

# **Minutes of Temple Guiting Annual Parish Meeting**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

in Temple Guiting Village Hall

## **1. Introductions**

The Chairman thanked Councillor Nigel Moor and four parishioners for attending. Apologies were received in advance from Val Littlewood.

## **2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on 3rd May 2018**

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman signed the copy.

## **3. Report from Cllr Nigel Moor, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)**

Cllr Nigel Moor announced that Council Tax in Gloucestershire is the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest of any county council in England and lower than every neighbouring county, although it increased by 4.99% overall this year. GCC is increasing investment in children and young people (£11m extra), older people (£2m extra), schools (£45m extra) and road resurfacing (since April 2018 GCC has repaired almost 50,000 potholes).

GCC is holding a Climate Change Summit in October 2019 which will inform a new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The draft strategy will be available for public consultation in summer 2019. GCC plans to debate a policy to become carbon neutral by 2050 and to be 80% carbon neutral by 2030. There is cross party support for these aims.

Contracts for Highways' maintenance, structural maintenance and professional services have been awarded. Ringway Infrastructure Services will carry out maintenance (pothole repairs, winter gritting and snow clearing, gully cleaning, verge and grass cutting and surface dressing). Tarmac has been awarded the contract for major resurfacing projects and WS Atkins has the contract for professional services.

Major highways investments will include the A417 Missing Link and improving M5 J10. The Government has also announced support for Ashchurch New Town, near M5 J9, which will provide 10,000 new homes.

Work has begun on the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan review 2015 – 2041 and will include long-term options such as a third Severn crossing and a review into re-classifying the Fosse Way, currently designated a strategic freight route.

On the subject of quarrying, Cllr Nigel Moor commented that the county was seeing much more activity than previously, including the possible re-opening of Guiting Quarry (near Stumps Cross). Cllr Moor offered to support TGPC should the council agree to organise and host the forums for discussion between quarry operators, interested parishes, GCC, CDC, CPRE and CCB. The Chairman thanked Cllr Moor and Cllr Gower commented that the

forums should discuss plans for establishing best practice, particularly in operations and reinstatement. Quarry applications should be fit for the future and plan progressive improvements to the environment. Councillor Moor added that the Minerals team at GCC were being encouraged to be more challenging of operators and that he appreciated the work that TGPC was doing to comment on planning applications and the Minerals Plan. Cllr Moor reminded the Council that the deadline for comments on the Minerals Plan was in June. TGPC agreed to deliver further comments as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk to add to the July agenda or special meeting as decided by the PC. Cllr Gower proposed to complete comments.**

Cllr Moor also discussed speed issues, particularly for HGVs in the parish, and offered to part fund VAS (vehicle activated signs) if required. **Action: Clerk to add to the July agenda.**

A full copy of the report is available on the Temple Guiting Parish Council website.

#### **4. Report from Stow Police**

Cllr Krier outlined the main content of the report from the police. A full copy of the report is available on the Temple Guiting Parish Council website. In summary, the headline figures for Police Incidents over the past year suggest that Temple Guiting remains amongst the safest Parishes in the county. The average daily number of RTC incidents reported for Temple Guiting was 0.02 per day in both 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. With a total of 20 reported crimes this past year compared with 17 the previous year. However, there has been a noticeable rise in the number of burglary related incidents (up from 2 to 8). Parishioners should take note of the advice set out on the following pages:

<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/staying-safe/>The report also noted that police service must be delivered within the resourcing constraints under which they operate.

#### **5. Report from the Chairman of Temple Guiting Parish Council**

Cllr Michael Krier thanked Cllr Nigel Moor and the parishioners for attending. He noted that six councillors had sought re-election which left a vacancy to be filled by co-option. **Action: Clerk to advertise.** Cllr Krier then thanked all the Councillors and the Clerk for their participation and support during the year, as well as the snow wardens (James and Jimmy Arkell) who worked so hard to clear the roads in winter and also carried out hedge trimming.

Regarding the work of TGPC, much of it has been routine (e.g. Planning and Highways) and specifically included:

- Continuing liaison with Gloucestershire Highways, especially with regard to HGV traffic between Ford Pitch and Foxhill.
- Improved liaison with Gloucestershire County Council Planning department re: quarries and the Parish's initiative in establishing a possible forum to help mitigate the adverse effects of quarrying in the area. Cllr Krier thanked Cllr Gower for his particular expertise in this area.

- Community Speedwatch is not operating effectively so other measures will be explored to reduce speeding especially in Ford but elsewhere as needed.
- Council's continuing contribution to recreation field, village hall and churchyard maintenance
- Completion of refurbishment of phone boxes in Temple Guiting and Kineton. Cllr Krier thanked the volunteers who carried out the restoration work.
- The Council has approved a 'Looking Ahead' document which will serve as the starting point for further initiatives to improve life in the Parish.

#### **6. Temple Guiting Recreational Society AGM**

Cllr Krier proposed that the existing team of Val Littlewood (Chairman), Ian Littlewood (Treasurer) and Val Brown (Bookings Secretary) be retained and Councillors agreed.

Rob Graves (School Liaison for the Recreation Soc) read Val Littlewood's report (available on the website), noting that the hall and field were essential to the school as well as being used for fund raising and village events. This year new curtains have been fitted, new heating has been installed, and the play area has been improved. Rob thanked Val and Ian Littlewood for the maintenance work carried out on the Village Hall, and to the play area.

Improvements have been made using current funds, with only minor repairs outstanding. The finances are sound and income slightly exceed expenditure last year.

#### **7. Report from the Poor Lotts Committee**

Cllr Val Brown reported that eight pensioners and five students were each awarded £100 grants by the Committee at Christmas.

#### **8. Report from St Mary's Parochial Church Council**

Ali Clifton-Barnard reported that the church retained strong links with the school and the wider community. Seasonal and religious events were celebrated, with over 140 people attending the carol service. The Rogation Walk on 26 May is the next event. Fundraising is essential for the financial viability of St Mary's and, as well as the ever popular Safari Supper and the Quiz, a Party Pieces evening was organised this year. A performance of 'As you Like it' is planned for September 1st at Temple Guiting House. A separate fundraising effort is under way to transform the West End of the Church building into a community space. The full report is available on the website.

#### **9. Update on Green Energy Project**

Cllrs Gower and Mather reported on progress regarding green energy in the village. There is insufficient incentive to progress a local solar panels project at the moment. However, two other initiatives are being developed. The first is to hold a short course to help parishioners become more sustainable. It would cover everything from recycling to minimising food waste. The second is to carry out thermal imaging surveys in early winter to show where warm air is escaping from homes so that residents can take action to reduce heat loss.

**Action: Clerk to include update in the July TGPC meeting agenda.**

**10. Public comments and questions**

Rob Graves expressed his gratitude to Cllr Nigel Moor for attending and for his interesting report and support for the parish council.

**11. Closing comments from the Chairman**

Cllr Krier commented that the reports presented at the meeting had been very impressive and that he had been encouraged by Cllr Nigel Moor's efforts on behalf of parishioners.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

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