

KEYHAM PARISH/VILLAGE MEETING

Tuesday April 16th 2024 7:30pm Village Hall

MINUTES of MEETING

1. Welcome by Chairman

The Parish Chairman, Tony Johnson (TJ), welcomed 16 villagers to the meeting. There were apologies from 11 villagers.

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

The minutes for the April 2023 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 over the course of the year and asked that any remaining problems be reported to him and he would follow them up with LCC. The **flooding on the road to Beeby** has been reported and TJ will chase LCC.

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

TJ was re-elected **Chairman** of the Parish Meeting unopposed and unanimously. The meeting thanked TJ for his work. He said that whilst he was prepared to be Chairman for the year, some thought needed to be given to a successor at some point.

This led to a wider discussion on the need for succession planning for the management of the village's three key assets (Church, Charity Cottages, Village Hall).

4. Chairman's Report

TJ reported that he had continued to pursue LCC in respect of **traffic calming** measures along the Ingarsby Road but had met with resistance apart from the provision of "dragons' teeth" road markings either side of the village. The bend half a mile to the east of the village still caused problems to speeding motorists and it was hoped that matters might be improved before another fatality at this location.

TJ reported that the **flooding at the bottom of Snow's Lane** had been addressed but that the exceptional rainfall over the autumn, winter and spring had caused further problems.

The **blocked drains** at the junction of Kings Lane and Main Street had been cleared. TJ would continue to chase local councils regarding drain clearing and street sweeping obligations.

The **kerb stones** by the Village Hall and Pub Car Park had been re-laid (twice!).

Footpaths. The footpath handrail into Henderson's field had been repaired along with the bridge on the path to Scraftoft. The revised bridleway around Keyham Manor (formerly Keyham Kennels) was now fully open but access further along the track was problematical particularly for horses. This had been reported to LCC.

The meeting last year re **parking issues** had brought about little change. The fire service had experienced a problem getting through opposite the allotments and the wide vehicle causing the problem was now parking partly on the footpath to facilitate clear passage. Ramblers are now permitted to park at the Village Hall to alleviate occasional problems on Snows Lane.

5. Reports by Chairpersons of the following Committees

Keyham Charities

Margaret Hughes (MH), Treasurer reported the following.

Keyham Charities assets are the four cottages sited adjacent to the Church, and the parcel of land known as Keyham Allotments.

At the moment we are committed to spending **significant monies** on these cottages.

Last year we enlisted an expert to undertake an energy performance assessment of all the cottages and, whilst there is no legal requirement to disclose this information as they are listed, we decided to invest in new energy efficient heaters in each property. Each cottage now has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC as it is known) of E.

Furthermore, other ongoing problems identified last year are resulting in all cottages having their chimneys lined, new wood burners installed and, where necessary chimneys rebuilt. The wood burners were originally installed in 2002/3 with no liners and thus proving difficult to get parts. This work is currently ongoing.

At present 3 of the cottages are occupied, we having parted company with the tenant at no. 1 in March. It was a difficult period for the Trustees leading up to the termination of that tenancy, but we have resolved to undertake a major upgrade to that property and get it back to the rental market towards the end of June. Pleased to report that already we have two persons registering an interest in renting the property.

In 2023 we supported a number of requests / events, namely:-

Keep Fit Classes, Celebrations associated with The Coronation, The Keyham Pensioners Lunch and the educational needs of our villagers (both young and old).

All that aside, Keyham Relief in Need continues to support those villagers experiencing 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. All request for help are considered in strictest confidence.

The constitution of Keyham Charities permits up to 6 Trustees. 2 of those Trustees are nominated through the Parish Meeting and serve a term of 4 years.

MH and Eden Douglas (ED) are currently the village representatives on Keyham Charities and are now up for re-election. We are both happy to continue thus could I ask the meeting for a sponsor / seconder for both of us please? Agreed by the meeting.

Please note we still have a vacancy for a co-opted Trustee should anyone be interested; please speak to our Chairman, John Stanfield, if interested in the position. Vacancies would be advertised in Keyham News in the near future.

TJ thanked the trustees (especially MH and ED) for their hard work over the past 12 months when a number of difficult issues had needed resolving.

Village Hall

John Hughes (JH) reported:

Thank you to the Management Committee for its continued support.

Last year financial uncertainties were reported with funds standing at just £6500. This year we have slightly less money even after this year's precept grant is paid. A rather worrying trend.

IN response to a question about future improvements, JH reported that improved heat and re-decoration works would be taken forward when Keyham Charities were in a better position to assist with funding.

Keyham News and Village Website

JH reported:

Keyham News - Please keep reading and sending in your contributions. We hope you enjoy reading it. TJ thanked JH and MH for their work each month.

Keyham Website - The main addition this year has been pages about Keyham folk who served their country in WW1 and WW2 and further back. Many thanks to Geoff Barnett, Sue Hassall and Steve Bailey for their contributions in this area. Please read what is on the website and, in particular, follow the link there to Geoff's blog about travelling the Western Front Way; it's all good stuff.

There is a new company that has taken over the maintenance of the website and they are changing the look and feel of the site. All well and good provided that none of the Keyham-specific content is lost. That would be frustrating given the work that has gone into content in recent times.

Conservation Committee (Planning Matters)

TJ reported that the proposed development of an event destination at **Scraptoft Lodge Farm** appeared to not being taken forward.

Despite best efforts to halt developments along **Hungarton Lane**, HDC have given approval. TJ is now pursuing this matter with HDC to find out why the application was not put before Planning Committee as requested via Cllr. Galton. He also plans to ask planners to come to Keyham to explain their processes and decisions at an open meeting. The meeting thanked TJ for pursuing this matter on behalf of the village.

TJ reported that he will be attending a meeting with **Alicia Kearns, MP** and local Parish Chairman. He intended to raise his concerns with regard to the handling of planning matters by HDC.

Representative of Vicar on Parochial Church Council

Eden Douglas (ED) delivered the following on behalf of Richard Windle (RW).

We are now in the Minster Community Group of churches made up of the 26 parishes in the east of the Diocese of Leicester and we remain closely associated with the parishes of Hungarton Billesdon, Skeffington Gaulby and Ilston on the Hill. Four ordained Priests have been appointed, which should allow a presence of one in each parish. Which one will adopt our group of churches to replace Allison has yet to be decided. However, we have been having a regular monthly service on the third Sunday taken by Jeff Hopewell and he, with the help of Philip Norwood, John Taylor and David Palmer, has covered all extra services during the year, including 2 weddings. There is a monthly service at Hungarton on the first Sunday, as well. We are very grateful for their support for All Saints over what has been a long process in transforming the Deanery to a group of Minster communities.

We have also had Saturday morning coffee mornings in the church and a fundraising one in the Village Hall which raised £245 for Doctors Without Borders. The coffee mornings were well attended as were our harvest and lights services and our Carol service. Donations of £276 were collected for cancer relief and homeless charities and visitors to the church continue to enjoy the quiet and solitude it offers.

We would like to thank, Hugh, Christine and Eden, fellow PCC members, Claire our organist, the flower group led by Sarah and all the helpers, musicians and numerous villagers, who have supported the Church and kept it looking spick and span throughout the year. Thanks also to Susan, who is now heading up the flower group and to Steve for his help in setting up the Christmas trees and more. We would particularly like to thank Sarah for organising a very popular and fun wine and cheese evening which raised £250 for the Church Tower Repair fund. We are also very grateful for the generous donation given by the Village Meeting towards the tower repairs and to all those who have held other functions during the year towards the repair of the church tower

Regarding our ongoing finances for 2023/4.

The deficit between the fixed general running costs of the church, including insurance, electricity, water and the parish share, and the regular income remains a problem, particularly as the deficit has to be covered from the reserve fund and this year essential repairs to the church will take a significant proportion of that fund.

Grants have been applied for but these are not likely to cover anywhere near the costs, even if they are successful. We are therefore asking Keyham villagers to support the church as generously as they are able, by donating to our forthcoming appeal a lump sum towards the cost of the tower stonework or even better, a regular donation towards reducing the gap between our regular outgoings and income, either of which would be very much appreciated and would keep the church safe for future generations to enjoy.

ED reported that during the summer months (when travel commitments permit) he will be visiting villagers to discuss how they might help the church financially.

TJ reported that the contribution from the precept to the church for mowing had been increased to £1000 and £2000 had been given to the Church Tower fund.

6. Village financial details for 2023/24 and 2024/25

TJ presented the Parish Meeting finances for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

The main payments to note were the increases and additions for the Church and Village Hall.

There were no questions.

7. Any Other Business

TJ thanked Samantha and David Hannah (S&DH) for hosting the **Coronation Party** in their garden.

TJ thanked Margaret and John Hughes for organizing, and Sophie and Chris Page for hosting, the **25th Keyham Croquet** tournament.

The meeting supported the initiative from S&DH to erect a **flag pole** on the Village Hall to celebrate national and local events.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

KEYHAM PARISH MEETING

EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 2023/24

Surplus carried forward from 2022/3:	£6480
Precept	2023/3: £3740
Total funds available	2023/3: £10220

BUDGET	ITEM	ACTUAL	PRECEPT 2024/5
£		£	£
	Cemetery mowing	650	
	Street Lighting	1,018	
	Coronation	895	
	Village Insurance	371	
	Website	372	
	Village Hall	1,000	
	Church	2,000	
	Miscellaneous	87	
	Subscriptions	18	

3740	TOTALS less £19 interest	6392	4720
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Surplus carried forward to	2024/25	£3828
Precept	2024/25	£4720
Total funds available	2024/25	£8548

1. Parish Precept Requirement of 2024/25

£

Please Do Not Enter Pence

Allotments	
Bus Shelters	
Cemeteries	1,000
Community Resilience	
Election Expenses	
General Expenses	550
LRALC Subscription	20
Parish Plan Work	
Recreation Grounds	
Roadside Safety	
Street Lighting	1,200
Village Hall	1,000
Youth Provision	
Parish Website	450
Insurance	500
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
TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT FOR 2024/25	4,720