

Minutes of Temple Guiting Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 1st May 2024 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 six 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 17th May 2023

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. It can be found in the Meetings – Agendas section.

Oathill quarry planning application

Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington referred to the regrettable decision regarding Oathill Quarry, which would permit a doubling of output for 3 years. Although Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington had proposed a maximum of 50 per day all year round, compared with the 25 – 30 on a normal day, the Oathill application for 100 vehicles per day leaving the site for the three (3) peak months had been approved. It seems that the operators have already removed much of the material they had planned to extract so the need to allow 100 HGVs per day for 3 months, as per the application, is not clear.

A number of factors had influenced the decision, including:

- The recent loss of an appeal which had cost the Council a significant amount.
- The complexity and technical nature of quarry applications which made it difficult for lay members of the committee to understand what was being asked for and its' possible consequences. The new head of planning confirmed the difficulty of assessing these complex applications and that the Oathill quarry application had been one of the most complex yet.
- In the past 5 years GCC staff numbers have almost halved, leaving the planning department understaffed.

Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington outlined a number of actions that GCC Minerals Planning could take which would help to manage the effects of quarrying and quarry traffic across the local area while also supporting the decision-making process for quarry planning applications:

- Recognise clusters of quarries. The wide spread impact of a single application to increase quarrying anywhere in the local area needed to be considered, according to the Secretary of State's directive. A further three applications are likely to be received in the near future.

- Consult neighbouring Parish and other councils as well as the District Council and other statutory authorities, and ensure comprehensive feedback.
- Offer further training to Planning Committee members and officers to increase understanding of these technical applications.
- Include environmental aspects in the Officer's report.
- Develop a set of baseline data for environmental, dust, noise, and HGV volumes against which new applications would be evaluated.
- The conditions applied to Oathill, if replicated across other local quarry applications, should help to control export volumes by monitoring monthly and annual figures. 24/7 HGV monitors would improve enforcement checks.
- Jobs needed to be balanced with the 'quiet enjoyment' of the Cotswold AONB. The 'quiet enjoyment' by residents should take precedence.
- Damage to verges, roads and bridges should be monitored. Ford Bridge is now being monitored.

Through the work of the Quarry Working Party and the North Cotswold Quarry Action Group, public awareness of the issues is now far higher. It is also easier for members of the public to contact councillors so GCC is now more directly accountable.

Road works outside Moreton in Marsh

Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington warned residents that there would continue to be road works for an extended period at the Spitfire development to the south of Moreton in Marsh and that traffic tailbacks were to be expected.

- 4. Report from CDC Cllr Len Wilkins** (Cllr Wilkins was unable to attend. This is a summary of the report available on the TGPC website)
- * Planning continues to present issues, with reduced numbers of staff, especially in the Enforcement Team.
 - * The cost of applying for planning permission has increased.
 - * The CDC Core Spending Power budget has risen by 5.4% but there is great uncertainty regarding the Council's costs.
 - * Car parking charges, Garden Waste collection and Council Tax have all increased.
 - * The cost of disengaging from Publica has risen significantly.
 - * A new provider has been appointed to run the leisure centres, which are a drain on CDC resources.

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

The Chairman noted that the Parish Council had continued to research and act on quarry applications in the North Cotswold Quarry Cluster; that planning applications have also been reviewed thoroughly during the year, including a number of site visits; and that the VAS team had also been active.

Cllr Mather thanked Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington for his extensive support and financial assistance during the year. Without his help, quarry and street safety work would not have been possible.

The VAS team, led by Cllr Baber-Scovell and Cllr Krier, had been active moving battery-powered VAS equipment between the various VAS posts. With the new solar powered VAS, this work should reduce but further team members were needed to ensure that the

equipment could be mounted and dismantled, that the batteries could be charged adequately and the equipment - including the ladder - could all be moved around safely. Please contact Cllr Baber-Scovell if you can help for a few hours every 3 weeks or so.

The planning application for the redevelopment of the prominent New Barn Farm site in the village had still not been approved by CDC. TGPC had held a site meeting and public planning meeting to gather responses from local residents. Their views had been included in the TGPC submission to CDC Planning Department.

The Chairman then reported highlights of **Temple Guiting School** over the year, including:

- * The opening of the new buildings on September 2nd, not only on time, but below budget. Everyone is delighted with the high quality and sustainability of the buildings.
- * The old buildings now needed to be repainted and the roof needs maintenance.
- * The OFSTED inspection had awarded the school a 'Good' rating.
- * The school was fully subscribed for the next intake, which is unusual in the area.
- * Exams were in full swing.

6. Report from the TGPC Quarry Working Party

In the absence of the Chairman of the Quarry Working Party, Cllr Ewart-Perks reported that the Working Party continues to campaign for recognition of the North Cotswolds Quarry Cluster and the impact that increases in production at any one of the quarries in the area would have across the whole area. Raising awareness of this cumulative impact is a major part of the work of the group and appeared to be gaining some recognition.

The Environmental Measurement carried out by Hydrock on behalf of the North Cotswold Quarry Cluster (which included several nearby parish councils) had revealed that dust and noise levels due to quarry vehicles and quarrying activities was significant. The dangers of quarry products being spilled from quarry lorries onto local roads was also noted.

The Chairman congratulated the team on their hard work, in particular that of Cllr Stephen Gower, who had worked very hard and gained in -depth knowledge of this technical subject. The QWP had also been successful in building relationships with other local parish councils, which had helped to raise awareness of the problems and to provide support for the measurement project. Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington was also instrumental in providing support from his own budget as well as from GCC Councillor David Gray.

7. The United Charities of Temple Guiting (Poor Lotts) Committee

Cllr Mather, as lead Trustee of the United Charities, reported that the 30 acres rented out locally were in good financial condition. A total of twelve (12) gifts of £100 had been allocated this year to qualifying local residents. Income for the previous year had totalled £4360 with expenditure of £500 and gifts of £1300.

Commented [MF1]: Last year's report was more specific - i.e. 'income ... £1300' Do you want to keep this year's as is?

8. Report from St Mary's Parochial Church Council (from Church Wardens Sheila Woods and Ruth Waller)

The Church remains committed to openness and focusing on current issues such as equality, injustice, climate change and the environment. The family communion service has been made more informal and accessible to children (and dogs). The churchyard would be used more than in previous years.

A number of fundraising events including plays and music, were held. The Church hopes to hold one event every month, with the next the Bochmann String Trio on 31st May 2024. The Safari Supper, Quiz and Harvest Supper were very successful. Special thanks went to Kate Mather for co-ordinating these events, the teams of helpers and attendees.

As usual, the church held several weddings and baptisms as well as funerals. The funerals of two long standing members of the community were held at St Mary's and the funeral of Victor Edgeworth, another long-term resident, is scheduled for May 24th at 1 p.m.

Lastly, the PCC thanked the Parish Council for its financial contribution towards the maintenance of the burial ground. Biodiversity is being encouraged in parts of the grounds.

9. Temple Guiting Recreation Society

The Chairman thanked Ian and Val Littlewood for all they had done for the Society over the years, as well as thanking new Trustee Mickey Morrissey, support from Ali Clifton-Barnard as school governor, and advice from Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington and Gerald O'Mahoney. The Management Committee had discussed future options with the landowner, details yet to be confirmed.

The village hall needed significant expenditure on maintenance to continue to function. However, it is essential to the school. GCC is aware of this need.

The Play Area received a good annual inspection report with only three (3) small items needing minor attention. Regarding the recreation field, the mole infestation is under control. There had been an unfortunate incident where someone had removed mole traps from the ground, leaving holes which were a serious trip hazard for children using the field.

10. Public comments and questions

Ali Clifton-Barnard suggested that the Parish Council might benefit from joining the CPRE. The Chairman agreed to add this to the July agenda. Mrs Clifton-Barnard then thanked councillors and, in particular, the Chairman for all their work for the local villages.

Commented [MF2]: I'm guessing Ali is OK with 'Mrs'?

11. Closing comments

The Chairman thanked all attendees, including members of the public, for their participation, adding that the Parish Council could only function with the support of the community. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman

May 2025