

Minutes of Temple Guiting Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

in Temple Guiting Village Hall

Note: Full copies of all the reports given at this meeting are available on the templeguitingparishcouncil.co.uk website.

1. Introductions

The Chairman thanked the five members of the public who attended and noted that copies of all reports would be available on the TGPC website at templeguitingparishcouncil.co.uk along with the minutes of the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on 4th May 2022

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

3. Report from GCC Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

Note: Only highlights of the reports are included here. Full reports are available on the website: www.templeguitingparishcouncil.co.uk.

- * Gloucestershire Highways continues to address potholes with a programme of resurfacing as well as temporary fixes. The maintenance budget has increased by 22%. The Councillor's Local Highways Budget of £30,000 is also available to residents and Parish Councils.
- * The Councillor is working with the relevant GCC officers and the local communities to address the problems centred around Ford caused by the activities of the cluster of quarries in the North Cotswolds.
The Chairman noted that Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington had been very supportive of TGPC's efforts. Councillors agreed and wished to thank him for his support.
- * Council tax has risen by 5% and 60% of all expenditure relates to providing social services.
- * GCC is improving public transport by reinstating bus services across the county and introducing 'The Robin' to the North Cotswolds. There are also plans to improve train services.

4. Report from CDC Cllr Richard Keeling

- * Planning continues to present issues with reduced numbers of staff and low morale.
- * A new protocol has been introduced, which removes the automatic right for a Councillor to have a planning application heard at a meeting. In 2019/20 7 applications were heard per Planning Committee meeting. This is now 1 application per meeting.
- * The CDC budget has risen by 12% and charges have also risen.

- * Action by Cllr Keeling and MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown resulted in a proposed 'borrow to invest' scheme by CDC being rejected.

5. Report from the Chairman of Temple Guiting Parish Council for the previous year

The Chairman noted that the Parish Council had been active in the following areas:

- Highways

TGPC had pursued Gloucestershire County Council Highways department regarding the poor condition of some roads as well as repairs to Barton Bridge. The GCC Highways Programme Maintenance Resurfacing programme addresses surface repairs and is planned months in advance, although the emergency pothole service has proved responsive. Barton Bridge has now been repaired although requests for better signage were unsuccessful.

- Local Maintenance

Signs to the village car park have all been installed throughout the village, with the aim of encouraging parking away from the road. The Ford phone box has been restored.

- Quarry Working party

Councillor Gower has provided comprehensive reports covering the Working Party's activities throughout the year. The Group is currently pursuing the aim of having GCC managing developments in the North Cotswold cluster of quarries as a coherent unit. The Working Party has been working with several GCC Councillors ,CDC Councillor, the Cotswold Landscape Board (ex AONB), CPRE and other local PCS which are also affected.

- Road safety

A second VAS has been bought and, together with the first VAS seems to be effective in slowing traffic down in Ford. Cllr Krier thanked Rob Graves for his considerable help with the VAS equipment and, as he was leaving, wished him well for the future.

- Trees

Cllr Val Littlewood painted a tree to commemorate the coronation of Charles III on the village green. The Chairman suggested that Councillors might consider a commemorative plaque at a later date.

- Planning applications

A steady stream of applications has been received. Considered responses to some inappropriate developments seem to have informed CDC's decisions. However, the long expected application for the redevelopment of the New Barn Farm site has not been submitted. The Council was not in favour of the further temporary building which GCC proposed for the school, along with school and other representatives. GCC changed its plans and a permanent structure is being built following successful fundraising by the school.

- Finance and Governance

TGPC's finances remain healthy and well prepared for any possible professional expenses. The Council's Governance is being kept up to date and transparent.

The Chairman thanks all Councillors for their work over the past year, particularly Councillor Gower who has been assiduous and determined in leading the Quarry Working Party efforts. He then thanked the three departing Councillors – Val Littlewood, who has been very active over the 32 years of service and who has supported the Chairman so ably; Val Brown for her 20 years' service and her extensive local knowledge; and Rex Bovill with 12 years' service, who the Chairman wished a speedy recovery from illness.

6. Report from The United Charities of Temple Guiting (Poor Lotts) Committee

Val Brown has remained a Trustee of the charity but Avril Vincent and Peter Forshaw have stood down. Two new Trustees have joined Val – Kate Mather as lead Trustee and Carol Porter as Trustee. The charity lets 29 acres of land and distributes income to the more needy in the village, including people in education. Income for the previous year had totalled £4360 with expenditure of £500 and gifts of £1300.

7. Report from St Mary's Parochial Church Council

Among other events during the year, the Hymnathon and flower show held at the church had been very successful in raising funds for the repairs to the organ. These will take place later in the year. Some future events would have a theme of a 'greener lifestyle'. The burial ground already has a wild area. Ali Clifton Barnard thanked the Parish Council for its contribution to the maintenance of the burial ground.

Two church wardens are standing down after 12 years of service and two new wardens have been appointed – Sheila Woods and Ruth Waller.

8. Report from Temple Guiting School. None provided this year.

9. Temple Guiting Recreation Society

Over the past year the Recreation Society has benefitted from hire fees and generous donations, including £1000 from the Parish Council. Payment for electricity used continues to be well below actual costs although this should improve this year due to a new arrangement with the school as the hall will be used full-time as a classroom. Other costs included site clearance, car park repairs, fire extinguishers, plumbing, the annual safety inspection of the play area and cleaning. The surplus for the year was £2,025.

As the cleaners have given notice, the Committee is looking for someone else to take on the paid role.

Val Littlewood, the current Committee Chairman, announced that because she was no longer a member of Temple Guiting Parish Council she could no longer Chair the Recreation Committee (she would be stepping down). The Chair must be a Parish Councillor according to the governing document. A current Parish Councillor should be appointed as the new Chair. Interested Councillors should read two relevant documents:

- * the Charity Commission description of what a trustee is expected to do. It is a case of overseeing the works of the charity to make sure that it follows the governing document; and
- * the village hall lease from 1985. This is the governing document and the section pertaining to the Recreation Society hasn't changed since 1985 (except that the Custodian Trustee was the Parish Council at that time).

In addition, the PC should also try to recruit further committee members. The ex-Chairman recommended these should be representatives of the PC, the school and any other interested parties from the village.

The Ex-Chairman requested that these matters be included in the agenda for the PC's July meeting.

The ex-Chairman thanked Rob Graves for school liaison, Ian Littlewood for maintenance and the role of treasurer, and Val Brown for looking after bookings.

10. Public comments and questions. None.

11. Closing comments. The Chairman thanked all attendees, including members of the public, for their participation.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.