

# **Minutes of Kersey Parish Council extraordinary meeting held on Monday 26 October 2020 via Zoom videoconference at 6 pm**

**Present:** John Hume (Chair), Penny Calnan, Dave Finch, Pascoe Gibbons, Philippa Harris, Kevin Pratt and Andrew Rogers.

**In attendance:** Sarah Partridge (Clerk) and 3 members of public.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the remote Parish Council meeting. The Chair explained that the meeting will be recorded by the Parish Council. Anyone wishing to speak should raise their hand. There will, as usual, be the opportunity for members of the public to speak during Parish Time, the public participation session.

**153/20 Apologies** – None

**154/20 Accept Members' Declarations of Interest** - None

**155/20 Consider any Dispensation requests for Pecuniary Interests received from Councillors** – None received.

## **156/20 Public forum – Parish Time**

The hedge in Vane Lane has still not been cut by Babergh. The Chair will chase this up. The verges in Vale Lane and Water Lane have also not been cut this year. The Clerk will chase this up.

## **157/20 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2020 were confirmed as being correct and will be signed later.

## **158/20 Planning applications**

### **a) Progress**

**DC/20/00300 Barn Adjacent To Red House Farm, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey, Suffolk**

Proposal: Full Planning Application - Conversion and alterations to agricultural building to form 1 no. dwelling (previously approved under B/17/00974) to include installation of additional roof lights.

Erection of cart-lodge (Amendment of that approved under DC/18/01595)

Application withdrawn 8 September 2020.

(Babergh planning application reference **DC/20/01266 Land South West Of, Vale Lane, Kersey, Suffolk**)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 appeal under section 78 Appeal Reference: APP/D3505/W/20/3255157

Proposal: Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved)-Erection of up to 8no. dwellings with parking and access from a new shared driveway with a single access to Hall Road (resubmission of DC/19/01834)

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of Babergh District Council to refuse permission. The appeal will be determined on the basis of written representations. The Parish Council responses to this application have been submitted to the appeal. It was agreed no further information would be sent to the appeal.

### **b) Planning applications to consider**

**DC/20/03449 Holtons, Uplands, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6ER**

Proposal: Householder Planning Application - Siting of static caravan during house renovations.

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Following discussion, the Parish Council resolved to fully support the siting of a static caravan during renovation works to the house. The Parish Council would support a condition that the caravan must be removed on completion of renovation works.

**DC/20/04377 Trickers Farm, Boxford Road, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6EW**

Proposal: Planning Application - Conversion and extension of existing single storey detached barn/outbuilding together with associated works, to provide 1no. unit of holiday accommodation and 1no. dwelling, construction of detached garage and new vehicular access

**DC/20/04378 Trickers Farm, Boxford Road, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6EW**

Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Conversion and extension of existing single storey detached barn/outbuilding together with associated works, to provide 1no. unit of holiday accommodation and 1no. dwelling, construction of detached garage and new vehicular access

The applicant spoke to explain his proposal for a home for his daughter. It will tidy up an old outbuilding which is redundant and an eye sore to provide a home for a young hard working local couple who will be completing most of the building work themselves. The immediate neighbours are in favour of this proposal and the environmental survey has not found any issues. A structural survey is being completed. The building lends itself to being split away from the rest of the Trickers Farm to provide a new dwelling. Following discussion the Parish Council resolved to fully support both applications. The modest proposal will make use of existing buildings and provide a home for local young people. The proposals are in keeping with the surroundings, there were no heritage concerns.

### **159/20 Consider a response to the Suffolk County Council boundary review consultation**

The Boundary Commission draft proposal is to reduce the number of Suffolk County Councillors to 70 which means altering the make up of parishes in each division. It is proposed that Kersey be moved out of the Cosford division and into a new Hadleigh division including Hadleigh town along with the villages of Layham, Raydon and Whatfield. Kersey will not be with any of the parishes which join Kersey's parish boundaries. Councillors discussed this at length. Councillors were uneasy about being in a division with Hadleigh because the urban needs of Hadleigh are markedly different to the needs of small rural parishes and Kersey's needs may get overlooked. However, there was also a concern that the new proposed Cosford division would include 21 parishes. This is a large number of parishes for a county councillor to properly look after, so perhaps being in a division with only 6 parishes may be advantageous. It would be reliant on the Parish Council to forge a good working relationship with the county councillor to ensure Kersey is suitably represented. It was resolved that the Chair and Clerk would write a response to the Boundary Commission setting out the Council's unease at being included in a division with Hadleigh where the rural community needs will not necessarily align with the urban needs of Hadleigh. The Parish Council would like the Boundary Commission to find a better alternative where smaller rural parishes can be in a division together with their neighbouring parishes.

### **160/20 Receive report from the Clerk's job appraisal and salary review**

The appraisal was carried out by the Chair following feedback from Councillors. The Chair said the Clerk has provided another year of excellent service to our community in challenging circumstances. Many other local councils do not have a permanent Clerk and we are fortunate to have someone of Sarah's calibre in the role. It was resolved the Clerk will remain on the same salary grade of SCP 20 and will

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continue to receive a Working from Home Allowance of £4 per week. The Clerk has been regularly working more than her contractual hours and the Council had agreed in principle, earlier in the year, to pay the Clerk for the hours she has worked. It was resolved to increase the Clerk's contractual hours by 17 hours to 381 per year. This will take effect from 1 October 2020. The small overspend in the Clerk's salary budget will be taken from contingencies. The actual hours worked by the Clerk during the year will be reviewed again near the end of the financial year in March 2021.

**161/20 Any other business – Councillors opportunity to bring matters to the Council's attention** - None

The date of the next scheduled Parish Council meeting is Monday 16 November 2020.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.45pm.

There are no pages appended to these minutes.

Signed .....

Date .....