

Minutes of Temple Guiting Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

in Temple Guiting Village Hall

1. Introductions

The Chairman introduced Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington who had been elected to Gloucestershire County Council in the recent elections and would represent Temple Guiting Parish Council's interests to GCC for the next 4 years as member for the Stow division. Cllr Krier welcomed the new councillor and invited him to address the meeting after agenda item 2.

2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on 15th May 2019

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

Report from Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)

Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington first paid tribute to his predecessor Nigel Moor and his work over the past 8 years. He then outlined his previous posts – Chair of Little Rissington parish council, Cotswold District Councillor for the Rissingtons and Cabinet member for Planning and Licensing. At GCC he will serve on several committees and scrutiny bodies, including taking on the role of Chair of the Planning Committee. He has a strong interest in education but is also aware of the issues around quarrying locally.

On the subject of highways, Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington announced that 15 new pothole crews had been created since March and the budget for highways was £250 m budget over 9 years. He reminded attendees of the £30,000 discretionary budget available for specific local issues and asked whether a 20mph speed restriction was of interest. Finally Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington welcomed contact with the parish council and the community at large. The Chairman thanked Councillor MacKenzie-Charrington for his address. A copy of the full report is available on the Temple Guiting parish council website.

3. Report from Councillor Richard Keeling, Cotswold District Council

Cllr Krier outlined the main content of the report from Cllr Keeling. Main points included changes to the garden waste service, with collections frequency being reduced and the charge increasing by 33 percent; carparking fees being increased and the cash payment option being removed. Cllr Keeling's report noted that there had been senior management changes and an extra eight new hires. Other changes included replacement of the Community Grant scheme with a crowdfunding platform; removal of the Ward member's ability to refer planning applications to the Planning Committee where considered appropriate and a new crest for the council. Cllr Keeling's report also noted that he could not support the revised budget for 2021/22 due to lack of detail on the £65 million borrowing proposal.

A copy of the full report is available on the Temple Guiting parish council website.

4. Report from the Chairman of Temple Guiting Parish Council

Cllr Krier noted that the parish council had continued to meet throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, using Zoom where face to face meetings were not possible.

Highlights of the work of the parish council include:

- buying and installing a mobile Vehicle Activated System to monitor driver speeds at several locations in the parish. The Chairman asked Rob Graves as Speedwatch co-ordinator to speak on this topic. Deployments in Ford, Temple Guiting and Kinton have shown a generally high level of compliance, with some notable exceptions and bank holidays at Ford having the highest number of these. An Automatic Number Plate Recognition system would enable identification of offenders although police do not act on information from unapproved devices.
- continuing liaison with Gloucestershire Highways, including requesting missing signage and road repairs, and regarding increased quarry traffic on the B4077
- the work of the Quarry Working Group in preparing extensive responses to local quarry planning applications; building a broad base of support including GCC councillor, CDC councillor, the Cotswold Conservation Board, the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and the local MP.
- the adoption of the telephone box at Ford which is still in the hands of BT.
- parking - including issues at the Pantry and the extension of the village hall car park.
- planning responses, including to tree work, for a development at New Barn Farm, and another 'temporary' building at the school. Planning decisions are, however, held up by a shortage of staff at CDC.
- Finances, which are sound and enabled grants to help with village hall maintenance, mowing the recreation field and mowing the burial ground at St Mary's, while the precept was held at 2020-2021 levels leading to a small reduction in parishioners' council tax bills.

The Chairman then thanked the clerk and previous GCC County Councillor Nigel Moor for supporting the work of the Quarry Working Party and for supporting the VAS purchase.

5. Report from Poor Lotts Committee

Cllr Val Brown reported that Avril Vincent would be stepping down from the committee and would be replaced by Cllr Kate Mather. This year, ten pensioners and three students were each awarded £100 grants by the Committee at Christmas.

6. Report from St Mary's Parochial Church Council

Ali Clifton Barnard reported on the highlights of the work of the church, including:

- the provision of a community space in the church, which was used extensively until lockdown,
- holding services by Zoom and in the churchyard,
- Zoom coffee mornings,

- a forthcoming exhibition to be hosted at the church themed around 'What a Wonderful World' where children will make asks out of unused plastic visors.
- and
- fundraising through Zoom scavenger hunts and Zoom bingo, as Covid has had a significant effect on church finances.

A copy of the full report is available on the Temple Guiting parish council website.

7. Reports from other local organisations – Cotswold Friends and North Cotswold Foodbank

Councillor Littlewood reported that 1,000 people had used the driver services provided by Cotswold Friends to make 1,300 journeys. The befriending service had switched to phone service only during the pandemic and had been well used. Cash donations were now being transferred to vouchers for items not stored at the warehouse. Pre-existing clubs were being revived as restrictions ease and the website had been revised during this period.

The North Cotswold Foodbank had received generous donations during the height of the pandemic but levels were reducing now. April 2020 was the busiest month ever for the foodbank, and by the end of September 2020 they had handed out more than 40% more food parcels than the previous year. Across the country as a whole, the need for emergency food increased sharply. It was the first time the number of food parcels distributed topped two million.

A report from Cotswold Friends is available on the Temple Guiting parish council website and further information can be found at <https://www.cotswoldfriends.org/>.

8. Temple Guiting Recreational Society AGM

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

Val Littlewood announced that events were now being scheduled at the village hall and that the first of these was a band performing on July 3rd. **Action: Clerk to add to newsletter.**

9. Public comments and questions

None.

10. Closing comments from the Chairman

Cllr Krier thanked all attendees and hoped that it had been interesting to learn what was taking place in the village.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.