

# Keelby Parish Council

## General Update 1

### What is a Parish Council

Keelby Parish Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the Parish and has an overall responsibility for the well-being of its local community. It is the level of government closest to the community, with West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) above it in the hierarchy; WLDC are a District of the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC). As it is the authority closest to the people, our Parish Council is invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason we are a vital part of any community.

Comprising of 11 elected Councillors, **all of whom are volunteers who do not get paid**, Keelby Parish Council will always attempt to make balanced, informed decisions, where we have statutory powers and duties to act, based on the differing needs of the whole community. The work of the Parish Council falls into three main categories:

- representing the local community
- delivering services to meet local needs
- striving to improve quality of life in the Parish

The Keelby Parish Council meets on a monthly basis, typically meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the **Village** Hall. All routine meetings are open to the public, and there is a 10 minute open session at the start of every meeting to allow members of the public to raise matters for the Council's attention.

### How is Keelby Parish Councils funded?

The funding for our Parish is allocated by WLDC and is taken from the area's council tax; this is called an annual precept. The income and expenditure for the next financial year are calculated in the form of estimates and this amount is added to the local council tax and then returned to the Parish by WLDC. Based on calculated finances and funds needed to provide services in the village, the Parish Council can influence the level of precept needed.

When setting the precept each year, your Parish Council do their best to keep cost to a minimum whilst ensuring that key services (grass cutting and cemetery maintenance etc.) is appropriately funded to ensure that the village is well-kept. We do our best to make effective use of local and national grants when unplanned investment is needed (e.g. recent investment in recreational facilities).

## Update 1 Focus:

The role of  
Keelby Parish  
Council and its  
Councillors

## What decisions do Parish Councils make?

Parish Councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that Parish Councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, helping local groups, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities in the Parish.

It's true to say that on their own, Parish Councils have limited powers to make decisions. But they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions (such as WLDC LCC, Health Authorities, Police etc.). In this respect Parish Councils can be extremely powerful. The organisations that make the final decisions know that a Parish Council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something, and our views will be taken seriously.

## What is Keelby Parish Council responsible for?

Parish Councils may exercise powers to provide, maintain and manage certain facilities. With regards to Keelby, we have delegated responsibilities for:

- Buildings for community use, such as the village hall and the sports pavilion
- Recreational facilities such as the skate park, playgrounds and cycle track
- Management and maintenance of the cemetery
- Public seats
- Guardianship of common land such as the village green and management of trees in these areas
- Maintenance of the war memorial
- Development of the Neighbourhood Plan which has significant influence when considering planning applications

## What is Keelby Parish Council NOT responsible for?

Whilst the Parish Council can influence decision makers, we are not ultimately responsible for:

- Roads and highways, including potholes (Lincolnshire County Council)
- Paths and walkways (West Lindsey District Council)
- Emptying public bins, other than those on our facilities (West Lindsey District Council)
- Tree maintenance, other than those on our facilities (Lincolnshire County Council)

## How do I become a Parish Councillor?

There are 11 elected Councillors on Keelby Parish Council, a Councillor once elected, serves for a 4 year term before a re-election is required. All elections can be contested if new people step forward; if there are more than 11 candidates, an electoral vote will take place. Should a vacancy become available, you can apply to be co-opted.

To qualify to be a Parish Councillor you must be:

- A British citizen or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union.
- At least 18 on the day that he or she is nominated as a candidate
- A registered local government elector within the Parish
- A resident in the Parish, or within three miles of the parish, or working full time in the parish for at least 12 months prior to the nomination or election day.

Anyone interested in becoming a Councillor should contact Janet Milson, Clerk to Keelby Parish Council: [clerk@keelbyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@keelbyparishcouncil.gov.uk) in the first instance.