

Minutes of East Keal Annual Council Meeting - 7th May 2026

Held at Keals Village Hall at 7pm

Present

Cllr Mahoney (Chair), Cllr Cooper, Cllr Wrisdale, Cllr Smith & a member of the public plus Pauline Murray (Parish Clerk & RFO)

Public Forum

There were no issues from the resident in attendance

0100. Apologies for Absence – None

0101. Election of Chair – Cllr Mahoney was returned unanimously as Chair

0101. Election of Deputy Chair – Cllr Cooper was voted unanimously for Vice

0102. The minutes of a meeting held on 12/03/26 were approved and signed by the Chair

0103. Declaration of Interest (if any) – none

0104. Review policies - It was proposed that all policies be adopted and continued except For 1. Co-option of councillors policy and 2. abusive & vexatious complaints policy. This was unanimously agreed by councillors. The Chair will ensure policies are kept under review. The Clerk has a list of those that must appear on the website. Standing orders need to be looked at next meeting.

0105. Reports from representatives on outside bodies:

a) County Councillor – Cllr Robinson had another meeting to attend

b) District Councillor - Cllr Taylor sent email updates which are circulated

0106. Highways Update – the drains have been mended on Fen Lane so there will be no more flooding there from surface water. Cherry trees need looking at as they seem to be dying. Also there is a large hole outside Cllr Wrisdale's house – the Chair notified QL who are doing cabling work there.

0107. Insurance cover – the Clerk informed the meeting that Zurich's quote for the insurance was the same as last year and that CAS Ltd refused to quote as they emailed to say they couldn't compete with Zurich. The Councillors unanimously voted to continue with Zurich.

0108. Planning Applications – none

0109. Financial Update:-

a) The Clerk had prepared the financial statement for year ending 31st March 2026 – this showed income of £6,182 in the year and expenditure of £4,507 leaving a balance in the current account of £5,686 plus £2k in Santander.

- b) The Clerk had completed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/2026 and the Chair signed the relevant sheets below:-
- i) Certificate of Exemption
 - ii) Annual Governance Statement
 - iii) Accounting Statements 2025/26

These figures have already been signed off by the Internal Auditor (Jen Cooper) and her comments were circulated beforehand to the meeting she mentioned 2 points – the payments list needs to be voted on & minuted and the documents on the website need to be in pdf format not word – the Clerk will address these issues. They will now go to the External Auditor.

- c) Bank Reconciliation Statement and Financial Report as at 30th April 2026 balanced b/fwd £ 5,686 – plus precept income £5,000 less £175 expenditure – balance of £10,511 (plus £2k in Santander).
- d) Change of banks – this has happened eventually and all is now going well with Unity Trust bank.
- e) Next years meeting dates – the donation towards a speaker for next years Annual Parish meeting was mentioned and a budget contribution of £50 agreed.

0110. Residents response re bus shelter – the Clerk reported that there hadn't been a great response regarding her email out – probably 12 or so responses mostly in favour of a bus shelter but not to the detriment of the view of the memorial or the shop. Clerk was asked to summarise these responses and circulate. The meeting wasn't in favour of a bus shelter as it appeared from the resident's lack of response that it wasn't really necessary and there was a worry that the view of the memorial would be ruined So the councillors decided not to go ahead although a vote wasn't taken.

0111. Village Green Plan – the plan is for another bench on the village green sited opposite the one that's already there and for a bike rack (which we already have to be fixed). Clerk tasked with emailing Highways to request permission for another bench and the bike rack.

0112. Quotations for painting benches – Clerk had circulated the quotations she received for this work. The Chair suggested we be a bit more specific with our requirements and send for the quotes again – the Clerk will do this.

0113. Any other Matters for next Agenda

- Highways update
- Planning update
- Policy review
- Village Green Plan update
- Quotations for painting benches

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.20pm

Date of next meeting Thursday, 10th July 2025

