

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Monday 8th May 2017 at Parish Council Offices, 1 London Road, Kegworth at 6.30pm

Present : David Hignett - Chair of the Parish Council, 4 parish councillors, 1 member 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 9th May 2016

The Minutes were signed and approved.

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

Police were not in attendance, apologies received from PCSO Jon Smith.

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.

- A new Conservation Officer has been appointed at NWLDC. One heritage report has been produced with two more to follow which reports will become a planning documents. KPC will be asked about its assets in due course.
- SRFI – NWLDC agreed to pay £100K each to three settlements affected, the first £50K received by parishes already. Cllr Pendleton supports use of this money to enhance the Market Place.
- There is now an agreement in place with secondary and feeder primary schools on 11-16 provision. Statistically, the current scheme is counter-productive.
- The Local Plan is progressing well with the final version with the Inspector. There is a 5 year and 20% buffer with housing and industrial needs having been assessed. The Plan should be adopted before the end of the year.
- Cllr Pendleton continues to Chair the Community Safety Partnership which has promoted “Chelsea’s Choice” and “Kelly’s Love Story”. A hate agenda production will be rolled out to schools this year.

Questions: In relation to the Heritage Report, the butchers are moving to the Flying Horse. Their current location should be included in the list of assets.

Re: housing requirements, HS2 is highly likely to have blighted the Ashby Road development. Has this been taken into account? TP advised that the Inspector will take into account and KPC should be consulted it.

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 2017 by the Clerk to the Parish Council

The Clerk provided a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2017.

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

- Thank you to KPC for works carried out so far on SideLey Park which is now being used as it is intended. New grass cutting regime is adding to the usability. Dog agility area is being extensively used, is the fencing to be completed? Also, some dog owners still seem to not be picking up after their dogs. DH confirmed the fencing will be completed imminently and a new bin and dog poo bag dispenser to be erected so there are no excuses. New signage to be installed and educating people will be ongoing.

- Litter can still be an issue on Market Place especially the receipts given from the cash machine. The Clerk will approach the Co-op once again for a bin.
- Parking issues remain on Market Place and surrounding roads. KPC recognises that a creative solution is required post bypass which has started to be looked at.

8. The meeting ended at 7.13pm.

Annual Parish Meeting for Kegworth 8 May 2017

Chairman's Report

2016 brought to Kegworth the decision that a bypass would be built and the announcement of the imposition of HS2 both of which bring changes to our parish, opportunities for improvements (in the case of the bypass) and a considerable extra workload. This report attempts to bring you up to date with these matters and the work the council has undertaken during the year. First I want to focus on people.

People

In August chair, Valerie Teffahi decided to leave the council and I was elected chairman in September. Three new councillors were co-opted to the council, Carol Sewell in April and Sheryl Maguire and David Outterside in September. The deputy clerk, Lindsay Richardson, left for family relocation reasons and Emma Laban was appointed to replace her. The Council appointed Stuart Cox as Lengthsman to keep the village clean and tidy and improvements to the Market Place and surrounding areas can already be seen. Several of our many jitties have been tidied. We have also benefitted tremendously from the involvement of volunteers to working parties, regular litter picks organized jointly with the plan group and staff at RBS and Carpenters Arms. Kegworth Parish Council is fully committed to providing opportunities for training for staff and councillors more details in the clerk's report.

The clerk commenced the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CilCA) and is near to completing this.

Sideley Recreation Ground

The very successful Kegworth One Weekend organized by Julie Cooke and the One team, highlighted the potential for this under used recreation ground to be developed into a 'Park for Everyone'. A working group comprising four councillors plus volunteers, Julie Cooke, Beth Sharman, Jerry Tseng and James Mackay began weekly meetings in August. Jerry Tseng produced an imaginative design and the working party produced the detailed scheme so that consultation with residents took place in November, with near neighbours to the park being visited at home. Work on raising the crown of all the trees to improve openness and visibility across the park started immediately and construction began on April 3 under the supervision of project manager, Mark Cooke. Infrastructure, picnic tables/benches, dog agility area, and signage will be in place for the Family Fun Day and Food Festival on 3 June 2017. Extra play equipment for older children/ teenagers will be added and the existing play ground equipment will be refurbished. The developer contribution from Citrus Grove housing has been used to pay for all this work.

East Midland Gateway and the Kegworth Bypass

We now understand that the construction of Kegworth bypass will commence in September this year and be completed in April 2019. The A6 through the village will have a 7.5-ton restriction imposed, which will eliminate all HGVs except for access, and traffic is estimated to be 40% of current levels. This provides the village with the opportunity to remodel the centre to release more space for people and much needed car parking. A workshop was held on March 1 for councillors, volunteers and specialist advisers to initiate a design brief for the village centre. The intention is to have a design completed, approved, costed, fully funded and ready to implement once the bypass is finished. The fullest consultation will be carried out with village residents and businesses.

HS2

On 16 November the government announced a proposed change to the route for HS2 bringing it nearer to Kegworth at the top of Ashby Road and crossing the A6 on a viaduct. The route goes through fields that had planning approvals for 260 houses in total and gave the village two full size and two junior football pitches, changing facilities, car parking and allotments. Two representatives from HS2 met councillors and listened to our questions and objections. Parish Councillors and staff attended the all day drop in that HS2 held at the Yew Lodge hotel to listen to comments from Kegworth residents. A residents meeting attended by 47 people was held in the council offices and a letter of objection was sent to HS2 which is published on the website, kegworthparishcouncil.co.uk.

- 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.

- A drop in session was arranged concerning the relocation of the post office. About 50 people attended and were able to talk to a public relations manager from that organization.
- Summer planting in the Market Place rented from a contractor and maintained by them gained many positive comments from residents and visitors. This years display will be installed shortly
- 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. Breaston brass band, Kegworth hand bell ringers and Kegworth young players provided the musical entertainment and stalls were arranged in the Market Place and behind the shops.
- 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.
- The council is responsible for all the trees on recreation grounds, allotment sites, the cemetery and St Andrews churchyard and has a tree survey undertaken every five years. This was completed in November and requires work to be undertaken on 31 out of 225 trees surveyed.

I would like to thank all councillors for their contribution to the work of the council. 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.

Finally I thank our clerk, Vicky Roe, for her excellent work since she joined us in August 2015. Vicky increased the office opening hours from 8 per week to 22, she has overhauled many of our processes and improved our use of a finance control and reporting which provides detailed financial reports that enhance the use of our resources. Her liaison with village organisations, businesses and residents has built our reputation for increasing openness that is frequently commented upon. Through her extensive networking with other parish councils, NWLDC and LCC she has gained much knowledge and deservedly has a reputation for getting thing done quickly and efficiently.

I feel that we can all look forward with optimism at the prospects for Kegworth post bypass and it now requires us all to make the most of the opportunities presented to us.

Thank you

David Hignett

Clerk's Report for Annual Parish Meeting – 08/05/2017

The parish council received a precept for 2016/17 of £102,371. Additional income from allotments, the cemetery and other income totalled £10,610.23.

2016/17 was the first full year for me as Clerk and throughout this financial year, I have met with David on a weekly basis in order to discuss various matters relating to the finances. I report to Councillors at every meeting in relation to expenditure which spend has to be agreed and the payments made published with the Minutes on our website.

During this year, I decided that KPC should review its outgoings for utilities, including gas, electricity, BT, churchyard floodlighting and photocopying/printing costs. The review is now complete and with all but one account, have chosen alternative suppliers. In addition, a significant saving was made in relation to insurance which was achieved by meeting with our insurer's representative and reviewing the product. The Parish Council signed up to a three year deal as this provided further savings.

I am pleased to say that the parish council continued to support local groups and organisations by providing grant funding. We follow guidelines when assessing the amount to be awarded to each group and ask them to notify us once the funds have been spent.

The parish council continues to fully support its councillors and staff in relation to training which is mostly provided by our local association in Anstey. Some of the courses attended this year are Clerks 1,2 & 3 training for Emma who joined us as a new deputy clerk, Cemetery Management, Councillor training, Budgeting & Financial Management, Community Infrastructure Levy, Charitable Trusts training, Neighbourhood Planning and CiLCA (Chartered Institute of Local Council Administration). The new Lengthsman has also attended a manual handling course with more training already booked in the next financial year.

The parish council formed a working party and first met in August 2016 in order to make improvements to Sideley Park. S106 money amounting to £74,000 was allocated to this project and the enhancements are currently being implemented.

A Lengthsman was employed in March for fifteen hours a week to care for the village and a budget was also allocated for new equipment. Stuart has a big task on his hands to bring many areas up to standard but I have already received many positive comments about the difference his work is making.

Other outgoings include a village wide tree report in respect of all sites owned by KPC, some significant works were required and less urgent works will be ongoing. Playground inspections and repairs carried out by NWLDC. Production of the newsletter with three to four editions each year, Christmas tree, including installations and lighting and Market place planters.

The internal auditor is due to visit next week and the necessary paperwork will be submitted to the external auditor by 30th June. I believe that both the internal and external audits will proceed smoothly and have no cause for concern.

Vicky Roe
Parish Clerk