

TEMPLE GUITING PARISH COUNCIL

Serving the residents of Barton, Farmcote, Ford, Kineton and Temple Guiting
also Bemborough, Jackdaws Castle, Pinnock and Trafalgar.

Minutes of Temple Guiting Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

Councillors present: Sam Baber-Scovell, Lorna Eayrs, Jayne Ewart-Perks, Stephen Gower, Michael Krier, Kate Mather (Chairman)

Public: 3 members of the public attended.

CDC Councillor Len Wilkins attended.

1. **Apologies for absence:** None as all councillors attended.
2. **Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda (Localism Act 2011):** None.
3. **Points from the floor:** None.
4. **Approval of the previous meeting's minutes and signing.** The Council approved the draft minutes with slight changes and the Chairman agreed to sign the minutes. **Action:** Clerk to post to noticeboards and website.
5. **Chairman's announcements.** Reports had been received from GCC Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington and CDC Councillor Les Wilkins. The Chairman asked Cllr Les Wilkins to report to the meeting:
 - CDC has retained Publica solely for HR and IT services, bringing other services back in house.
 - Several strategies were being reviewed:
 - Parking strategy – including reviewing the width of parking bays and the number of disabled parking bays.
 - Budget and medium-term financial strategy – to manage upcoming financial uncertainties and to protect essential services.
 - Planning - Earlier in 2023 CDC was only just under the required 70% planning decisions made within the allotted time. Without improved performance the department could be put into special measures. Applications would then have to be sent to the Planning Inspectorate rather than CDC.
 - Licensing and Planning. CDC has created a Special Advisory Group to deal with applications and events in the District. It includes representatives from both the Planning and Licensing departments plus Highways, Police, Fire and Ambulance services. The public and Parish Councils can also submit their views via a new [portal](#).
 - With several elections and a parliamentary boundary change this year, CDC will be reviewing polling districts and stations in the near future.
 - Councillor Mather highlighted points from GCC Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington's report including that further funds had been made available to tackle potholes in the county. Funds were also being invested in schools, the new Junction 10 of the M5 and a new park & ride at Arle Court. The Schools Youth Fund was seeking applications for specific projects. The Chairman noted that TGPC had already notified the school of this opportunity. Gloucestershire police has exited from the 'Engage/Special Measures' programme and is improved in many areas, including solving twice as many crimes as a

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year ago. A new approach to Highways funding had been launched – '[Highways your way](#)' – allowing parishes to request top up services.

- Temple Guiting United Charities gifted £100 to 12 beneficiaries at Christmas. Applications for this coming year's gifts were now being accepted.

Action: Clerk to post copies of both reports to the TGPC website and circulate.

6. **Clerk's Report** Councillors noted that items in the clerk's report would be referred to at agenda items. **Action:** Clerk to provide contents list for the report in future.
7. **Assets – village hall and recreation field.** Cllr Morrissey reported that the trustees still needed a representative of the school and that a meeting had been scheduled with the freeholder.
8. **Highways and Footpaths.** Councillor Ewart-Perks (Footpaths Officer for TGPC) reported that she and the Chairman had met Robert Talbot, a Cotswolds Volunteer Warden. He had received information about a possibly dangerous path along the side of the B4077 near The Plough. Various possible solutions were proposed but permission from landowners and GCC Highways needed to be sought. CDC's footpaths officer is taking this forward.

Councillors raised the issue of grit bins near Farmcote and that Highways had not cleared the grips in Temple Guiting. **Action:** Clerk to contact Highways to ask for further grip clearance.

9. Planning

- a. Applications to comment on: Councillor Gower reported that the Reg 25 response from the owners of Oathill Quarry did not appear to answer GCC's request for information in full. The Working Party was preparing a response. A meeting with the new owners of several local quarries had been arranged.
- b. Comments posted between meetings: Woods Barn, 23/03714/FUL. Councillors agreed that the comments posted were a true record of the Council's views.

10. **Website and email addresses.** Clerk reported that gov.uk email addresses and domains were being encouraged by NALC and GAPTC and were likely to become mandatory in the near future, however it would be an additional cost to the PC. **Action:** Review once it becomes mandatory.

11. **Biodiversity policy.** Councillors reviewed the draft policy and approved it in principle. However, a working party would need to review the model action plan in depth before action could be taken. Clerk had found a free online training session which explains the objectives, activities and issues in more detail. **Action:** Clerk to circulate link.

12. **River water.** Councillor decided to include the river water research in the brief for the Biodiversity Working Party. This would need to be started before the end of February to provide a sound base line of winter conditions.

13. Procedures to be reviewed as per audit requirements.

- a. Code of Conduct. Councillors approved this document.
- b. Complaints policy. Councillors approved this document.

Contact templeguitingparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

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- c. Model Publication Scheme. Councillors approved this document.
- d. Privacy Notice. Councillors approved this document.

Action: Clerk to update website with approved documents.

14. Investment. Clerk outlined the research in the Clerk's Report. Once new current account fees had been charged, there would be very little benefit from any of the available deposit accounts. The process of transferring banking to another bank was also thought likely to be difficult. Councillors agreed to retain current banking and deposit account at Lloyds.

15. Financial position

- a. Financial Position. Councillor noted the current balances.
- b. Reconciliation. Councillors approved the reconciliation in the Clerk's Report and the Chairman agreed to sign it.
- c. Cheque signing/Epayment agreement and validation. Councillors agreed unanimously to make the payments below:

The following payments were approved:			
Chq/Epay	Payee	Description	Value
Epay	M Freeman	Clerk's salary Nov/Decr@£180.90 p.m.	£361.80
Epay	M Freeman	Expenses - Replacement of village hall door lock (Steve Woolston)	£180.00
Epay	M Freeman	Expenses – key cutting for village hall	£37.00
Epay	M Freeman	Expenses – printer paper	£8.99
Epay	Elan City	VAS charging cables	£37.72
Epay	North Cotswold Food Bank	Donation as per 23/24 budget	£500.00

Action: Clerk to arrange payments.

AOB – Councillors decided to meet at 6.00 p.m. during the winter.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.10.

Signed K M Mather
Chairman

6th March 2023