

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13 March 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Office, 1 London Road, Kegworth

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The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of Kegworth Parish Council, Cllr Ray Sutton. Also present were 37 members of the public, which included 6 other parish councillors, 2 district councillors, 2 Leicestershire County Council officers, the Police Inspector and a Police officer. Minutes were taken by the Clerk to Kegworth Parish Council, Donna Griggs.

Introduction and Welcome: Cllr Sutton welcomed all those present to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Annual Parish Meeting 14 May 2022: The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in May 2022 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Report from the Parish Council by the Chair: The chairman gave a report on the activities of the Parish Council during the previous 10 months and explained that the Annual Parish Meeting had been held earlier than normal to avoid the pre-election period. (See [report](#) for full details.)

Reports from District Councillors:

Cllr Carol Sewell: Cllr Sewell gave a detailed report on her work as District Councillor for North West Leicestershire, representing the North Kegworth, Lockington, Hemington and Sawley Marina areas. (See [report](#) for full details).

Cllr Bertie Harrison-Rushton: Cllr Harrison-Rushton gave a report on his work as a District Councillor. He explained that the District Council element of the Council tax had been frozen again and improvements were being made to leisure facilities and waste collection in the district. He asked residents to email MP Andrew Bridgen and him with any concerns they had, so resident's voices could be heard. He mentioned ongoing projects, such as the Public Realm project (funded by the Local Enterprise Partnership), HS2, and quarterly liaison meetings with SEGRO. Items on the agenda at the District included houses of multiple occupation (HMOs), improving waste systems, and keeping the Council tax as low as possible. Cllr Harrison-Rushton confirmed that funding had been given by the District Council to village organisations, which included Kegworth library, OneKegworth, Kegworth Youth Arts, and the Baptist Church.

Report from the Police: Inspector Wayne Nimblette introduced himself as the NPA commander for the whole of Leicestershire, in which 104,000 live. He said he had been an inspector for two years. Priorities for the Police at the time of the meeting included addressing the following:

- Car cruising – working with other Police authorities and sharing learning.
- Drugs - pro-active neighbourhood team, addressing County lines issues. Inspector Nimblette asked members of the public to share any intelligence they had via Crime Stoppers.
- Thefts from motor vehicles – catalytic converter thefts especially.

Inspector Nimblette advised there had been less crime overall for the period compared to the previous year, 2022. He gave everyone reassurance that items reported would be robustly investigated. He asked everyone to take a sensible approach when using social media and to only share what was known to be true.

Questions:

Four questions had been submitted in writing prior to the meeting, as follows:

1. Question: There are three redundant interactive speed signs on Ashby Road, which is now a no-through road. Could one of these be moved to the top of Whatton Road where speeding is an issue? If not, would an alternative, such as rumble strips, or speed bumps be an option for Whatton Rd?

Response: The Clerk agreed to email Leics County Council Highways with the suggestion.

2. Question: Does the council consider the reaction from a considerable number of people in the village to the perceived change in role of the Yew Lodge to be proportionate? In other words, does the council think citizen-led protests in the village are actually helpful in achieving the goal of returning the hotel to a transit hub which has been its typical usage for a considerable amount of time? If they don't agree what actions, if any, would they suggest?

Response: The Chairman said that people had the right to protest. The protests had raised awareness. The Parish Council had been addressing the matter through channels available to them. One resident said they did not feel the protests had been helpful.

3. Question: How and when did the Parish council hear about the change of use of the Yew Lodge? Is there any intention for the council to object to the influx of asylum seekers? Given the numbers involved, will the council receive extra funding to pay for extra services and facilities for an increased number of residents? Does the council have a plan to ensure that the relationship between the asylum seekers and residents is a cordial one and to ensure that crime figures are monitored?

Response: The Parish Clerk advised that she had picked up an email on 13 February 2023 from a councillor. There was no formal, written communication about the asylum seekers at that time. The chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had sent various communications challenging the ratios, lack of consultation, and planning/change of use concerns. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council would not receive any extra funding from the District Council. She had been advised to raise any additional costs with East Midlands Councils. The Police monitor crime for the area and provide a report which is reported at the monthly Parish Council meetings and included in the minutes. Inspector Nimblette reminded residents that the Force website included live crime statistics for the Valley Beat and these could be looked at by members of the public at any time.

4. Question: The Yew Lodge Hotel has been withdrawn as a hotel facility to house asylum seekers. Some employees at the hotel have lost their jobs. It is apparent, our MP has received financial support from the hotel. Can the Parish Council, on behalf of residents, write to the MP saying it looks like dirty money and the money should be donated to a charity, or the village finances, as a grant to be used for those losing their jobs?

Response: This question had already been addressed at the monthly Parish Council meeting on 6 March 2023. The Clerk confirmed that correspondence had been sent to Mr Bridgen advising that the matter had been raised by a resident.

The Chairman opened the meeting up to questions from those present. One resident asked the District Councillors about planning application [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. They were concerned that planning notices had not been distributed correctly and, therefore, residents had not had chance to comment. Cllr Harrison-Rushton agreed to speak to the planning officer at North West Leics District

Council and to call the application in for planning committee consideration. The resident agreed to email Cllr Harrison-Rushton directly with his concerns.

Residents at the meeting representing the Heritage Centre and the Rotary Club drew attention to information they had provided on the display boards.

Those present at the meeting were invited by the chairman to take a look at all the information which had been provided by several village organisations.

Close: The chair thanked everyone for attending and offered light refreshments. The meeting closed at 9 pm.