

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 22 April 2024 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Office, 1 London Road, Kegworth

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of Kegworth Parish Council, Cllr Andrew Priestley. Also present were 17 members of the public, which included 7 other parish councillors, 2 of whom were also district councillors, 2 Police officers, and the Clerk to Kegworth Parish Council, Donna Griggs, who took the minutes.

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

Approval of Minutes from Annual Parish Meeting 13 March 2023: The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in March 2023 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Report from the Parish Council by the Chairman: The chairman gave a report on the activities of the Parish Council during the previous period. (See Report 1 below for full details.)

Reports from District and County Councillors:

Cllr Trevor Pendleton: Cllr Pendleton did not attend the meeting, but had submitted a written report, copies of which were available at the meeting. (See Report 2 below for full details).

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 3 below for full details).

Cllr Ray Sutton: Cllr Ray Sutton gave a detailed report on his work as a District Councillor for North West Leicestershire, representing the South Kegworth ward. (See Report 4 below for full details.)

Report from the Police: PC Martindale gave a report on issues affecting Kegworth, including details of their responses to the car cruising events and off-road biking incidents which had been affecting residents. He reminded those present to report everything to the Police via 101, so that an accurate picture of what was happening could be established. PC Martindale advised that the Police were monitoring the Great House as part of Heritage Watch. They had also made arrests for shop thefts in the village and had carried out speed enforcement on certain roads.

Questions:

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

1. Question: Please could I raise the issue of dog mess. Most people clean up, but some do not. I have witnessed dog owners not picking up in a field at the back of Station Road. What can be done about it?

Response: The chairman advised that a review of bins in Kegworth was being undertaken by the Parish Council with the District Council, which would hopefully

maximise the opportunity for members of the public to do the right thing. He reminded everyone that incidents of dog fouling could be reported via the District Council's website. It was suggested that the Parish Council issue a reminder via their next newsletter.

2. Question: I would like to lobby the Parish Council to paint no cycling signs at regular intervals on the village pavements.

The case I make is that there are rather too many grown-ups who think THEY are safer riding at speed on the pavements. This is both illegal and dangerous to everyone else. From my observations the worst areas are Derby Road (both sides from Holland Way to Market Place), High Street (both sides from Broadhill past the school to Oaklands), and Sideley. I hope you are able to put this on a Parish Council agenda in the near future and the work done as soon as possible before someone is hurt.

Response: The Chairman reminded everyone that the Parish Council had no power to paint signs on the pavements. It was agreed that the resident's comments would be referred to the County Council and Cllr Pendleton for a response.

3. Question: Can I ask what law/rules are in place regarding loose dogs on Sideley Park please? There appear to be more and more off the lead. Today, 20.4.24 at 1030 am, there were 7! I thought they were supposed to be only off the lead in the dog pen. I frequently see owners of small dogs (on leads) having to try and protect them against these loose dogs. (I am also one of these people.) If this is against the park rules can someone do something about it please?

Response: It was agreed that a reminder would be put in the next Parish Council newsletter and on social media. There was a suggestion that different signage might help and it was agreed that this matter would be put on a future Parish Council agenda for discussion.

The Chairman opened the meeting up to questions from those present. One member of the public asked what the District Council were doing regarding the Great House, which had been empty for a long time and was in a bad state of repair. It was confirmed that the empty homes officer and the conservation officer were monitoring the property.

Demonstration of CPR and Using Defibrillators: Lynn Forsyth from Roulstone Training gave a presentation of the differences between a cardiac arrest and a heart attack. She demonstrated how to carry out CPR and use a defibrillator. Residents asked questions and received detailed responses. Lynn was thanked for delivering the session, which residents said they found very clear and useful.

Close: The chair thanked everyone for attending and offered light refreshments. The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

Report 1

Kegworth Annual Parish Meeting 2024 – Cllr Andrew Priestley, Chairman of Kegworth Parish Council

What Has The Parish Council Been Doing?

- Some of the projects and works which have taken place during the year and are ongoing are listed below:
- Review existing/developing new policies to meet legal and other obligations of the Parish council and ensuring proper governance and accountability.
- Continuing to work with the District and County Council to complete the Public Realm Project, started in 2019 - works now underway in Market Place and on London Road.
- Repair of the church wall on Nottingham Road.
- Maintenance of the village parks, allotment sites, and other assets.
- Upgrade of CCTV cameras for better coverage and to improve low light vision is in progress for Sideley park in response to incidents.
- Review of the village grass cutting contract and putting a new 3-year contract in place.
- Renovation and cleaning of the memorial stone for the air disaster in Kegworth cemetery.
- Memorial (grave) stone safety inspection and testing in the cemetery and churchyard.
- Repainting of the cemetery gates.
- Responding to requests for flood gel bags during the recent storms.
- Replacing defective cabling to the floodlights in St Andrew's churchyard.
- Repair of some of the surfacing at the Village Hall car park.
- Renewing the white lines showing the car parking spaces in the Village Hall car park.
- Work is in progress for new signage at KGV playing fields.
- Grants and Support for village organisations (Plan Group, Heritage Centre, Bowls Club, One Kegworth).
- Working with village organisations to secure UKSPF community funding.
- Review of the Parish Council's contracts for gas and electricity.

What Is Coming Up?

- Considering preparation of a tender for a driveway to access the cemetery extension land, which might be needed in the near future.
- Considering restoring the front steps in St Andrew's churchyard, which are uneven.
- Highlighting to the County Council highway safety and parking matters in Kegworth.
- Developing and updating the ongoing Parish Council action plan.
- Responding to numerous consultations on diverse subjects.
- Seeking to address planning issues and responded to consultations on key planning matters, such as the NWLDC new Local Plan.

Report 2

Report for 2023 – 2024 from Castle Donington and Kegworth Ward – Cllr Trevor Pendleton

Detailed below are some of the more important activities which I have been involved in as County Cllr over the past year.

AIRPORT ICC MENT:

As the County Council representative on the above East Midlands Airport Independent Consultative Committee – As reported last year having succeeded in getting a regular reporting of discharge compliance to the committee and demonstrated poor compliance, this along with a pending court case brought by the Environmental Agency has resulted in a full airport review and overhaul of their wastewater plant being put in place. Whereas there was no transparency before the committee now have such and going forward can monitor the hopefully improving airport compliance with its Environment Licence.

CASTLE DONINGTON & KEGWORTH BYPASSES:

As both these alternative routes around the villages from J24/A50 from the A6/A50 to EMA and SEGRO bed into Sat-Nav programmes, the results are beginning to show an improvement in lessening through traffic in these two settlements.

Both settlements traffic calming schemes have now proceeded through their public consultation phase and with some amendments I was happy to sign them off to their implementation stage.

Castle Donington is targeted to be delivered by the end of next year whilst Kegworth Village schemes target was this year and is due to start in the next few weeks. Both these schemes are designed to slow the remaining village through traffic and as a consequence make the centres more pedestrian friendly.

I am happy to report that I held a meeting along with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the District Council Safety Partnership in Kegworth Village Hall to listen to constituents concerns regarding regular speeding and Joy Riding on our major road network. As a result of those concerns expressed, I am pleased to see that because of police prosecutions and confiscation of offending vehicles this is now under control. I am currently responding to residents' requests to work on speeding from Kegworth By-pass along Whatton Road and Planning Issues around HMO's., whilst in Castle Donington the urgent implementation of the L57 footpath scheme to complement the Moira Sports Pavilion refurbishment scheme and EMA/County red route maintenance issues are current.

LOCKINGTON/HEMINGTON/RAIL BRIDGE

The improved maintenance schedule continues in place and having found that the water ducting design is inadequate to take the flow of water at peak winter flood times work continues to find a viable solution...

UKRAIN REFUGEE SCHEMES

Both Councils continue to provide help for residents who offered up their homes or support those who's Ukraine relatives came because of the war. From a County and District point of view, this all continues to be going smoothly.

YEW LODGE HOTEL

The unprecedented and continuing rising waves of migrants arriving across the channel and lack of resources to adequately accommodate them has led to the present emergency dispersal programme adopted by central government.

The SERCO managed YEW LODGE facility has inevitably caused friction in the small village of Kegworth as we lose a Restaurant, Gym and Swimming Pool to house 250 male migrants for an indeterminate time. Un-confirmed reports suggest that the last migrants will have left the facility by summer and that the Hotel will be re-furbished.

LOCAL MEMBERS HIGHWAYS FUND:

As County Cabinet Members for E & T I was delighted to sign off on this scheme which gave every Councillor the ability to direct £25K per Annum for Local Highways Improvements and after the completion of the Castle Donington Bypass it became evident that:

1 Some naïve public were attempting to Picnic by the Airport Perimeter fence ...with young children dangerously close to fast moving A453 traffic. I had requested a length of suitably spaced kerb side bollards of the plastic variety to be put in, but officers are proceeding with 'a more in keeping' scheme using 15inch high wooden post and rail fencing.

2 On completion of the new Castle Donington PC Hub local infrastructure projects (SEGRO) and meeting with Local Residents, the Police and Parish Cllrs., to understand and address their Parking concerns. I am happy to report the implementation of the requested extension of the yellow lines o/s the Hub and its junction with Main St.

HEALTH SCRUTINY and EMPLOYMENT CTTEES:

I am presently a member of the above Cttees, which monitor the County Council's Public Health responsibilities and Employment Contracts.

Report 3

Kegworth Annual Parish Meeting 2024 – Cllr Carol Ann Sewell

I was re-elected as a Labour Party Councillor in the 2023 District Council elections for the Daleacre Hill ward after completing 4 years in post. Daleacre Hill includes the northern half of Kegworth - therefore is confusingly named, as the hill named locally as Daleace is in Lockington, and where local kids used to go sledging in the winters when we used to get snow!

This last year I have been the Labour Group Whip for a team of 17 Councillors, the largest group on the district council, but we failed to take control due to the casting vote of the outgoing Conservative Chairman and a mixed alliance of Lib Dems, Conservatives and 2 Castle Donington Independents.

This last year I have been a member of the Planning Committee, the Local Plan Committee, the Electoral Review Working Party, the cross party Planning working Group and also a sub on Scrutiny Committees.

The set up of the cross party Planning Working Group I take some credit for as it came into being after my question to Full Council about reviewing how call-ins are decided to be heard at Planning Committee. With the unusual situation we have in Kegworth surrounding the HMO conversions, I felt this process needed more clarity and feedback. I have also been banging the drum- very loudly - along with other Kegworth Councillors, and in my role as a committee member on the Local Plan Committee, to tighten up the policies in the Local Plan to give more 'teeth' for refusal of HMOs in the village. The new Local Plan at present out for consultation addresses the issue in a much more acceptable way and proves Local Councillors have had a positive influence.

Something we will not be able to influence as much as we would like is the looming Freeport, which is written into Government Law, and is undoubtedly too far down the line to reverse. We only hope to have a say in some of the applications when they come in and try to get as much protection for Kegworth as we can.

I try to keep Kegworth firmly on the radar at Full Council, as does Cllr Sutton, and I brought up the issue of the debacle surrounding the Download chaos last year and cutting the blue Skylink bus. Ray has more on this.

Traffic and parking continue to be concerning issues, particularly in my half of Kegworth on Station Road and Sideley. I will be speaking up for us in a meeting, arranged by fellow- Councillor Sutton and the Parish Council to get some much-needed changes in place.

The scarcity of waste bins in some areas of the village and some bins being too small is a problem under discussion now with fellow-Councillors. Cllr Hilary Williams has done an audit of the bins in the village and there will be a district meeting soon to improve bin locations in the village and have reasonably sized ones where needed.

As Ray and I overlap somewhat in village-wide issues, I will leave other matters which we have jointly been involved in to come in his report. We do, however, both agree that having two Councillors on the District Council who live in the village is very beneficial and puts Kegworth firmly on the NWLDC map.

Casework has been ongoing and varied and I am pleased to say I have achieved good results in Daleacre Hill with regards to repairs, rehoming, speaking up for residents and pointing people in the right direction to get additional help.

Nuisance motorcyclists are a problem in DAH, especially Station Road and Long Lane being used as a route to access a field in Sawley being illegally used for activities. Station Road residents, of which I am one, regularly see a group of around 15 motorcyclists roaring past doing wheelies, not wearing crash helmets and causing a dangerous hazard to other motorists and pedestrians. This is currently being investigated with Police, the District, and local Councillors.

Something I have been speaking up for on a regular basis since 2015 is to have Long Lane and the lanes to Sawley dedicated as a Quiet Lane and I am pleased to report this is becoming likely now, with a bit of tweaking needed on finer details. Watch this space!

Finally, can I encourage everyone to get registered to vote as we have local elections in May for the PCC, which is a political role and influences policing in our area; and the General Election later this year which will influence how the country is run for the next 5 years! And, a reminder, you need id to vote! Details are available online setting out which ids are acceptable and how to get a postal vote if you prefer to vote in that way. In 2027 the boundaries will change in the area, not hugely, and Ray will elaborate on the proposals - and hopefully the DAH ward will be renamed to better reflect the area it covers as it will likely include more of Kegworth than at present!

Please feel free to contact me on any village issues, as I am still a Parish Councillor as well as being on the District, and thanks to all Councillors locally, and to Donna the Clerk, for your continued help and support. I'll endeavour to help in any way I can, or to direct you to someone with expertise to help.

Cllr Carol Ann Sewell
Daleacre Hill

Report 4

Kegworth Annual Parish Meeting 2024 – District Cllr Ray Sutton

Carol Sewell and I have coordinated our speeches in an attempt to keep each other – and you – awake!

In May last year I was elected to District as an Independent for Kegworth, really Kegworth South. There are not enough electors in either Kegworth or Daleacre Hill compared to the district average. There is a boundary review ahead of the 2027 election, on which you will eventually be consulted. Based on existing numbers, it is most likely to add to my ward areas in the Long Whatton and Diseworth direction.

Being Independent gives maximum scope to challenge both major parties and officers of District and other organisations. I am free to promote my core values of openness, transparency, and accountability in all that I do. For instance, I have served on the Audit and Governance Committee, a challenge in a Council that has not yet published accounts for 2021-22 or 2022-23. I have offered myself as Chair of this committee for 2024-25 to both Conservative and Labour leaders! At Full Council I challenged the nil attendance by District representatives over a four-year period at the Airport Independent Consultative Committee. I was pleased to be nominated at a subsequent Full Council meeting as the District's representative to replace the PAIN role I have held for two years.

I joined the Parish Council in October 2020 when Market Place was a very hot topic. Since becoming Chair in May 2021, I have been a member of the Public Realm Project Board trying to deliver what Kegworth really wanted. I am proud and relieved that we have finally started the work. I am still Vice Chair of Parish and I believe Kegworth is remarkably well represented, and served, by Carol, Andrew, Donna, and me.

The members of this community can achieve a lot together by constructing a good case and making their individual voices heard. In early 2023 we faced the prospect of losing bus links into Nottinghamshire. I am proud of the way you supported the petition that I initiated and that must have been a factor in getting the Notts Bus on Demand generously extended into Leicestershire.

In the Summer of 2023, you realised that the Download festival was out of hand and joined other voices of protest across a wide area. All year I have pressed council officers for proper planning and not just better PR on the part of the new event management company. As a result, parishes and district councillors will have a chance to scrutinise the traffic management plan for 2024 and other associated arrival issues for festival-goers.

Carol alluded to the Draft Local Plan – and you should see the Parish response if you haven't already done so. Here too resident support in both written submissions and encouragement was great and Carol and I jointly hosted a well-attended workshop in this office. In lieu of a personal response to the Plan I used my increasing contacts with other District parishes surrounding the Freeport sites and eight signatories jointly endorsed and backed up the detailed arguments in

the official response from 'Protect Diseworth'. I have worked with Andrew to ask whether an Additional Licensing Scheme could be introduced to cover HMOs of only 3 and 4 beds in Kegworth and/or the whole District. I listened and, as a result, fought the planning application for nine apartments with no parking provision at the former Methodist Church in the High Street: the process and decision to approve remain a concern, not least the Highways reports.

New casework, be it a personal or public matter, comes in at a rate of two cases a week. I do what I can to improve understanding of what parish, district and county are responsible for and how local government works.

With personal cases, I try to help even if the enquiry is not an obvious District matter: Housing - 'Why have some tenants got new kitchens and I haven't?' or 'How can I get to stay in Kegworth when I must leave my current accommodation?', Planning - 'How can I hurry that planning decision through because it affects me if its delayed?'. Above and beyond - supporting someone with a School Admissions Appeal. There are plenty of people who simply need support to negotiate the 'system'. I feel I must single out Sara Lovett of County Public Health, our Local Area Coordinator, for her readiness to work with individuals as and when appropriate.

Likewise thank you to Donna for sharing information about concerns being raised and for gently encouraging residents able to do so to report simple matters themselves, such as missed bin collections to District, or routine street lighting issues to County.

Public-facing issues can go on for many months and remain unresolved, but I don't let go. Many are trying to take credit for the return of Yew Lodge to hotel use later in the year after the disproportionate imposition of an asylum hotel on the parish early in 2023. I have lobbied about Yew Lodge at every level possible and I have absorbed hostility from across the political and moral spectrum.

We have some way to go before we get investment and measures to put a stop to car cruising on the A453. Residents have put their weight into reporting events on 999 as they occur. There was good support for the Village Hall meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner. I attended a meeting in February with the Assistant PCC. As recently as Saturday, bumped into the Labour PCC candidate in the street in Coalville and spoke specifically about Kegworth car cruising and Download.

Thank you to those who contributed to the waste services review about bin collection systems before the April 14th deadline. The final decision may become a politically charged issue. I believe we should choose a collection system that respects the current high levels of householder-sorted waste recycling in this district. I think we should be protecting or increasing the substantial net income we receive. The easily tracked UK-based routes for the separated products, with minimal separation to be done at the central depot put us well ahead of most authorities.

There is always more to do, but a glance at my speech to District Council last May in which I championed Kegworth's needs, will show that we have done well

in 2023-24 by working together. Obvious examples of unfinished business are the shortage of parking spaces, EV charging points and inadequate leisure and recreational facilities. Across the board we need to engage young people and families in the life of the village so that we remain a commercially and culturally vibrant community, much more than a retirement or commuter village. I am pleased to say that one primary school class has taken up an offer from a school in Bois de Guillaume and the children have last week excitedly received their first letters from their peers in France.

Finally, I have an e mail list covering perhaps 1 in 7 of my ward residents and I would urge others to join it. I have a website which I try to keep up to date www.ray-sutton.webador.co.uk. Thank you to all who have put up with my attempts to get people thinking, debating openly and respectfully, and supporting good decisions for the benefit of the majority, something very important to our democracy in a general election year. We need a good MP who puts people first.