

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Monday 9th April 2018 at Parish Council Offices, 1 London Road, Kegworth at 6.30pm

Present : David Hignett, Chair of the Parish Council; Vicky Roe, Clerk to the Council; Five members of the public and Cllr Trevor Pendleton

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair of the Parish Council, David Hignett welcomed all those present.

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2017

The Minutes were signed and approved.

3. To invite the Neighbourhood Policing Team to address the meeting

PCSO Jon Smith attended. Update on the recent burglary. One suspect was detained. Second suspect caused minor injuries to the Special Constables when driving away from the scene and was later arrested in Derbyshire, Both to appear before Magistrates. Inspector Rich Jackson will replace Helena Bakhta on 24th April as NPA Commander for NWL. Helena hopes the relationship between the Police and Parish continues to help fight crime and to the end, thanked the Clerk for her work in securing Police S106 funds to pay for CCTV. Jon reiterated the importance of reporting all suspicious vehicles or persons to 101. A lot of information is being picked up by Police through social media which is not the best forum. The Chairman ended by noting that Jon visibility in the village is appreciated and thanked him for his work over the past twelve months.

4. To invite Cllrs Alison Smith and Trevor Pendleton to address the Meeting

Cllr Smith sent her apologies. Cllr Pendleton thanked the Chair for the opportunity to speak.

- Following the address given by the Police, this helps provide an understanding of aspirations and can assist in influencing NWLDC and LCC. Cllr Pendleton is also Chair of the Police and Safety Crime Group. He also has dialogue with PCC Willy Bach and is aware of the funding secured for two CCTV cameras.
- The village has been hit with HMO applications. Officers are keen to help, the latest planning application has a recommendation to refuse. Cllr Pendleton commended Parish Councillors for speaking at the planning committees. The matter is gaining cross party support.
- In relation to parking and traffic, Cllr Pendleton does his best to influence Highways.
- Cllr Pendleton provides his support to the village consultation advising that he has heard no negatives, of course there may be some but mainly views seem very positive. He will work with Andrew Bridgen MP to attempt to raise funds from large businesses. LCC are unable to contribute to any scheme as they need to save 32 million pound by 2020. If residents are unwilling to pay for the scheme via a raise in Council Tax and the A6 becomes a race track, funds may have to be made available from central Government if the highway becomes a safety issue, Andrew Bridgen would be able to respond to that argument.

5. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chairman, Kegworth Parish Council

The Chairman provided a report on activities of the Parish Council over the preceding year.

6. Statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2018 by the Clerk to the Parish Council

The Clerk provided a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2018. The Clerk confirmed the accounts would be available for inspection in due course.

7. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest

No matters were raised by members of the public.

8. The meeting ended at 7.09pm.

Annual Parish Meeting for Kegworth 9 April 2018

Chairman's Report

Since the beginning of September 2017 our village life has been disrupted by the construction of the East Midlands Gateway (EMG), Kegworth Bypass and the M1 Smart Motorway works. Heavy plant in the fields to the west, south and north of the village and works to the roundabout at Junction 24 plus the closure and re-opening of Ashby Road and the closure of Whatton Road has created a sense of our village being completely surrounded. The resultant traffic congestion particularly at peak times has tried the patience of many.

Work on the long awaited Kegworth Bypass, due for completion at the end of October is ahead of schedule and the road works for EMG and the M1 should all be completed by the end of 2018

Kegworth Village Centre

The village wide consultation on how to improve the village centre once the bypass is open has just begun and all residents should have received the latest newsletter that contains a design concept, a number of questions and advice on how you can respond. The newsletter is also published on the website at kegworthparishcouncil.co.uk. Nothing has been decided, nor will be decided until a clear picture emerges of what people want. I would urge everyone to complete the questionnaire to help a clear picture to emerge. This part of the consultation is due to close on 15 May 2018, so please make sure you have your say.

People

Two councillors, Carl Sutton and David Outerside, resigned for personal reasons and work commitments. Two new councillors were co-opted at the February meeting, Emma Hogan and Adam Kowalczyk.

The deputy clerk Emma Laban left us to take up a job nearer to her home. The council thanked Emma for the work she had done and wished her well for the future.

The council decided that the role of deputy clerk needed to be re-evaluated and that the role should be more customer facing. A new Job Description was produced with the title Engagement Officer/Deputy Clerk. After a number of applicants were interviewed Alicia Smithies was offered the job and started work on April 3.

Vicky Roe, Parish Clerk obtained the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). It is the first time that this council has had a clerk with this qualification.

Stuart Cox, village Lengthsman has completed one year and has made a big difference to the standard of tidiness in the village. He has just started a programme of refurbishing the 34 benches in the village in addition to his regular duties.

The council nominated One Kegworth for the Rural Achievement Award for Leicestershire for their work on village events. We were delighted to find that they won the award against bigger organizations. The judges particularly noted the wide age range of members, all volunteers and inclusive of permanent residents and students from Sutton Bonington campus who reside in Kegworth.

Sideley Park

The work to turn this area into 'park for everyone' began in April and infrastructure, picnic tables/benches, dog agility area, and signage were all in place for the Family Fun Day and Food Festival on 3 June. The existing play equipment was refurbished and climbing equipment installed. The garden areas were planted in the autumn with the help of volunteers under the direction of our garden designer, Jan Barrowcliff. We all owe a debt of gratitude to this enthusiastic group of people who have now commenced a monthly tidying and weeding routine; more volunteers are always welcome - details from the parish office. The developer contribution from Citrus Grove housing has been used to pay for most of this work. Now we need some good weather to be able to enjoy this area of the village.

HS2

Your Parish Council is working with the District Council and consultants employed by them to mitigate the impact on the village. There is nothing further to report at this stage.

- A coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan charity was held in the Parish Council Office. The event attracted about 60 people and raised £300 for the charity
- The wooden planters and planting display in the Market Place owned by the council are now a permanent year round feature, replacing the seasonal planters that were supplied and maintained by a contractor. The display has attracted many positive comments and produces an annual cost saving compared with the previous arrangement.
- Christmas in the Market Place in conjunction with the One Team and the businesses attracted about 500 people with many of them staying for the lights switch on. Stallholders and visitors reported a successful event.
- As in previous years your parish council made grants to voluntary bodies. These grants help to sustain such bodies whose existence adds much to the character of and activities in the village.

I would like to thank all councillors for their contribution to the work of the council. Individual councillors take on different responsibilities and special projects to augment the work of the council staff. Many have full time jobs and most come to the council with existing responsibilities within voluntary organisations in our village and so are all busy people.

I feel that we can all look forward with optimism at the prospects for Kegworth post bypass despite the frustration caused by the various construction works currently inconveniencing everyone. It now requires us all to make the most of the opportunities presented to us.

Thank you

David Hignett
Chairman
Kegworth Parish Council

Clerk's Report for Annual Parish Meeting – 09/04/2018

The parish council received a precept for 2017/18 of £102,955. The Council also received additional income such as from allotment sites, cemetery etc which totals around £5,000.

I continue to meet with David on a weekly basis and lately since his appointment as Vice Chairman, Gary has joined us at these meetings. We discuss various matters including those relating to the finances. I carry out bank reconciliations on a monthly basis and report to Councillors regularly in relation to income and expenditure which information is produced from the accounting system, Scribe.

We continue to ensure that we receive best value for money in relation to utilities, phone and broadband, churchyard floodlighting and photocopying/printing. In relation to Insurance cover, the Parish Council is signed up to a three year deal as this provided the Council with further savings. We also entered into a new grass cutting contract which the Council feels has been a success based on feedback received.

The parish council received grant applications from twelve local groups and organisations and awarded nearly £9,500.00 in total. We continue to follow guidelines when assessing the amount to be awarded to each group and ask them to report back to us on how the funds have been spent.

The parish council fully supports its councillors and staff in relation to training, mostly provided by our local association in Anstey. In addition, our Lengthsman has undertaken a number of courses to aide him in his work including a playground inspection course, First Aid and a three day course on the use of pesticides.

The vast majority of the expenditure incurred is budgeted for by the council however sometimes unexpected costs can arise. This financial year saw a large bough fall from a tree in the churchyard which prompted the Council to carry out general tree works to a number of Churchyard trees. A contingency is put in place for such eventualities. As a one-off, the Council also agreed to spend additional funds over and above those budgeted for to improve the Christmas installations. The improved display was also made possible by donations from the EMG/Bypass Contractors, EMA and a Kegworth business.

The Local Association now offers an internal auditing service which helps the Council ensure it is receiving an approved service. The external auditor has also changed to PKF Littlejohn from Grant Thornton. As at today, the accounts to 31st March 2018 are unaudited but I believe that both the internal and external audits will proceed smoothly and therefore, I have no cause for concern.

Vicky Roe
Parish Clerk