

**MINUTES OF KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD  
ON MONDAY 9 APRIL 2018 IN KERSEY VILLAGE HALL AT 9.35 PM,  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**PRESENT**

John Hume – Chair, Veronica Partridge, Giles Hollingworth, Andrew Rogers, Kevin Pratt, 3 members of the public, and the Clerk – Sarah Partridge.

**45/18 APOLOGIES** – Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Yvonne Martin and Iqbal Alam.

**46/18 ACCEPT MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None

**47/18 CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS** – None received

**48/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2018 were signed and dated as being correct.

**49/18 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) Progress – None.

b) To consider planning applications received:

**DC/18/00893 Stay Barn**, The Street - Householder Planning Application - Erection of single storey rear extension. Councillors looked at the drawings and documentation for this application. The applicant was not present, there were no comments from the members of the public present. The Parish Council had received a letter of objection from the neighbour which Councillors had read. After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council did not object to the principle of an extension, but the Council has serious concerns about factual inaccuracies in the application, the effect on amenity for the neighbouring adjoining property and the proposed design and appearance. The Parish Council would also like Babergh to check that this property is not listed since this is a barn conversion from an ancient barn in the Kersey Conservation Area.

The points the Parish Council would like noted are:

1. The Parish Council believes there are trees on the neighbouring property which may be affected by the proposed development.
2. The proposed development will be seen from the public footpath running behind the gardens of all the properties on this side of The Street.
3. The Parish Council is concerned about the effect this proposed development will have on the attached neighbouring barn. The proposal will be detrimental to the amenity of this adjoining property due to an increase in noise.
4. There are serious concerns about the use of a party wall for this proposed extension or a gap which would need to be created between the properties which will need access for maintenance.
5. The Parish Council considers that the design and appearance of the proposed extension, although single storey, is very high and the design is not in keeping with the existing barn conversion.

**50/18 TO DISCUSS THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION ELECTORAL REVIEW FOR BABERGH**

The Council considered the new proposal from the Boundary Commission for Kersey to be in a new ward to be called South East Cosford. This ward would be comprised of the parishes of Aldham, Elmsett, Chelsworth, Lindsey, Nedging-with-Naughton, Kersey, Semer, Wattisham and Whatfield. The Parish Council had received an email from Lindsey Parish Council who, although pleased to be grouped with Kersey, object to this new grouping as it will cut Lindsey off from the church benefice

parishes and feel it does not reflect local communities or local settlement hierarchy. Councillors considered the proposal and agreed that they are happy for Kersey to be in the proposed South East Cosford Ward. There was surprise that Wattisham was to be included in this ward since it is much more closely connected with Bildeston and Hitcham.

## **51/18 REVIEW OF SPRING LITTER COLLECTION AND DISCUSS LONG TERM REGULAR LITTER COLLECTION**

The Chair put forward a proposal for local people to make the Parish of Kersey a cleaner, safer, more attractive and pleasant place to live and visit. A volunteer network could be set up to clear litter, report potholes and fly-tipping. The Chair outlined this idea:

### Background

There has been an increase in casual littering and fly-tipping. Potholes and road surface damage has worsened during recent extreme weather. These are hazards to residents, visitors and wildlife. Local government funding means local communities can no longer rely on District and County Councils for speedy resolution of these problems. Littering is a national issue and attempts to change culture to prevent damage to our countryside environment have failed. In Kersey we have an active community and there is a lot of anger at the dumping of rubbish in our Parish. Litter collection and pothole reporting is carried out by local residents but is not coordinated and responsibility is not clear. Martyn Rudkin deserves particular praise for patrolling our lanes and collecting rubbish. The annual village litter collection is also well supported. The volunteers did an excellent job, collecting over a dozen bin bags of dumped rubbish and reported several incidents of fly-tipping and animal carcasses for collection by the Babergh District Council team. But, these efforts and the once a year collection, is not enough. Although potholes can be reported easily by individuals using the Suffolk County Council website, responsibility for doing so is not clear and not everyone has access to computers.

### The Proposal

Local residents will be invited to volunteer to be members of the Kersey Volunteer Group (KVG) for year-round litter collection, reporting of fly-tipping and pot holes. This would be on the same basis as the annual litter pick, with volunteers allocated a specific area to monitor. This would supplement the current ad-hoc, uncoordinated activity and help generate more responsibility and pride in our community. Volunteers would be provided with litter pickers, safety jackets, guidelines and information on how to report problems. They would be covered by the Parish Council's insurance policy while working on these activities. With this clearer accountability, eyesores and road repairs would be dealt with more quickly.

### Summary

This low-cost solution will prevent harm to our locality, generate pride and act as an adjunct to current individual initiatives.

Councillors discussed this proposal and agreed that it was a good idea. A new Working Group called the Kersey Volunteer Group will be set up. The Chair will contact those who helped with the annual litter pick as a start to getting volunteers involved. The Clerk and Chair will carry out a risk assessment for the proposed activities of the KVG and a list of those who join the group will be kept by the Parish Council for insurance purposes.

## **52/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

James Cartlidge our MP has written inviting representatives from the Parish Council to attend a meeting on 20 April where he will outline how completing a Neighbourhood Plan could influence the type and location of development in villages and also highlight elements which are considered particularly important to local residents. John Hume hopes to attend this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15pm.

There are no sheets appended to these minutes.