

# KEYHAM PARISH/VILLAGE MEETING

Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 7:30pm Village Hall

## MINUTES of MEETING

### 1. Welcome by Chairman

The Parish Chairman, Tony Johnson (TJ), welcomed c 25-30 villagers to the meeting. There were apologies from c 5-10 villagers.

### 2. Minutes of last year's Parish/Village Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes for the April 2022 meeting were on the Keyham Village Website. The Chairman assumed that those present had read those minutes and that most matters arising would be dealt with on the main agenda.

TJ reported that **pothole repairs** had been carried out along Ingarsby Road but that more was needed. Roads around the village were in poor repair generally, particularly the roads towards Scraptoft and Beeby. TJ to pursue with LCC.

Lynette Harrison (LH) reported that the **defibrillator** had been registered with the Ambulance Service.

### 3. Appointment of Chairman for the meeting and the forthcoming year

TJ was re-elected **Chairman** of the Parish Meeting unopposed and unanimously (proposed by Sarah Skelton (SS), seconded by Claire Windle (CW). The meeting thanked Tony for his work.

TJ was of the view that a **Secretary** was not required as the Village Website was proving useful for the dissemination of agenda, minutes and updates. JH and MH to prepare this year's minutes.

### 4. Chairman's Report

TJ reported that in addition to pothole problems there are issues about **speeding** and the **dangerous bend** along the road to Ingarsby. Despite making representations about the number of fatalities to LCC all that had been agreed was the repainting of the SLOW markings on either side of the bend. The meeting discussed wider speeding issue and the possibility of a 50mph limit with 30mph through villages. It was suggested that the Crashmat website might provide more information about collisions in the vicinity. It was suggested that an "adverse camber" sign be posted at the bend. The dangers associated with the flooding on the road to Beeby were discussed too. It was also requested that a "horses" warning sign be posted. It was suggested that hedge cutting to aid visibility might help too. TJ agreed to raise these

issues with LCC and reported that there was an intention to install “dragon’s teeth” just before the 40mph signs at the entrance to the village.

TJ reported that the **flooding at the bottom of Snow’s Lane** had been addressed by clearing a culvert and ditches in the vicinity. The general feeling was that the situation had improved. The **blocked drains** at the junction of Kings Lane and Main Street are currently being investigated by LCC.

**Kerbs** by the Village Hall/Pub had been repaired and further work is scheduled along Main Street.

**Fly-tipping** remains a problem. Andy Eggo (AE) reported that he had spoken to CDC about removing the ad hoc lay-bys on the road to Beeby a favourite site for tippers.

**Footpaths.** The footpath handrail into Henderson’s field needs repairing/replacing. TJH will report to LCC. It was reported that the missing footpath signs at the bottom of Snows Lane had been reported to LCC. The meeting was informed that the original bridleway route prevails until the new route is made good by the landowner. The new route will be announced once it is approved.

TJ asked that if any villagers made **direct contact with any council** (LCC, HDC, CDC) that they keep him informed.

## **5. Reports by Chairpersons of the following Committees**

### **Keyham Charities**

Margaret Hughes (MH) reported the following.

Keyham Charities assets are the four cottages sited adjacent to the Church, and the parcel of land known as Keyham Allotments. All the cottages are currently occupied and maintained to a good standard in return for a fair rent.

Keyham Allotments was handed over to the village at the end of 2011 and in April 2021, 10 years later, The Trustees undertook a review of the infrastructure commissioned under the original scheme to ensure that it remained safe and fit for purpose. We identified a number of issues needing attention but pleased to report that the main issues identified are now complete, the most significant spend being a refresh of the pathways with gravel.

Sylvia Wood was the original lead on Keyham Allotments, running the scheme for the village and thereby liaison with Keyham Charities; by way of this report we would like to thank her for the work she did. Jenni Nobes has now assumed that role and we welcome working with her.

In 2022 we supported a number of village classes / social events, namely:-

Keep Fit Classes

Celebrations associated with The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee e.g. street party

Commemorative coins for children / young adults in the village  
Village Christmas Party  
Keyham Pensioners Lunch

All that social interaction aside and, more importantly, Keyham Relief in Need continues to support those villagers in financial difficulties or suffering ill health; we are usually aware of these situations but please do approach us should you know of anyone in the village who could do with our support. Thank you.

### **Village Hall**

John Hughes (JH) reported:

He thanked TJ (Treasurer) and other members of the committee. Thanks to Jenni Nobes (JN) who now cleans the hall and has improved things dramatically.

A few years ago it was predicted that the Village Hall would begin to struggle financial if it didn't have the income from Open Gardens. The last OG was in 2017 so is the future of the hall uncertain? Not yet, but we may be heading that way. Here is the extent of the problem.

The hall account currently stands at £6500 so without the COVID grant of £10000 from a couple of years ago, we would be showing a deficit of £3500; not good. In addition, on-going costs continue to rise e.g. energy, cleaning, insurance, water.

The committee has, therefore, applied for the annual grant from the precept to increase from £650 pa to £1000 pa. The Parish Chairman has built this into future budgets but more may be needed and we need to monitor the situation carefully. (It was noted that the £650 grant had been at that level since 2005 and now needed to be inflation-proofed.) We will also continue to rely heavily on support from Keyham Charities.

This situation prompted a debate about Keyham Open Gardens (KOG) and other fund raising possibilities. JH reported that Keyham Croquet would be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and this would raise around £300. He invited others to take forward their own ideas. It was recognized that the future of KOG was uncertain but that other events could possibly fill the void but required a villager or team of villagers to take things forward.

The hiring of the hall for low-key events was to be encouraged but hiring for big events to non-villagers was not thought suitable by the meeting.

### **Keyham News and Village Website**

JH reported:

Nothing much to report regarding Keyham News; we hope you enjoy reading it and find it informative. Past few editions have been rather "thin" so please contribute articles and photos. Thanks to regular contributors.

The Village Website is kept up to date but new information is posted only infrequently.

Having said that lots of new information has recently been posted on the “History of the Village” page.

If you are interested you will now find....

*Memoirs from the post-war years*  
*Census summaries from 1841 to 1939*  
*History of Properties - Pub, Village Hall, Church, Keyham Old Hall*  
*and couple of other houses*

Thanks to Steve Bailey for his input to this and please get involved if you have anything you would like to contribute.

I am currently working with Dave Hannah to see how we can best share the content of the “Keyham Histories” September session through the website. It was suggested that there might be another similar evening if there is enough interest.

It was reported by Geoff Barnett (GB) that old paper copies had been lodged with Leicestershire Records Office via Syston Library. They had been enthusiastically received. Electronic copies since 2011 are available on the Keyham Village Website.

### **Conservation Committee**

David Hannah (DH) reported that very few applications had been received for properties within the Keyham Conservation Area. Those that had been received had not raised any concerns. Developments outside the conservation area continued but most were following planning regulations.

TJ reported that a couple of developments appeared not to follow regulations and these will be brought to the attention of HDC.

TJ reported that the major application for the development of Scraptoft Lodge Farm opposite the Natural Burial Ground had been approved.

### **Representative of Vicar on Parochial Church Council**

We remain in an interregnum, as Revd. Alison left over a year ago and has not yet been replaced. With the gradual finalisation of plans for reorganising the 26 parishes in the east of the Diocese of Leicester, there are hopes that there will be sufficient funding provided by each parish for up to 4 ordained priests, in order to have a presence in each parish.

At the present we have one service a month and this is likely to be the norm in the future. However there is also a monthly service at Hungarton.

This does not mean the church has been fallow. We have had a number of visiting priests presiding over the services throughout the year. Some have been known to us,

Philip Norwood and Jeff Hopewell but also on occasions, we have had visits from Alan Humphrey the local Deanery Lead, David Palmer from Market Harborough, Richard, Archdeacon of Leicester and on one occasion Bishop Satu from Loughborough. These inspiring speakers have provided a rich and exciting commentary for us to listen to and we thank them all for finding time to come and support us.

We have also had some social events in the church: coffee mornings, a concert in spring and Keyham histories talks in the autumn. These were well attended and donations of over £400, including those collected at our harvest, lights services and our Carol service, have gone towards cancer relief and homeless charities.

We would like to thank, Hugh and Christine fellow PCC members, Claire our organist, Steve, the flower group led by Sarah and all the helpers, performers and numerous villagers, who have supported the Church and kept it looking good throughout the year.

Regarding our finances for 2022.

The running cost of the church including insurance, electricity, and the parish share was	£7610
Costs of general maintenance and other running expenses was	£7026
Total church expenditure was	£14636
Income from donations including gift aid was	£3944
Other income was	£888
Total income was	£4832

This left a deficit of £9804, which is increasing year on year and has, as in previous years, been made up from our reserve fund. In the past we were able to share profits from Keyham Gardens and in addition the reserve fund would usually appreciate enough to at least in part cover this deficit.

Future expenditure from our recent Quinquennial Inspection – in particularly essential stonework repairs on the church tower and perimeter wall, which have yet to be accurately costed, together with ongoing repairs to the chancel ceiling and refurbishment of the bells are likely to take up over half of our reserve fund and leave the finances in a precarious position, should the income deficit increase and further unexpected maintenance be required.

It was clear from RW's report that the future of the Church's fabric is in jeopardy and significant funds are needed to repair the tower. It was suggested that some of the precept surplus be used for this project and that direct donations from villagers be sought. These were considered as viable options but the PCC was asked to take forward and lead on a **fund raising campaign for the repair of the tower** and associated works.

## **6. Village financial details for 2022/23 and 2023/24**

TJ presented the Parish Meeting finances for 2022/23 and 2023/24. There were no questions.

# KEYHAM PARISH MEETING

## EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 2022/23

Surplus carried forward from 2021/2: £6989.19  
 Precept 2021/2: £3538.00  
 Total funds available 2021/2: £10527.19

BUDGET	ITEM	ACTUAL	PRECEPT 2023/4
£		£	£

	Cemetery mowing	702.00	
	Street Lighting	741.92	
	Jubilee	1,250.00	
	Village Insurance	338.08	
	Village Hall	650.00	
	Miscellaneous	346.71	
	Subscriptions	18.00	

<b>3538</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4046.71</b>	<b>3740</b>
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Surplus carried forward to 2023/24 £6480.48  
 Precept 2023/24 £3740.00  
 Total funds available 2023/24 £10220.48

**Keyham**

1. Parish Precept Requirement of 2023/24

£

Please Do Not Enter Pence

Allotments	
Bus Shelters	
Cemeteries	650
Community Resilience	
Election Expenses	
General Expenses	750
LRALC Subscription	20
Parish Plan Work	
Recreation Grounds	
Roadside Safety	
Street Lighting	720
Village Hall	650
Youth Provision	
Parish Website	450
Insurance	450
Audit fees	50
Other	
See attached (if you prefer to attach your budget need please enter on this row)	0
Use of Reserves ( enter as a negative)	0
<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT FOR 2023/24</b>	<b>3,740</b>

## 7. Any Other Business

Richard Taylor (RT) reported that the idea of a **tree to celebrate the Jubilee** of 2022 had not been progressed owing to the perceived lack of support for the notion.

The **Coronation Party** is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> May. DH asked whether everyone was aware of this event and it was agreed that publicity had been effective.

TJ reported that the landlady from the pub had informed him that someone from the village had complained to HDC about **noise from the pub** around 4<sup>th</sup> April. This appeared to be an unfounded report as no event have occurred recently and none is planned until August. Villagers were generally very supportive of the pub although a very noisy party had been held in the summer. TJ agreed to provide feedback to this effect.

TJ felt that **car parking** in Main Street was becoming an issue and the meeting felt that the parking problem was widespread on all roads in the village. TJ proposed that a separate meeting be held with all interested parties (including the D&G pub) to debate this matter and find solution. TJ to arrange.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.