

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6 March 2023 at 7:30 pm, at the Parish Council Offices, 1 London Road, Kegworth

Present: Cllrs P Gatt, A Priestley, C Sewell, H Stanney, R Sutton, H Williams, W White, also Clerk D Griggs. 27 members of the public were present.

35/23 **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies received from Cllr M Hawsworth. Reasons given and approved.

36/23 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

37/23 **Chairman's Announcements (for information only):** The chairman's announcements covered the following:

- Two more Covid benches had been installed outside the primary school
- Repairs had been made to the village hall car park surface
- New bank account had been opened and the old current account closed down. Signatories and dual authorisation in place
- Parish Council newsletters had been distributed by Rural Trader, as agreed
- A Police training exercise due to take place in the village during March
- A successful Nottingham University (Sutton Bonington) liaison meeting had been held on 2 March 2023, attended to Cllrs Priestley, Stanney, Sutton and the Clerk.

38/23 Public Participation:

Two members of the public spoke in support of a planning application on the agenda, 23/00129/FULM - Change of use of agricultural land to motocross training park including the formation of parking and earth-made jumps and the placement of associated ancillary portable buildings - Molehill Farm, Ashby Road.

The Chairman proposed allowing the large group of people present at the meeting time to address Councillors over concerns about asylum seekers being housed in the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth. It was resolved to suspend standing order 3c, as the item was not on the agenda, so this could happen.

The Chairman gave members of the public details of how the Parish Council had received the information about asylum seekers arrival at the Yew Lodge Hotel in Kegworth.

Members of the public asked whether the Council really believed Kegworth was ready to take its fair share of asylum seekers, as suggested. Councillors said the number of asylum seekers was disproportionate to the population of Kegworth and equated to a 1:17 ratio and this was unacceptable.

Residents:

- Asked what could be done to stop the arrival of asylum seekers; they said something should be done. The Parish Council explained it was not within their power. They shared public email addresses for the Home Office and Andrew Bridgen MP, so residents could write directly, and reminded those present that District Councillors were also approachable.
- Expressed concern that some people in the village were suffering financially because they had lost their jobs at the hotel. One member of the public questioned a donation received by Andrew Bridgen MP from the Yew Lodge Hotel in 2020 and suggested that this funding

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should be returned via a charity or to the Parish Council to be used as a grant for those who have been impacted financially by the situation.

- Suggested that the owner of the hotel ought to pay the cost of additional policing in the village.
- Advised that they had heard SERCO were offering people selling their houses money to buy them and asked whether this would need to be subject to a planning application. The Parish Council advised that properties which become HMOs would require planning permission as Kegworth has Article 4.
- Were concerned that the other hotel in the village might also be used to house asylum seekers.
- Asked the Parish Council to write to Andrew Bridgen MP to ask him to hold a meeting with members of the public, as he had confirmed he was unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in March. The Parish Council agreed to let Mr Bridgen know that this matter had been raised and request that he arrange a meeting to meet with residents of Kegworth.
- Asked whether there was an official policy to move asylum seekers into rural areas, as there appeared to be conflicting information in the public domain about this.
- Stated they were concerned that the asylum seekers were all young men and there were no families.
- Asked whether there would be a reduction in Council Tax and expressed concern about the impact on local services. They asked how this would be monitored.
- One resident reminded everyone present that the asylum seekers were human beings and advised that there was a support group set up in the village to try and help them.
- Another resident thanked the Parish Council for presenting a balanced view and asked for a positive view of integration and a plan for a sustainable future.

Twenty members of the public left the meeting at 8:45 pm.

39/23 Police Report: In the absence of the Police Officer, the Clerk gave a report on crime information she had received for February. There had been 18 crimes, 5 thefts from a store, one ABH (road rage), two public order offences, one threat to damage, one threat to staff, one obstructing an officer, one ABH (assault), one ABH (push), two for criminal damage, one burglary, one attempted burglary and one theft of a number plate.

40/23 Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6 February 2023: Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting 6 February 2023. Proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr White (5 in favour, 2 abstentions).

41/23 Agree any Comment on the Lockington-Hemington neighbourhood Plan Consultation: Councillors considered the consultation and comments were agreed for submission. Proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Priestley, unanimously agreed.

42/23 Agree any Response to a Communication from Leics County Council re Section 106 Obligation for Pedestrian Crossing over Sideley: Councillors considered the correspondence and resolved to respond confirming the need for a crossing in this area and to ask for an earlier review of pedestrian and traffic movements in the area then planned. Proposed by Cllr Gatt, seconded by Cllr Priestley, unanimously agreed.

43/23 Receive an Update on the Campaign to Save the Skylink Bus Service and Make Necessary Decisions: Cllr Sutton updated councillors on the campaign so far. Councillors resolved to continue to support the campaign. Proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Priestley (6 in favour, one against).

44/23 **Consider a Schedule of Inspection for the Council's Assets:** Councillors considered a paper tabled by the Clerk and resolved to approve the schedule of inspection. Proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr White, unanimously agreed.

45/23 **Review Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting:** It was resolved to proceed as planned with the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th March 2023. Proposed by Cllr Priestley, seconded by Cllr Sewell, unanimously agreed.

46/23 **Finance:**

- a. The Council's expenditure against cost centre budgets year to date was reviewed and total bank balances of £237,744.98 were noted as at 27 February 2023.
- b. It was proposed by Cllr Priestley, seconded by Cllr Sutton, and unanimously resolved to approve the following accounts for payment:

Invoice Date	Payee		Amount inc VAT £
06.01.23	J Harper Plumbing & Heating	Boiler Service	75.00
25.01.23	Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Accounts Annual Subscription	933.12
23.01.23	LRALC Ltd	Internal Audit Service 2022/23	260.00
03.02.23	Waterplus	Water Charges - Cemetery	58.56
07.02.23	Mr S Cox	Fibre Glass Repair Kitq	16.49
07.02.23	Tyco Fire & Integrated Solutions	Fire Extinguisher Servicing	71.76
08.02.23	Alan Barnacle	Digging Cable Trench	575.00
08.02.23	Sharp Business Systems	Photocopying Charges	30.00
10.02.23	SSE SWALEC	Electricity Charges - Parish Office	49.04
13.02.23	ESPO	Photocopier Paper	29.28
13.02.23	British Gas Lite	Gas Charges - Parish Office	73.41
15.02.23	LRALC Ltd	Cemetery & Churchyard Management Training	40.00
15.02.23	Midshire Business Systems Ltd	Telephone Charges - Parish Office	6.79
16.02.23	Nest	Staff Pensions	284.82
17.02.23	J A Kent Services Ltd	Grounds Maintenance	1,271.10
22.02.23	Barclaycard	Land Registry Search, Newsletter Printing, Postage Fee	246.56
20.02.23	Mrs D Griggs	Expenses	18.90
22.02.23	Personnel Advice & Solutions Ltd	Personnel Services	120.00
23.02.23	Waterplus	Water Charges - Parish Office	18.40
24.02.23	Greenwash Derby	Bus Shelter Clean	20.00
24.02.23	Mornington Property Services Ltd	PAT Testing	155.00
28.02.23	Staff	Staff Salaries & National Insurance Contributions	2,976.45
28.02.23	Nat West Bank	Bank Charges	15.00
13.03.23	Leics & Rutland Playing Fields Association	Annual Subscription	30.00
01.03.23	Practical Gardening	Side Ley Grounds Maintenance	120.00
02.03.23	Craig Miller	Window Cleaning	14.00
		Total	£7,508.68

- c. It was resolved to defer the review of insurance quotes to the meeting in April to allow more time to fully consider quotes.
- d. The Council reviewed the cemetery fees for 2023/24 and resolved that they would remain unchanged.
- e. It was resolved to contract with LRALC for the internal audit service for 2023/24.
- f. The Council resolved not to change the charging schedule for the allotments for the 2023/24 year, but to seek the views of allotments holder as to the best time of year to renew contacts and take annual payments. Proposed by Cllr Gatt, seconded by Cllr Stanney, unanimously agreed.

47/23 **Planning:**

- a. Planning applications were considered by councillors and it was resolved to make no comment on 23/0084/FUL, HMO for 3 people at 37A High Street, and 23/00128/VCUM,

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removal of conditions at Zone C East Midlands Gateway Development. It was resolved to comment on planning applications 23/00129/FULM, change of use of land to motocross training park, Molehill Farm, Ashby Road, Kegworth. Comments were agreed for submission.

- b. The Clerk did not have any decisions to report.

48/23 Extension of the Meeting: It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Priestley, and unanimously resolved that Standing Order 3x should be suspended so that the meeting could continue beyond 9.30pm to allow consideration of the final two items on the agenda.

The remaining members of the public left the meeting.

49/23 Exclusion of Press & Public: It was unanimously resolved that, in view of the confidential nature of the following agenda items, the press and public be excluded from the meeting, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, section 1.

50/23 Receive any Update on the Public Realm Project and Agree Next Steps: The Clerk shared a document provided by the project leader at North West Leics District Council. Councillors resolved to respond with comments and to request a Council meeting with those on the Project Board when it was an appropriate time to discuss in more detail.

51/23 Consider Next Steps Regarding Adoption of the Play Area on Pritchard Drive and Agree any Actions: Councillors resolved to request a full and frank assessment of the equipment and the area before making any further decisions. Proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Priestley, unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 9:55 pm.