

SCA10

Chairman's Report to Temple Guiting Parish Meeting, 15th May 2018

First of all I would like to thank you for attending the annual Parish Meeting and especially County Councillor Nigel Moor

I wish to thank the Clerk and my fellow Councillors for their participation in the various aspects of the work of the Parish Council during the past year, and for their valued advice and support.

Not altogether surprisingly, but disappointing nonetheless, no new parishioners sought election to the Council earlier this month; six councillors sought re-election and the vacancy for a seventh Councillor will be filled by co-option, so if anyone here is interested in contributing to the work of the Council, please contact me or the Clerk.

Maxi Freeman continues to develop her role as Clerk and RFO. She has attended appropriate training, continues to 'improve' the way we conduct our meetings, ensures that our policies are up-to-date and continues to produce a Parish e-Newsletter, amongst other initiatives, in pursuit of greater efficiency and compliance with the Transparency Agenda.

The Council continues to meet every two months on the first Wednesday of the month, with an additional meeting in December in order to set the Precept. Public attendance has rarely exceeded one or two parishioners. It is regrettable that local residents, especially in Farmcote, Ford and Kinton, do not all appreciate that this is their Council and a forum for public debate especially with regard to local issues and planning applications. This in spite of, or maybe because of, regular mailings to parishioners with full details of our meetings and other relevant local news.

Most of our business has been routine: monitoring and responding to Planning Application consultations, liaising with CDC, GCC and Gloucestershire Highways Officers, attending meetings, undertaking minor maintenance and otherwise responding to matters brought to our attention by parishioners. We increased our precept/share of your Council Tax bill in order to balance income and expenditure in this financial year.. Our finances are sound and we continue to maintain healthy reserves to provide for exceptional expenditure.

The recently acquired redundant BT telephone boxes in Temple Guiting and Kinton have been renovated and on your behalf I thank those volunteers who undertook the repairs and redecoration. The old TGPC notice board on the wall of Kinton Farmhouse will be removed as the Kinton phone box serves as a parish/community 'notice board'.

We have not heard anymore about what is to happen at New Barn Farm and about the renewal of our lease for the hall and recreation field. Some of you may have enjoyed Duncan Andrews' informative presentation to the Upper Windrush Local History Society about the history, recent building and the current operation of the Farm Park.

There have been no significant Planning Applications in the Parish since in the past year. Most applications considered by the Council have been relatively straightforward and the Council has met as a Planning Committee on site when necessary. It is pleasing to report that the owner of the Temple Guiting Manor Estate withdrew and/or modified two recent applications in response to the

Parish Council's carefully considered comments. We rarely objects to applications though we do endeavour to convey the community's perception of the impact of applications. Our site meetings are 'public meetings'.

However the Council has spent a great deal of time and effort on monitoring the operation of quarries in the Parish and close by. Local residents, particularly in Ford, have been adversely affected by these. There has been an increase in the number of complaints to this Council and Gloucestershire County Council (the Planning Authority for quarries) usually associated with non-compliance with planning conditions. These are mainly to do with increased HGV traffic, often at inopportune times, noise, inadequate restoration and mess on roads.

The past year has seen several planning applications and /or appeals for the extraction of stone in our Parish and, in addition the County Council is revising the Minerals Local Plan. As far as this Council is concerned, each application typically takes 2-3 days to review, consolidate comments and then prepare a response (excluding any additional meetings). I thank Councillor Gower for the time and expertise that he has devoted to this process and our County Councillor Nigel Moor for the interest and support that he has provided, including arranging a meeting for representatives of TGPC with the GCC Minerals Team officers at County Hall earlier in the year. Our detailed comments, submitted in response to these applications, the appeal by the operator of Cotswold Hill Quarry and the Local Minerals Plan, are consistent with those made by the Cotswold Conservation Board and the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England.

Progress on enforcement is being made as GCC now has a pro-active 'enforcement officer' who is starting to make a difference when it comes to monitoring non-compliance with planning conditions.

However, it has become apparent that a more holistic approach is needed if we are to address the cumulative impact of multiple quarry sites in this part of the AONB. Additionally there is a need to align proposals and conditions with best practices. We currently have support for this initiative from CCB, CPRE, the Minerals Team and Councillor Moor, and are seeking support from other local Parishes. A follow-up meeting is planned to set priorities and look at resources needed to make a difference. Meanwhile, we will revisit the draft GCC Minerals Plan in the light of the recent applications in advance of the formal review process later this summer.

We have continued to maintain a constructive relationship with Gloucestershire Highways, ensuring clearance of gullies and grips, new signposting and pot hole repairs.. As ever it is a struggle to get all that we would like done, including the restoration or consolidation of eroded verges in the parish. We know that the advisory 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs are not proving as effective as some residents would wish, particularly in Barton. Making the signs mandatory has been explored in detail but Gloucestershire Highways and the County's Legal Services team advise that such an initiative is unlikely to improve matters. There is evidence that the transportation of stone from an excavation in Guiting may explain the increase HGV movement from Ford to Moor Cottage.

Although some residents in Kineton have undergone Speed Watch training, there appears to have been little monitoring of compliance with the 30 mph limits in Ford, Temple Guiting and Kineton. The Council will explore alternatives ways to impact on the regular disregard for these limits.

We continue to liaise with the Green Energy Scheme, though progress appears to be limited. (There will be a brief report later in this meeting.)

Another major initiative of your Council this past year has been the drawing up and approval of a comprehensive "Looking to the Future" document which will serve as a starting point for further identification of needs and priorities in our Parish. You may read it on the Parish website.

The Council continues to share the cost of maintaining the Recreation Field with Temple Guiting School and contributes to the cost of maintaining the Village Hall and the mowing of St Mary's churchyard.

I will, once again, take this opportunity to thank Jimmy and James Arkell for their role as Snow Wardens and for the hedge-trimming that Jimmy undertakes in Temple Guiting and Kineton.

End.

MK 15/05/19

Summary for minutes:

MK thanked Co Cllr Nigel Moor and parishioners for attending.

Six councillors sought re-election; a vacancy to be filled by co-option.

MK thanked Councillors and the Clerk for their participation and support during the year, as well as the snow wardens who clear the roads in winter.

MK reported on the work of TGPC, much of it routine, and specifically on:

- 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
- Community Speed Watch is not operating so other measures will be explored to reduce speeding especially in Ford
- Council's continuing contribution to recreation field, village hall and churchyard maintenance
- Completion of refurbishment of phone boxes in TG and Kineton
- The Council has approved a "Looking Ahead" document which will serve as the starting point for further initiatives to improve the life of the Parish