**Minutes of East Keal Annual Council Meeting - 10th July 2025**

 **Held at Keals Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present**Cllr Mahoney (Chair), Cllr Cooper, Cllr Pearson & 3 members of the public plus Pauline Murray (Parish Clerk) and County Cllr Roberts.

**Public Forum**

There was a query regarding an East Keal councillor attending West Keal parish council meetings which is acceptable. Also Councillor Pearson and Councillor Roberts were happy that the 50 mph road was going to be reduced to 40 mph. There was also some concern about traffic going the wrong way round Fen Lane. It was suggested that the parish council website needed updating as some of the new events were from March also the 4 year plan needs to be progressed as its been ‘under review’ for several months now.

**0018. Apologies for Absence –** Cllrs Wrisdale (annual holiday) and Stickland (illness)

**0019. Declaration of Interest –** None

**0020. The minutes of a meeting held on 21/03/25** were approved and signed by the Chair

**0021. Co-option of councillor –** no applications

**0022. Reports from representatives on outside bodies:**

* 1. **County Councillor –** Councillor Roberts mentioned that they were able to stop the nuclear waste at Theddlethorpe so he was hopeful that if Reform were to get into Government they would stop the pylons. The cost of putting the Grimsby to Walpole National Grid infrastructure through is £1.5 billion whilst under the sea it would be £6 billion or £3 billion for under ground. There would be 2 sub stations near Alford each 4 times the size of Alford itself. There’s still talk of another supermarket coming to Horncastle but this hasn’t been formalised yet. The District Council proposals for the new unitary councils need to go Central Government by November 2025.
	2. **District Councillor –** not in attendance but the Clerk was tasked with asking him if he would be allocating some of his £4k grant to this parish council.

**0023. Highways Update**

 **a. Update from HR Committee –** none

 **b.** **Update by the Highways Working Group** – Cllr Pearson shared his highways

 update sheet with Councillor Roberts for him to take issues forward

**0024. Training**

 **CILCA** **–** the Clerk has had another session of training with Katrina Evans from LALC

 which she has found very informative

 **GDPR –** the Clerk and the Chair attended an online webinar regarding the necessity of

 parish councils to ensure that their information is aligning with the GDPR

 principles as at the end of next financial year the council will need to sign off

 on this.

**0025. UKSPF Grassroots grant application form re gazebo –** the Clerk reported that the

 application has been submitted within the deadline and we are now waiting for

 them to fed back to us on the panel’s decision.

**0026. Review of the Banking –** the Clerk had done some research on bank accounts used by

 Parish and Town Councils – taking information from Scribe 23.6% of these

 organisations use Unity Trust Bank whilst 20.06% use Lloyds – the next down is Nat

 West used by 12.8%. Looking at the fees and the interest rates along with the

 positive and negative reviews it would seem that Unity Trust Bank are the winners –

 the council resolved to change banks from Lloyds to Unity Trust Bank.

**0027. Risk Register**

 The Clerk had circulated the NALC model risk register – the Chair has been doing

 quite a lot of work on this and will submit it for approval at the next meeting.

**0028. Footpaths – Pride Team**

 **i)** the Pride Team have made a great job of Barrow Hole

 **ii)**  the Footpaths Officer at Lincolnshire County Council Jonathan Stocks has said that

 Landowners have a duty of care for those upon their land (Occupiers Liability Act 1957)

 and to ensure any structures such as gates and stiles erected across the path are safe and

 useable. Landowners are responsible for ensuring that hedges do not encroach upon

 Public Footpaths. Natural vegetation that grows from the surface of a path if the field is not

 grazed becomes the Highway Authority’s responsibility.

 **iii) the Clerk** informed the council that in the latest issue of the Clerks and Councils Direct it

 was stated that there was a possibility of a ‘cut-off’ date from which claims for putting

 footpaths on the parish’s definitive map. Therefore she was keen that the definitive map

 was investigated and that the council are reasonable happy all footpaths were present but

 Councillors Mahoney and Pearson are going to check them before September’s meeting.

**0029. Planning Applications**

1. S/086/01190/24 Grimsby to Walpole Project – the deadline had already passed but it would to be a foregone conclusion.
2. Land at Blacksmith’s Lane – this came up as the Chair saw the advert online however now it has been sold.

 **0030. Financial Update:-**

 **a)** The Clerk had prepared a sheet of payments since 1st April and the Chair signed it off.

 Those payments were:-

|  |
| --- |
| **EAST KEAL PARISH COUNCIL - Payment Sheet** |
| 1st April 2024 - 30th June 2025 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | £ |
| 22/04/2025 |  | Bank fees |  | £4.25 |
| 19/05/2025 |  | The Keal Village Hall |  | £20.00 |
| 19/05/2025 |  | Income Tax re Clerk |  | £121.20 |
| 19/05/2025 |  | Clerks salary Feb-April |  | £557.77 |
| 19/05/2025 |  | Bank fees |  | £4.25 |
| 02/06/2025 |  | Zurich Town & Parish |  | £327.00 |
| 17/06/2025 |  | Bank fees |  | £4.25 |
| 07/07/2025 |  | Internal Audit  |  | £55.00 |
| 07/07/2025 |  | The Keal Village Hall |  | £20.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | **£1,113.72** |

 **b)** The bank reconciliation and financial report had been circulated before the meeting as at

 7th July 2025 showed a balance of £7,798 Lloyds and £2,115 in Santander total of £9,913.

 **c)** The Internal Audit report from Jen Cooper has been published on the website along with the

 other AGAR documents – there were some areas to work on but basically she said:-

  *the format for the Annual Parish Meeting is very good and to include reports from village*

 *bodies is an excellent idea. There are some points which need addressing, however I have*

 *explained these to the current Clerk who I am sure will address these*. *From the information*

 *presented to me the accounts balance.*

**d)** The Clerk has published the AGAR – year end accounts documents - on the website and if anyone

 has any queries during 30 day period of ‘Exercise of Public Rights’ they should contact the Clerk.

**e)** It was resolved to purchase a green bin from East Lindsey District Council so that the volunteers dealing with the memorial area do not have to use their own green bins. Also it was resolved that the council

 purchase a Lincolnshire flag circ £10.

**0031. Policy Review**

**i)** Welcome booklet– Chair has done some work on this but will bring to the next meeting. Any comments to the Chair please.

 **ii)** Model Publication Scheme – Chair is revising the data flow to match this new FOI scheme

 and will bring to September’s meeting

**0032. Any other Matters for next Agenda**

Risk Register

 Handyman/contractor for gardening/tidying up

 4 year plan – for discussion

 Welcome booklet

 Model Publication Scheme

 **Date of next meeting Thursday, 11th September 2025**

 **Meeting closed at 9.07pm**