**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**