

**MINUTES OF KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 1 OCTOBER 2018 IN KERSEY VILLAGE HALL  
AT 6.30 PM**

**PRESENT**

John Hume – Chair, Yvonne Martin, Veronica Partridge, Giles Hollingworth, Kevin Pratt, Andrew Rogers, Penny Calnan, 4 members of the public and the Clerk – Sarah Partridge

**135/18 APOLOGIES** - None

**136/18 CO-OPTION TO FILL THE VACANCY FOR ONE PARISH COUNCILLOR**

The Parish Council had received two excellent applications for the Councillor vacancy which was going to make it a difficult decision for the Council. The Chair welcomed both applicants and said that he hoped that the unsuccessful candidate would not be put off from applying again in the future or becoming involved in other village working groups or organisations. The Chair then outlined the protocol, which had been agreed with both candidates, which would be used for the selection process:

1. Each candidate will be interviewed by the Council separately in the absence of the other, who will be asked to leave the room when this takes place.
2. Who presents first will be decided by toss of a coin.
3. Each candidate will be asked to make a brief statement explaining why they want to be a Councillor, giving relevant qualifications and experience.
4. Each candidate will then be asked questions by Councillors, with care taken to ensure that the same questions are given to both candidates.
5. Councillors will, in the absence of both candidates, consider their decision. This will be either unanimous or the subject of a vote.
6. The candidates will return to the meeting for the decision to be given by the Chair.
7. The process will be moderated by the Chair, taking guidance from the Clerk as required.
8. This is a decision for the Parish Council only with no input from other attendees.
9. The appointment takes immediate effect and the successful candidate will be asked to join the Council.

Having followed this protocol Penny Calnan was co-opted to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy. Penny was welcomed onto the Parish Council and duly signed an Acceptance of Office form. The Clerk will write to her shortly with further details about the work of the Parish Council and how to complete a Register of Interests form.

**137/18 ACCEPT MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None

**138/18 CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS** – None received

**139/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chair commented that at the beginning of the meeting on 10 September he had congratulated the Village Produce Association on a very successful show and event in September. He had also mentioned that the new vicar for Kersey had started and he had met several parishioners at the VPA show. The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2018 were signed and dated as being correct.

**140/18 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) Progress:

**DC/18/03351 1 Vale Lane, Kersey, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 6EH**

Proposal: Householder Planning Application - Erection of two storey side/rear extension  
Babergh gave planning permission for this application on 19 September 2018.

b) To consider planning applications received:

**DC/18/04188 Kersey Mill, Hadleigh Road, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6DP**

Proposal: Full Planning Application - Erection of 2no. dwellings with cartlodge garages

The applicant was present and outlined the application. He mentioned that a previous similar application, supported by the Parish Council, had been unexpectedly refused by Babergh District Council. The applicant has lodged an appeal which was not likely to be decided until the spring. Following several discussions and meetings with planning officers the applicant has submitted a new very similar application for two 3-bed dwellings in a slightly different location on the Kersey Mill site. The new location is currently a horse paddock and not really visibly as the proposed homes would be hidden by trees and hedging. The applicant explained that they need to have more people living on site to meet the modern-day requirements of running a working water mill and for insurance and health and safety reasons. As restoration of the Mill continues it will be a working museum and will ensure the important heritage of Kersey Mill will be secured for the future. They need two people to work the water gates during the daytime and 3 people when there is high water or at night, as well as people to respond to fire alarms. The applicant was asked what would happen if this current proposal was approved and their appeal was successful. The applicant explained that they did not wish to build homes in both locations and if either was successful the other would be withdrawn.

Councillors discussed the application and considered the material planning reasons. Councillors agreed that it is important to protect heritage assets in the Parish such as Kersey Mill and Maltings. The application states that the horse paddock is considered brown field which one Councillor did not believe to be the case. The Parish Council would have liked to have seen comments from Historic England before making their decision. The Council was also concerned that supporting this application might set a precedent for more houses on this site which they would not like to see. However, it was agreed that every application would be considered on its own merits. This proposal does not adversely affect important views of Kersey Mill and Maltings and will help to ensure that an important heritage and employment asset for Kersey is protected and remains a viable and valuable part of Kersey and the wider community. This supports the Babergh Core Strategy to conserve and enhance heritage assets and safeguard them for future generations to enjoy and learn from. The proposal, as well as supporting services on the Kersey Mill site and helping to protect Kersey Mill itself, will support vital local services in the Parish of Kersey, such as the school, pub, village organisations and community activities. It will also support services in the wider functional cluster. It will contribute in a small way to the housing stock in Babergh. The proposal is of a good sustainable design, sensitive to the needs of the adjacent heritage assets. This proposal will help the parish of Kersey to grow in a small but sustainable way ensuring that it remains a vibrant community in which to live and work. This supports the NPPF paragraph 78. This proposal is adjacent to a cluster of buildings and residential properties including the Kersey Mill complex where there are employment opportunities, commercial and leisure services. If the proposed location were to be considered as isolated in the countryside then this proposal clearly demonstrates how it fulfils two of the criteria in paragraph 79 of the NPPF for exceptional circumstances. These being the necessity of more suitably qualified and physically able workers needing to live on the site of Kersey Mill to help operate it in a safe manner at all times of the day and night and secondly it will ensure Kersey Mill and Maltings, important heritage assets, are secured for the future. The public benefits of Kersey Mill being conserved and made back into a working mill open to the public clearly demonstrates a public benefit which outweighs any potential harm associated with the development of two modest homes which are proposed in a discrete location. For the above reasons the Parish Council agreed to support the application.

*John Hume gave his apologies and left the meeting. Yvonne Martin took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.*

**141/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Kevin Pratt gave an update on the project to mark the centenary of the 1918 Armistice. He has been working with the school and the Royal British Legion. Reverend Jackson will be leading two services at 10.45am on Thursday 8 November and the other on Remembrance Sunday. There will be some of the children's work on display, knitted poppies, 'There but Not There' Tommy memorials and new war grave markers. All residents are welcomed to the services, flyers will be distributed to the whole Parish. Tea and cakes will be served after the services.

A Councillor commented that two temporary road signs have been left abandoned after some recent roadworks. He agreed to report these to highways using the on-line reporting tool on the SCC website.

**142/18 PARISH TIME**

A question was asked about repairs to the steps on footpath 12 near the allotments. Giles Hollingworth confirmed that he has met a rights of way officer on site and agreed the works and he is going to get a working party together to complete the work.

A question was asked about whether the recent telecommunication upgrade works had been completed. The answer to this was not known but it was suggested that if Parishioners wished for upgraded broadband services they should contact their service provider.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.49pm.

There are no items appended to these minutes.