**East Keal**

**Annual Parish Meeting**

**Minutes of Wednesday 21st May at the Keal’s Village Hall**

1. **The minutes of the last Parish Meeting on 29th May 2024 were approved.**
2. **Sandra Smith who is the Community Development Officer with YMCA in Lincs gave the meeting a talk on how she could help the Council to engage volunteers and access grant funding for rural communities. It’s good to get several smaller areas to work together she said and mentioned that in the past Lottery Funding was much easier to obtain than it is now. There’s a huge ageing population in Lincolnshire and funders will be looking at helping with isolation, transport & mobility issues. If you can identify the issue then its key to getting the funding to help – the application has to ‘tell the story’.**
3. **Also the following were invited to attend and present reports at the meeting:-**

* **The Community Café** – the afternoon teas and puddings are very popular and the baking is donated also lots of helpers come to give their time and help out
* **The Art Club –** Eresby Hall carers bring their clients – the art is usually conducted in water colours as much cheaper and easier to work with. Sometimes they switch from art to cross stitch/crafts for a break.
* **The Local History Club** – Can have up to 24 people attending. The archives are building with a wide variety of records. Mention of a group in the 1970’s named ‘Keal’s Clowns’ who were a group of residents who entertained locally. There’s also a road sweeper’s diary from Victorian times who used a hand barrow and collected the horse manure.
* **The PCC** – the St Helens Church has had a positive year although the retired Bishop who led the Sunday Service and his wife moved to Derbyshire in the Spring. Regular Sunday Services have continued and attendance numbers have held steady at approx. 20. They have a card reader now for the collection as many people don’t carry cash around with them. New disabled toilets and kitchen facilities costing around £125k will be installed this year thanks to some grant aid and careful planning by the PCC.
* **The Gardening Club** – this club has over 60 members – it has speakers, days out and a few parties. There is a plant sale 29th June 2 – 4pm with a 60’s theme with proceeds to Garden Club/St Helens along with an art exhibition from Art Group.
* **The Wildlife Group –** since 2020 a record of all wildlife seen in the village has been kept. There’s 16 different mammals and 90 bird species recorded. Bird migrations are recorded and the swallows came in April this year instead of May. There’s a breeding colony of house martins in Fen Lane. Red Kite, Hawks and Buzzards have been seen but no signs of breeding. Several breeds of deer, grey squirrels, weazels and stouts have been seen.
* **The Friends of St Helen’s Church -** this is a charitable organisation which raises funds for the Church – there’s a pop-up pub on 20th June with a licenced bar, cocktails etc and serving hot food – puddings etc also ones on 5th September and 12th December.
* **The Keal’s Village Hall Committee** – keeping costs low by being eco friendly LED lighting used and heat pump was installed in April using £7.5k from a Government grant also solar panels help to reduce electricity costs. All these factors help to keep the cost per session of using the hall down to £20. It has many uses - there are birthday parties, corporate functions and elections held there. Currently its trading at a profit of £580.

1. **Chair’s annual report:-**

When Charlotte Mahoney took over the Chair this time last year she was very new to the job. She was carrying out the Clerk’s role too and getting to grips with the legislation. However there’s been lots of positives within the year such as the time capsule which is buried for 25 years and has its own plaque. The Memorial site has improved tremendously with a beautiful grassed area. The flag has been flying for VE day and various other events throughout the year. Our new Clerk has a solid financial grounding as an accountant previously with the District Council which is helpful. A community questionnaire went out unfortunately there wasn’t a great response – probably 20 odd back – hopefully that means that most of the community are relatively happy with what we are doing. There’s been a lot of change everywhere with the new Labour Government and the sweeping results for Reform in the recent Lincolnshire County Council elections. Currently we are two councillors down – so we are working with five out of a possible seven councillors – if anyone would like to join us please email the Clerk – she will be pleased to send you an application form ([clerk@eastkealparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastkealparishcouncil.gov.uk)) – we are a friendly group.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

**Minutes of East Keal Annual Council Meeting - 21st May 2025**

**Held at Keals Village Hall at 7.40pm**

**Present**Cllr Mahoney (Chair), Cllr Cooper, Cllr Pearson, Cllr Stickland & 12 members of the public plus Pauline Murray (Parish Clerk) and County Cllr Roberts.

**Public Forum**

A member of public asked how many questionnaires were returned and the answer was around 20.

**0001. Election of Chair –** Cllr Mahoney was returned unanimously as Chair

**0002. Election of Deputy Chair –** Cllr Cooper was voted unanimously for Vice

**0003. Co-option of councillor –** no applications

**0004. Apologies for Absence –** None

**0005. Declaration of Interest (if any) –** none

**0006. The minutes of a meeting held on 13/03/25** were approved and signed by the Chair

**0007. Declaration of Interest (if any) –** none

**0008. Reports from representatives on outside bodies:**

* 1. **County Councillor –** the new Councillor – Councillor Roberts joined the meeting and said that he lives locally and is a mortgage broker – he’s very interested in preserving the history of our beautiful towns and is looking forward to working with the parish council to sort the problems out. Two members of the public asked that the Councillor revisit the planning application for the diversion of the footpath for the construction of the home that has been approved by planning at land adjacent to Lavender Cottage, Fen Lane. These two residents expressed objections to the diversion and wanted it overturned. The Chair explained that the planning application was currently pending with the Planning dept and that there were no objections from the parish council to add.
  2. **District Councillor –** the Clerk read out the information emailed through from Councillor Taylor which included large funding projects across the district, wholesale change as Reform take charge at Lincolnshire County Council and the large amount of energy projects currently being considered by the Government which could, if successful, change our beautiful landscape.

**0009.Highways Update**

Councillor Gray worked hard for the Parish Council and he will be missed. There still is a lot of work to be undertaken and the Clerk will send Councillor Roberts the Highways updated list of works. Church Lane is due to be resurfaced in 2027 and Fen Lane is still boggy from a water leak.

**0010. Insurance cover**

The Clerk had approached 3 insurance companies for a quotation – Zurich Ltd was the company which was unanimously chosen.

**0011. Planning Applications**

1. 02175/25/FUL – Alterations to an existing detached garage at Brayford House – the Clerk read out the email from the Planning Officer which stated that the application was for an household and the impact on the neighbouring solar panels is currently being considered.

**0012. Financial Update:-**

* 1. The Clerk had prepared the financial statement for year ending 31st March 2025 – this showed income of £10,223 in the year and expenditure of £9,484 leaving a balance in the current account of £4,012 plus £2,116 in Santander.
  2. The Clerk had completed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/2025 and the Chair signed the relevant sheets below:-
     1. Certificate of Exemption
     2. Annual Governance Statement
     3. Accounting Statements 2024/25

The Clerk will now take these documents along the supporting evidence to

Internal Auditor (Jen Cooper) and when she has signed them off they will go

the External Auditor (Littlejohns)

* 1. Bank Reconciliation Statement and Financial Report as at 18th May 2025 – so the only transactions between 31st March and 18th May were £4.25 of bank charges and £4,900 income from the precept.
  2. Banking review (including Santander Acct) – delayed until next meeting However Cllr Pearson stepped down as signatory for Santander as they had never processed his paperwork so he was not a signatory anyway. Also Cllr Pearson went into Lloyds and as they are unable to support his voice disability on the automated phone system he will not be able to use this function. Cllr Cooper was appointed as signatory for double banks.

**0013. Clerks report**

1. Community emails – the Clerk explained that she had emailed out from the community email list asking those that no longer wish to be on it to contact her to be removed – she had received a handful of people that had moved so she removed them from the list. Also there were 2 people that had sadly passed away so they were also removed.
2. Training – the Clerk has undertaken one half day of CILCA training – this was on agendas and minutes and was enjoyable – the next half day will be 4th June. The invoices will be addressed to each of the Clerk’s parish councils – a quarter payment to each – the first one is £81.25.

**0014.Risk Assessments & results from questionnaires**

The Chair is putting all the risk assessments together and is going to circulate before the next meeting. The Clerk has collated all the results from the questionnaires and will circulate those around the Councillors**.**

**0015. New Bench – top of Fen Lane**

This new bench has had written approval from Highways. The Chairs husband has put golf balls on to the bolts to make them less of a hazard. Two members of the public have provided and fitted the bench and were duly thanked on the night. The gentleman who made the bench would like to donate it to the Parish Council and will give it a lick of paint when needed which is extremely kind.

**0016. Any other Matters for next Agenda**

Risk Assessments

Bank Review

**0017. Date of next meeting Thursday, 10th July 2025**

**Meeting closed at 8.58pm**