

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON TUESDAY, 13th MAY 2025 AT KERESLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Meeting opened: 7:05pm

Present: Cllrs Omar (Chair), Rice, Drwiega and Middleton, 20 members of the public and the Clerk

Apologies: from all Ward Councillors

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present

2. Chair's Report 2025

Chair read the report

Chair's Report

Keresley Parish Council is growing and thriving and had such an eventful year with increase in numbers of electors and residents within the Parish

Councillor Robert Rice joined (Co-opted) KPC and has been an addition to the council, Tracy Gudgeon also resigned after 10 years of service to the parish Council, and she will remain a great value and asset to the Parish Council. The support and service of other Keresley Parish Council esteemed Councillors is highly appreciated. We still have 3 Vacancies for Co-option for interested residents. Thanks to our clerk for her time and dedication to keep things running smoothly.

KPC hosted a summer picnic and fun fare for residents in summer of 2024, litter picking and a drop-in session with W/Cllr Christopher for residents living on Fivefield road to listen to their concerns. End of year event was also held with few residents in attendance.

KPC will continue to work with the residents

"Update on the keresley Link Road

-The link road section that is shown red is designed and would be built at the same time as the double roundabouts on Long Lane and Tamworth Road

-The link road section that is shown black, running through the Taylor Wimpey development, is complete and has been built by the developer

-The link road section that is shown green running through the Taylor Wimpey development and up to the boundary of Bellway, including the crossing of the Hall Brook, we are currently working with Bellway to deliver. They have taken the option within the legal agreement to pay the Council to design and deliver these works. We are in contract to deliver this later this year, before March 2026

-The link road section that is shown green running through the Vistry development, they have taken the approach to deliver this themselves, based on our design. They are moving forward with this and have a potential completion date of October 2025.

-The orange section of the link road we currently do not have sufficient funding for. We are working with Transport for West Midlands, the Combined Authority and Homes England to seek additional funding to bring forward these works.

In addition, we have a consultant working for us on the planning application for the double roundabout development on Long Lane/Tamworth Road with a view to submitting for planning later this year. The junction does already have approval, however with the changes to original layout to reduce the impact on the Coundon Hall Park and the protected trees outside the hotel we felt a new application should be made.”

Update on Schools

Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, Coventry City Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are enough school places available for all children, and that access to education is fair and appropriate for every learner. As part of fulfilling this legal responsibility, the Council takes the lead in planning, commissioning, and organising school places in ways that not only respond to current and future demand but also raise educational standards and support a diverse and inclusive school system.

The level of housing growth as part of the Keresley SUE will increase the demand for primary school places. To meet that need, land has been secured with the specific aim of providing a new primary school, this school would be a 2form of entry primary meaning it would have 2 classrooms (60 pupils) for each year group or 420 pupils in total. It is intended that the school would also provide a dedicated Early Years provision in line with increased demand for early years settings and resourced provision for pupils with an Education, Health, and Care plan. There is also an opportunity within the S106 agreement for a nearby existing Coventry primary school to relocate and grow on this site, making best use of the new space to support the local community.

A key component of this process is forecasting for school places, which enables the Council to anticipate how the local population will change over time. This includes analysing birth rates, migration patterns, and planned housing developments, such as large-scale expansions like the one in Keresley. By mapping population growth against geographical areas, the Council can predict where and when additional school places will be needed, ensuring forward-looking provision that keeps pace with residential growth.

The S106 agreement allows for Taylor Wimpey (the developer) to retain control of the land up to the point it is called in by Education to begin the design process of opening the new school. This timeframe ensures that proper planning, design, and delivery can take place without compromising the commitment to open the school. The other difficulty over the site is over the funding, new schools as a result of housing developments are expected to be entirely funded through S106 contributions. It is anticipated that the cost of this new school will be c.£10m and S106 has been secured to that amount, to date the housing developers who make up the Keresley SUE have only reached trigger points to pay £1.7m of the necessary funding.

As this moment in time, it is envisaged that Education will draw down the land into Council ownership in 2026, with the intention to be to design and build the school within 3 years giving an opening date of September 2029. We are still committed to opening the school and want to ensure it is delivered in a well-co-ordinated manner which is sustainable and doesn't destabilise existing schools but supports both current and future families in the area. If the local resident has a school age child already and is looking to get a school place in Coventry immediately, the webform to make an application can be found here - Primary school in-year admissions and transfers - About your child - Coventry City Council – if they are looking to apply in future years, it is envisaged that residents from this development will be able to access existing places at Parkgate Primary, Keresley Grange Primary, and Holy Family Primary School, but parents have the flexibility to place any school in the city down as a preference.

Cllr Najla Omar

3. **Public Forum**
 - Residents discuss on Jubilee woodland and planning application. Discussion was had.
4. **Closure of Meeting**
Meeting Closed: 8.00pm

The Chair closed the meeting and was immediately followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

Minutes Approved:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT

Chair's Report 2022

Keresley Parish Council has had a transitional year, moving from virtual meetings, back to face to face meetings. This was a challenge to find a venue that could accommodate our technical needs and also, the space to provide safe meetings for residents and the councillors. This was achieved by moving to Keresley Library. I would like to thank the United Reformed Church for all their support over the many years of providing accommodation for the KPC meetings.

The membership of the Parish Council has had a small change this year with the resignation of Jim Passmore. I would like to thank Jim for his service to KPC and his invaluable contribution to the professional representation of the residents of the Parish, and Jim's endless knowledge of planning and conservation. In addition, we also had the resignation of James Hughes our Clerk, who gained a full time post with Birmingham City Council. I would like to thank James for all his hard work, enthusiasm and support during his time with us. On James's resignation, Cllr Fisher offered her skills to help with administration and finance, which enabled us to continue to provide a service to the community. Thanks to Cllr Fisher for her hard work and patience with the laptop! I would like to formally welcome Helen as our interim Clerk, she has a wealth of experience as Clerk for Leek Wootton. So far, she has been a great asset to the Parish Council.

Our main activities this year have been planning applications and ongoing issues with developers. We have various developers on site in various locations, which with thanks to vigilant residents, we continue to monitor their activities and the impact they have on Keresley. We have had meetings with Coventry City Council Highways Department, and Planning with regards to the developments and the proposed relief road. This dialogue is ongoing and we will update residents when we have more information. Cllr Dille has developed a positive dialogue with the staff at CCC, following up on issues and residents queries and concerns. Cllr Dille is passionate about community engagement, he has developed key links with a variety of local groups e.g. Scouts, President Kennedy, Good Gym, Hare & Hounds. Thanks to Cllr Dille for his commitment to building relationships in the local area.

There are plans for a public meeting with developers and Coventry City Council in the next few months. More information to follow when attendees are confirmed.

The environment and climate change are still foremost in all of our minds. Ensuring that we protect the planet, our environment including local spaces and clean air. KPC are still committed to making a positive contribution to climate change. Cllr Dille and Cllr Proctor have been actively working with the Coventry Park Rangers on maintenance of Jubilee wood. This is an excellent ongoing project which has engaged local groups and the local schools. Thanks to them both for their hard work and commitment to this project. In addition, the monthly litter pick has begun, headed by Cllr Proctor. We have had a very positive response from residents and people engaging with the activities. More of these are planned for the summer months. Thanks to Cllr Proctor for her hard work and commitment. I did nominate both Cllr Proctor and Cllr Dille to be Baton Bearers for the Commonwealth Games for their services to the community and the environment, but sadly they were unsuccessful.

There has been a major upgrade to our Website, this has been driven and organised by Cllr Proctor. She is hoping that the website will be more accessible and user friendly, not only for residents but for the Councillors and Clerk too. Thank you Cllr Proctor for your work on this. In the interim, we still continue to engage with the community via the Facebook page, and the noticeboard.

Keresley Parish Council continues to go from strength to strength. We have a team of Councillors who are enthusiastic, committed and motivated to make Keresley an even greater place to live, work and experience.

Tracy Gudgeon