

**MINUTES OF TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT 19.30hrs. 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
Mr. Sam Knott	Councillor
Linda Collins	Clerk
Members of the public	None

The Chairman welcomes everyone to the meeting.	Action
<b>1. Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Cllr. Adam Zerny and Cllr. Tracey Wye. CBC.	
<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b> No Declarations of Interest were received.	
<b>3. Approval of Minutes</b> Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2023, were asked to be approved. Council all agreed to approve the Minutes. They were then signed and dated by the Chairman, David Sutton.	
<b>4. Resignation of Councillor</b> After the resignation of Cllr. Lawrence, notices advertising for the position of Parish Councillor were put on all media in the village. Two candidates have applied for the position. Applications forms of the two applicants, have been sent round to all Councillors to read. A date needs to be arranged for the interviews. After discussion the date agreed was 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024. 15 minutes would be allowed for each candidate, starting at 7 pm. Clerk to send a letter advising of the date and time to each applicant.	Clerk.
<b>5. Public Session – no public were in attendance.</b>	
<b>6. Central Beds Council – no CBC Councillors were in attendance.</b>	
<b>7. S106</b> The Clerk reported that the money for the BBQ's and benches, had been deposited into the bank but still need to be installed and assembled when weather suitable. Play equipment from Wicksteed – a new quote was sent as they had made a mistake but did give a discount. However, we had told them we could supply the porta toilets from the village. This would save a couple of hundred pounds. However, they were charging over £300 for Heras fencing to put round the area, that the Chairman said was well overpriced. It has been decided to investigate how much the fencing is and we supply it ourselves. . <b>Decision: to investigate and gets quotes for Heras fencing.</b> Need to then confirm we accept quote without porta toilets and fencing and get a start date.	Clerk Chairman.

<p><b>8. Speed Indicator</b> Still in process or organising with Cllr. Knott. New battery needs to go to Cllr. Besant.</p>	Chairman.
<p><b>9. Events.</b> Millennium Garden. Cllr. Cooney reported that overall, a profit was made of £148, this was after the cost of the new lights and food was deducted. This profit was made possible by the generous contribution of Cllr, Knott offering to pay for the band £100. So, a big thank you, and also to Cllr. Bettles for the use of the electric to power the lights in the garden. Also, to Shirley Sharman and others for donating the raffle prizes. Other events – The Church wanted to hold an event. Also, Cllr. Cooney thought a summer event in the Millennium Garden would be good – perhaps a Caribbean event. To discuss these ideas at the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>10. Neighbourhood Plan</b> The Neighbourhood Plan needs to be presented to Central Beds Council. It is taking a long time to finalize this plan. It was agreed to hold another meeting, purely to discuss the final stages of the NP on 23<sup>rd</sup> January after the interviews of the new Councillor applicants.</p>	
<p><b>11. Highways</b> Cllr. Besant reported that no work had actually been done since reporting at last meeting. No bollards replaced; some lights still need mending. Cllr. Besant had mentioned to Scott Terry about a sign for the turning area. Apparently, we need to contact CBC. – still ongoing. Nothing has been done with regard to the area near the post box. Cllr. Cooney mentioned that the notice board from the Chapel would be useful for more notices if we were allowed to have it.</p>	
<p><b>12. Planning</b> No applications were received before this meeting.</p>	
<p><b>13. Anglian Water</b> The Chairman walked the village with Adam Zerny and Cllr. Besant. He also had a long conversation with MP Richard Fuller, who will be writing to DEFRA, others including Michael Gove, about building more houses in this area. Previous to this Parish Council meeting, a public meeting was held for the residents of Tempsford which the Parish Council had organised and invited Anglian Water (Paul Louth and Grant Tuffs).</p>	
<p><b>14. Crime Stats</b> It was discussed whether these should be published. It was agreed only in the Minutes, only by number such as “4 recorded incidents in the Parish”. December Tempsford had 4 incidents.</p>	
<p><b>15. EWR</b> There is no update. Chairman and Council need to write to Hugh Merriment putting our concerns.</p>	Chairman, DS
<p><b>16. Community Responder</b> Forward to next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>17. Finance (See appendix 1 sheet)</b> <b>Invoices to be approved: -</b> Mark Zwetsloot = Willow tree pollard. Juliet Pennington – flowers for planters. These were approved for payment. Deposited from last meeting: \$106 money. Payments: CBC Election fee, Mark Zwetsloot, Clerks salary, Peterborough Press re Tempsford Times. Cashflow and bank reconciliation was explained by Clerk. <b>Tempsford Times</b> – Need to invoice the advertisers. Clerk to send invoice to Cllr. Goddard.</p>	Clerk         Clerk

<p><b>Grass Cutting Tender</b> – The Clerk has received one tender in so far awaiting for another reply. Another company says they are too busy.          Could we find out if the area near College Farm is the responsibility of CBC to cut?</p> <p><b>BUDGET</b>          The Chairman presented the new Budget and explained – we need to keep <b>one-year operating costs in reserve.</b>          Current financial rules do state that even 1p that is not in the Budget should not be spent. The new financial year budget spending proposed was indicated by Y and Z – The gross expenditure on Y was £22,930 and Z £18, 500. Our main income is the cemetery and the Precept, which in both Y and Z comes to £18,500 income having a Precept of £17,000, cemetery income approx. £1500, which leaves a deficit of £4430 on Y and a nil balance on Z.          After discussion about the Budget amount and how we wish to consider spending the precept, a vote was taken.  <b>PRECEPT DECISION UNANIMOUSLY increase to £17,500 and to adopt BUDGET Y (Copy attached to minutes)</b>          Clerk to send in necessary forms before 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>18. Date of next meetings</b>          March 12<sup>th</sup> and Annual Parish Meeting April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.</p> <p>Cllr, Cooney asked that the Parish Council minute the fact that Betty Mardlin being a former Parish Councillor has passed away and the Parish Council convey their sincere condolences to the family. Betty was a stalwart for the village and will be sadly missed.</p>	

I certify these Minutes to be a true record of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

SIGNED ..... DATE.....

Local Government Transparency Code – it is not a requirement for information pertaining to an individual salary to be published in the public domain.