

TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26TH APRIL 2022 IN THE STUART MEMORIAL HALL AT 19.30 HRS.

Mr. Adrian Besant	Chairman
Mr. David Sutton	Vice Chairman
Mr. Simon Fraser	Councillor
Mr. Steve Cooney	Councillor
Mrs. Tina Goddard	Councillor
Mr. Joe Lawrence	Councillor
Mr. Chris Bettles	Councillor
Mrs. Linda Collins	Clerk
Mr. Richard Fuller	`MP Bedfordshire.
Mrs. Tracey Wye	CBC Councillor
Members of the public	7

The Chairman, Mr. Adrian Besant, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The Minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th September 2021, has been published in the Tempsford Times.

There were two matters arising from the last Annual Parish Meeting: -

Neighbourhood Plan – this has now been resolved and the Parish Council has now taken over the administration of the Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group.

Councillor Vacancy – 2 Candidates applied for the vacancy. Mr. Joe Lawrence was appointed.

In total the Council meet on 7 occasions which the public are allowed to attend. CBC Councillor Tracey Wye or Adam Zerny attended when possible – 15th March 2021, 10th May 2021 and 15th March 2022. Items discussed and decisions made on included A424, EWR, Black Cat, Planning, Play area, Cemetery and Church yard, Social Groups, footpaths and speeding. The problem with the footpaths, has been forwarded to CBC Council to try and resolve the problems, but nothing has been so far.

Speed Camera (SID)

The Parish Council has purchased a speed camera and first was positioned in Church Street and now it is in Station Road. The data has been published and the average speed is 22, and the highest is 52. It was really noticeable in Church Street, that cars slowed down when the camera was in situ there. The data collected is really evidence that we can present to the Police. We will use two sites in Station Road. Councillor Fraser commented that it is a less expensive way of slowing traffic down.

Finance – The Chairman presented a graph to show the outgoings and income for the Council. As always, the grass cutting is the most expensive payment for the Council.

Keeping in Touch – We try to keep in touch with the community by way of, the Tempsford Times, Web site, Facebook and the notice boards.

The Chairman introduced: -

Cllr. Tracey Wye, Central Beds Council – Cllr. Wye explained that a lot of her time at the moment is involved in pre-school funding, fly tipping, waste carriers, EWR meeting group. She had successfully changed the licence at The Anchor (Vanilla Alternative) so that no-one under the age of 18 will be admitted. She also mentioned about the Queen's Green Canopy and said that trees were available and should get in touch with CBC if you wanted to obtain any.

Cllr. Goodard spoke about her part in being our Council police representative. She had been to a meeting with the Police Commissioner and mentioned that he was very much a people's person. The meeting was useful, it discussed budget setting, resources and how money is used within the Police Force.

Cllr. Fraser – Tempsford Charities – He was hoping that the Charity would be having a meeting in the next couple of months, which would be the first since lockdown.

Methodist Church – Stephen Gosling – Covid has stopped so much. They have had a few services and a very successful Christmas lunch. They are hoping to arrange a Jubilee Afternoon tea on the 3rd June.

Stuart Memorial Hall – Mr. Brian Harrison, Chairman SMH spoke that a lot of work had been done to bring the hall up to what it is now. A approx. £100,00 has been spent on the renovation a lot being financed by grants applied for. A lot was done during lockdown. Wifi has been installed, new stage curtains. The outside needs to be painted now and also to decorate the kitchen. Bookings have increased since Covid restrictions have been lifted. TMUG group has started and using the hall which is good to bring the community together.

Tempsford Museum – Steve Cooney, Chairman. The museum continues to be active. They have their name down at a lot of auction houses and the internet to source items to do with Tempsford, Stuart family, RAF etc. We have 108 Friends of Tempsford Museum. However, visitors are a little down since Covid. Grants from CBC were applied for and was successful, which helped a great deal. We were able to improve the exhibition room, have new lighting and information boards. Main objective now is to catalogue everything for future security. We are in conversation with The Dig in Tempsford and there will be another talk and exhibition on the items found in Tempsford.

Tempsford Football Team – Mr. Joe Lawrence founder – The team was founded in 2019. His dream/goal is to be able to play in Tempsford on a Tempsford football pitch. The pitch at the moment is not up to League standard, but he is still hoping. They received special recognition for continuing to improve which was a boost. They have a first team and reserve. They have purchased AE so hopefully it will improve the ball passing. They will be arranging the Jubilee activities with a 5 a side football match.

TMUG – Mrs. Kay Quinn – The group (Tempsford Meet Up Group) was started after WI closed, not to take over. Aim is to create smaller groups to bring people together. She thanked the Parish Council for financial help. The Inaugural meeting outcome: - thriving book club and crafting group, involved with various patchwork, embroidery and other. Both groups meet once a month. The first evening event, was a cheese, wine quiz evening which was a great success. Walking group will be starting soon, and also a Beer Appreciation Group. We hope to arrange some shows to Milton Keynes Theatre as well but need transport. The Sprinter may be a good idea.

The Chairman then introduced our guest for the evening – Mr. Richard Fuller MP

Mr. Fuller said he had started as a new MP in 2019. Covers N/E side of Bedfordshire, Bromham, Sharnbrook, Tempsford, Sandy, Stotfold – he has 94000 constituency. 11 largest constituency. Biggest population growth. Has grown 3-5 times larger than national average. It needs to slow down! It was all about the Ox-Cam arc – to do certain things – create superhighways, a railway line, millions of homes between 2016-2030. Core thinking since 2015 – housing targets and major infrastructure. Now it is thought they are having second thoughts regarding Ox-Cam arc. Dec 2019- 2020 EWR came on the scene – there are now major concerns about route. It actually goes through his constituency. There are issues with EWR. Ministers have asked for revised plan for May 2022. They will then decide whether to continue. Little Barford 2040 Housing Plan – 1 million drop housing, pressure on school places and GP's.

Questions: -

Questions were asked by the public: -

1. Upgrade on sewer need as Tempsford takes all the sewer from other villages, such as Blunham. The water pressure is not good at peak times. Some people get no water if at the end of the line as such. Richard Fuller – He said he would look into this problem with Anglian Water.

2. Question about schools – Do they really know what they are doing with the change in 2 or 3 level of schools? Richard Fuller - The attainment is lower than average in this area compared to across the country. It's been designated as an education improvement area. Extra support and help to be given.
3. About a new station. It had made this person very anxious about the thought of a rail station or even the line near to Tempsford. It would mean losing even more green areas and encourage more housing. We need to have more green spaces for good mental health. Richard Fuller – The community really needs to have its say and be heard.
4. A1 realignment – Richard Fuller - was thinking of moving west. However, there are no new ideas until the Black Cat has been built. In the next review it may be put forward.
5. Community – putting in infrastructure. Why do they not put infrastructure relating to developing communities? As a Parish Council we invest our time and efforts to create a growth in our community. Why does the Government not? Richard Fuller – There is a software that developers use – reconnects with nature, biodiversity, encourage people to visit open spaces, there is potential to do that. Trying to promote Neighbourhood Plans so you protect what you want to see happening in your community.
6. GP's – appointments are so difficult to get. Although Sandy and other villages have grown so much, the actual GP's have decreased. There is a shortage of GP's, we know. Richard Fuller – Structure is not right with GP's. Will take it back.

Mr. Fuller then mentioned that there are tours of Parliament in the evening – if you wish to have one you can go to - richar.fuller.co.uk to find out more.

The meeting closed and refreshments were offered to everyone.

I certify these Minutes to be a true record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 26th April 2022.

Chairman **Date**