**Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council**

**Annual Parish Meeting – 6th May 2025 – Chairman’s Report**

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting.

It has been another busy year, and I am pleased to give my Chairman’s Report on the activities the Parish Council has been involved in.

Traffic, speeding and parking remain the most common complaints we hear from parishioners. We were delighted to get the news that the Government has decided to leave the decision for granting 20mph zones in the hands of Local Authorities. Highways have confirmed they will be proceeding with the proposed Althorpe 20mph restrictions. This is due to go out to public consultation and we are hopeful the scheme will finally be in place by the end of this financial year.

Parking in Keadby remains a problem, and we continue to work with the Local Authority to find an acceptable solution.

The weight limit signs in Althorpe have been upgraded however we are still seeing unsuitable vehicles accessing both villages. It was also disappointing to see the huge vehicles accessing the housing development on the A18 via Hawthorn Way. We have raised our concerns with Planning and Highways but are hopeful the building of the access road onto the A18 Trunk Road will alleviate this problem.

Over this last year, the Parish Council has continued to work closely with SSE especially in light of the Keadby Next Generation Power Station – a hydrogen-fired power station. To get a better understanding of the site proposed, a number of Parish Councillors made a site visit and were able to raise questions and concerns. On our suggestion, SSE Thermal have already agreed to explore options for tree planting and supplementing the existing landscaping to soften the views of the Keadby site as a whole. It was a very informative and enjoyable visit and good to meet with apprentices, some of them from the local area.

Other areas of concern regarding large organisations persistent on industrial development within the Parish include the Tween Bridge Solar Farm and the North Humber – High Marnham – North Lincolnshire National Grid upgrade. We continue to monitor these activities and voice any concerns.

Northern Rail attended one of our meetings to give an update on rail services within their network. There should be no timetable changes for at least the next two years, and they will also be looking at installing a customer information system at Althorpe Station.

The Parish Council continues to look for best value in the way we deliver our services and this year we increased our share of the 2025-26 council tax precept by 7.5%, still quite a modest amount leading to an overall 4.89% increase in Council Tax Bills. Additional spending has included:

* Cleaning of the Althorpe War Memorial with the addition of two war graves not represented.
* New fencing to separate the Althorpe play park from the playing field.
* Mole control on the Althorpe play park.
* Replacement litter bin on the New Generation Park.
* Replacement swings and pendulum seat for the zip wire on Millennium Green due to general wear and tear.

The Parish Council remains prudent when it comes to public spending and sadly due to repeated acts of vandalism on the Outdoor Gym on Keadby’s Millennium Green the decision was taken to remove the damaged equipment and not replace it. The replacement litter bin was also vandalised but was able to be repaired and refitted. Representatives of the Parish Council continue to attend the NATS meetings and report any antisocial behaviour.

Councillors, and the Clerk, had a very successful meeting with the NLC Woodland Creation Officer and 1.8m trees will be provided, planted and maintained for 5 years on the Ropery and Althorpe playing field. This will commence with a more detailed site visit in the autumn, to agree quantity and variety of trees.

Work will begin in replacing the Ropery Land Bridge on 17th May now that a survey has ascertained there are no crested newts or bats roosting under the bridge.

Once again, many residents attended the Remembrance Day service in November, and I was pleased to be able to lay the Parish Council’s wreath at the Althorpe War Memorial. As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day it is good to see the tributes in both villages and a grant of £240 has enabled the Parish to commemorate this important event in history. I’d like to thank all the volunteers who continue to organise these events.

A working party from the Parish Council headed by Councillor Mike Russell are working closely with Reverend Paul Wilson and the Church on developing a very natural and simple garden of contemplation within the consecrated ground in Althorpe. With a preferred plan and costings now in place, public consultation has begun, and the next stage is to apply for a faculty with the Diocese.

We remain committed in supporting the various local associations and groups in the Parish and are happy to be able to support them through the Section 137 annual donations. Thank you for coming along this evening and we look forward to hearing your reports and plans for the future.

In addition to this, over the last year the SSE Micro fund has been able to support:

* Keadby & Althorpe Historical Group
* Keadby U9 football team
* Keadby Stitch Group
* Silent Book Club
* Keadby 5-16 Club
* Purchase of VE Day 80 commemorative items, including an additional Tommy
* Althorpe Creative

As well as the SSE Windfarm funding, the SSE Thermal Keadby Community Investment Fund is now available for community projects in the Keadby area. The aim is to support organisations that are working to deliver benefits for the community in and around their existing site.

It was good to see both Althorpe and Keadby taking part in the Winter Warmth campaign with both Halls benefitting from the funding available and holding vital sessions over the winter months for parishioners to attend.

I hope as residents you are confident your Parish Council is working hard to meet the needs of the Parish. The Parish website ([www.keadbywithalthorpeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.keadbywithalthorpeparishcouncil.org.uk)) is regularly updated along with the notice boards. You are also welcome to attend our monthly meetings where you can have up to 15 minutes to discuss an agenda item, or just sit and listen to the issues attaining.

This is my fourth year as Chairman, and I am very proud of the dedicated team of Parish Councillors who continue to work extremely hard on your behalf. Your councillors carry out a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes and consistently operate professionally and efficiently. I would like to give my grateful thanks for all the work they undertake and the support they have given me over the year.

On behalf of us all I would like to thank our Parish Clerk, Bob Haynes, who ensures we have a professional, well run Parish Council. Bob certainly makes my job as Chairman a lot easier, and it is at this annual meeting when we can truly acknowledge the hard work he puts in, and I know we all greatly appreciate his support.

We are very fortunate to have the support of Councillors Julie Reed and Ian Bint, and I would like to thank them for their presence and help at our meetings, and in providing us with detailed Ward updates. Julie and Ian work hard to follow up on issues raised whether it be the recent spate of power cuts, overgrown verges and paths, or parking issues, and it is much appreciated.

As always, I would like to thank George Potter who continues to maintain the villages in good order.

Finally, I would like to thank all our residents for their support and commitment towards improving and maintaining our community’s quality of life. Thank you again for taking the time to come along tonight.

*Kathryn Russell, Chairman, Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council*

*6 May 2025*