There is a need to promote the team in the village as much as possible.

TMug – new Social Group (Kay Quinn)

There is a group of residents (5) who are trying to start a “meet up social group”. Aim to be a mixed group, meeting bi-monthly. Saturday 30th October is the first meeting with “free food and drink”, so people can come along and see what is going to happen. Hopefully, out of the group will come other groups, such as a book club, walking group, talks, games night, cheese, and wine night, whatever anyone would like. Want it to be in a community building, so using the Stuart

Memorial Hall. It is not an alternative to the WI. It will, we hope, be a diverse group.

Residents' responses

A resident mentioned that they were now No Entry signed being posted in fields stopping the walking of dogs in the fields. Was there a reason for this? Answers from within in the meeting indicated that the fields belong to farmers and dogs should not be on them, only on footpaths and bridleways. Parish Council agreed there is a need to clearly identify footpaths that can be used. The bridge over the lock at Roxton has now been opened and the footpath should be used, but to be careful going through Ouse Farm because of cows. Best dog walks could be put on social medium, except everyone will come to them in the village.

Someone had offered to donate/sponsor new equipment in Station Road playing field. Clerk to action.

Annual Parish Meeting closed at 20.35 – Members of the public were invited to stay for the Ordinary meeting that would follow this Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman thanked the residents for their contributions and for taking the time to attend the meeting.

I certify these Minutes to be a true record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 14th September 2021.

Chairman Date.....