

SOUTH KESEY & MOORTOWN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on Monday 13 May 2025 at 6pm in South Kelsey Village Hall

Present: Cllr N Hall (Chair), Cllr Garry Dickinson (Vice Chair), Cllr Amanda Suddaby, Cllr Julie Todd, Cllr Peter Smith, Cllr Sandra Evans

In Attendance: County Cllr James Bean, Christine Major (Clerk), two members of the public.

Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons given. Apologies received from Cllr Peter Morris and accepted.

101/25 Chair's Report:

Good evening everyone,

Thank you for joining us at this year's Annual Parish Meeting. I'm pleased to report on the work and progress that has taken place over the past year in our parish.

Financial Management

We have continued to take a careful and responsible approach to parish finances. By using our savings account strategically, we have ensured that interest continues to accumulate. In addition, we've made small but important changes to reduce unnecessary expenditure – for example, Anglian Water has now disconnected an unused water meter, resulting in an annual saving.

Highways and Safety

Speed indication devices were successfully installed in both South Kelsey and Moortown, helping to encourage safer driving and reduce speeding in these areas.

We also worked closely with our County Councillor, Tom Smith, and Richard Fenwick, Head of Highways, to secure the resurfacing of a road in Moortown.

Park Improvements and Community Funding

This year has seen significant improvements to our community park. We were successful in securing external funding, including a £20,000 grant from the National Lottery and a £500 Tesco Community Grant. Additional funds were allocated from the Community Infrastructure Levy, Section 137, and our park reserves.

A formal tender for the refurbishment of the play area was publicised on the government website, and quotes were obtained for new fencing and gates. The new play equipment, gates and fences were installed in November 2024 at a total cost of £39,600 excluding VAT.

Regrettably, we faced issues with vandalism in spring 2024. Goal posts were twisted and dismantled, leaving behind dangerous metalwork. Thanks go to Cllr Dickinson and a local resident who promptly made the area safe. Repeated damage to the wooden fencing also required ongoing interim repairs by Cllr Dickinson.

To ensure the long-term health and safety of our park, a formal tree survey was completed in January. The results have informed our plans for future maintenance, and we have included renewal and ongoing care in our budget reserves.

We were also delighted to learn in March 2025 that our resubmitted application to the Community Ownership Fund had been successful, following delays due to the general election. A further £65,500 has been secured, enabling us to move forward with the next phase of park development. This will include new toddler, teen, and adult gym equipment, improved goal posts, picnic tables, pathways, better drainage at the park entrance, and a new main gate.

Looking Ahead

A working party has begun to plan a summer fair or similar event to mark the formal opening of the newly refurbished park. We hope this will be a joyful community celebration and a chance for everyone to enjoy the results of our collective efforts.

In closing, I'd like to thank my fellow councillors, our clerk, and all those in the parish who have given their time and support over the past year. Your commitment and involvement are what continue to make this a thriving and caring community.

Thank you.

102/25 Open Meeting - an opportunity for the local community and organisations to discuss any issues relating to the village.

A member of the public thanked the parish council for their efforts and work to improve the parish, including South Kelsey Park. They were thanked for their appreciation.

Meeting closed at 6.20 pm

Annual Parish Meeting - FAQs

There can be, and often is, confusion between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1st March and the 1st June (inclusive). Meetings should not commence before 6.00 pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting for 2024 is due to take on **Monday 13th May at 7pm** at South Kelsey Village Hall. All residents of South Kelsey and Moortown Parish are invited.

What is the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting?

The purpose of the meeting is so that the Parish Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and it enables the electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish.

Who can attend the meeting?

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of all the local government electors for the Parish. It is NOT a Meeting of the Parish Council, which the public can participate in. Anyone may attend but only registered electors of South Kelsey and Moortown Parish may speak and vote.

Will I be able to ask questions and make suggestions?

Yes, any registered elector may ask questions of the Council, which will usually be answered by the Chairperson, the Clerk to the Council, or a designated Councillor. An elector may also make suggestions and comment on anything pertinent to the people of the Parish. This will be welcomed and is the whole purpose of the meeting.

Who will chair the meeting?

The Chairperson of the Parish Council will chair the meeting. If the Chair is not able to attend, then the meeting will elect a chairperson from amongst those electors present.

Will Parish Councillors be there?

Usually they do attend and will speak if need be. But the purpose of the meeting is to enable the ordinary electors to have their say. Councillors will listen with interest and as electors themselves, also have the opportunity to raise questions and make comments if they wish.

Will notes be taken of the meeting?

Yes, a written record of the meeting will be taken and will be presented at a future meeting of Council for their consideration.

How long will the meeting last?

As long as need be within reason. It really depends on those present and the number of questions and the discussion that is raised. Generally, the meeting will last no longer than 2 hours.

South Kelsey and Moortown Parish Council look forward to seeing you.

Details of Parish Council meetings can be found on-line:
<https://south-kelsey-moortown.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

If you have any queries please contact us. Email: Clerk@southkelseyandmoortownparishcouncil.gov.uk