

Minutes of Kersey Parish Council meeting

held on Monday 1 December 2025 at Kersey Village Hall at 7pm

Present: John Hume (Chair), Liz Bostock, Penny Calnan and Andrew Rogers

In attendance: 3 members of the public – for part of the meeting and Sarah Partridge (Clerk)

156/25 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from David Butcher, Esme Chapman and Richard Walker (personal)

157/25 Accept Members' Declarations of Interest and consider Dispensation requests for Pecuniary Interests

Liz Bostock declared an interest in the planning application DC/25/04505 The Haven, Church Hill, Kersey due to an interest in land adjacent to the property.

158/25 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2025 were confirmed as being correct and signed.

159/25 Public forum and reports

a) Parish Time – Parishioners' opportunity to raise matters and ask questions - None

160/25 Planning applications

a) Progress

DC/25/04311 Leys House Church Hill Kersey Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6DZ

Application for Listed Building Consent - Installation of Gas Stove within Dining/Breakfast Room Area, with Vertical Balanced Flue through roof. Babergh granted listed building consent 25 November 2025.

b) Consider planning applications received:

DC/25/03819 Barn South Of, Water Lane, Kersey, Suffolk

Proposal: Full Planning Application - Erection of 1 No. self-build dwelling (following demolition of existing building) and all ancillary works (class Q fall back DC/23/04566)

Re-consultation due to amended plans dated 13.11.2025

The applicant was present and outlined their plans for a modest size house, the current class Q approved dwelling is very small and most likely suitable as a holiday let. The revised plans are reduced in size and height and will provide an energy efficient, modern small family home. There were no comments from members of the public. The Council reconsidered the above application and amended plans. The council noted a window showing on the block plan was not shown on the elevation drawing. The Parish Council voted by a majority to object to the application due to their continuing concerns regarding the size. It was felt the proposals would be out of keeping with the landscape and surroundings. The applicant was thanked for attending the meeting.

1 member of the public left the meeting.

DC/25/04505 The Haven, Church Hill, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6EG

Proposal: Householder Application - Construction of a single storey annex to provide supplementary residential accommodation. Re-consultation due to revised parking arrangements.

Liz Bostock declared an interest in this application and left the meeting room.

The applicant was present and confirmed the parking arrangements are as outlined to the Parish Council in November. The Council reconsidered the above application and were unanimous in fully supporting the proposals. The Parish Council believes the proposals comply with planning regulations and fit in with the landscape. Importantly, this proposal will provide a social solution enabling a resident, who has contributed to the community and lived in Kersey for her whole life, to continue living in Kersey with family support. The applicant was thanked for attending the meeting.

Liz Bostock rejoined the meeting.

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c) Note applications received after publishing the agenda: None

2 members of the public left the meeting.

161/25 Correspondence

The Council had received a letter from the Nightingale Trust regarding unauthorised public access to the allotment site. The Trust has concerns about loose dogs worrying wildlife and not being cleaned up after, as well as concerns about general trespass and theft from the allotments. The Trust has already erected signs, but this has not resolved the problem. They now plan to erect fencing and gates, ensuring that the public right of way adjacent to the site is unaffected. The Parish Council finds the poor behaviour of the public unacceptable and believe the Trust has suitable plans in place to help matters. The Council suggests they could put an article in the Kersey Newsletter reminding residents that the allotments are private property.

162/25 Agree a response to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation

There are two proposals for local government reorganisation in Suffolk. The County Council propose a single unitary council to cover the whole of the county. The District Councils propose dividing Suffolk into three unitary councils. The Parish Council is concerned that despite the advertising campaigns by SCC and the Districts there has been little real engagement because the public are not interested. The consultation was discussed in detail. The Parish Council feels the proposals are not entirely clear about how local government and local services will be improved by unitary arrangements. Central Government funding for local government will need to be improved to provide a good level of public services. It is important that Suffolk is well represented at the proposed Mayoral Authority and that unitary councils are not dominated by party politics. There is an opportunity to better link with health services, police and social care. Improved services and local governance will depend on the officers and councillors in the new organisation; it is vital that the best calibre people are appointed. The Parish Council believes the cost of integration and change to unitary council arrangements are underestimated and will lead to considerable disruption for some years. The Clerk will respond to the consultation.

163/25 Forthcoming meetings

Police and Parish Forum 3 December at East Bergholt 7.30pm

164/25 Any other business – Councillors’ opportunity to bring matters to the Council’s attention

It was noted that there had been a robbery at Cox Hill.

The roads between Kersey Mill and Boxford are in a poor state of repair and require resurfacing – there are multiple potholes – Councillors were reminded to report highway concerns using the SCC highways reporting tool.

Concern was raised that when highway repairs are completed in the Conservation Area conservation grade approved materials are not being used – this concern will be highlighted to Robert Lindsay.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.12pm.

There are no pages appended to these minutes.

Signed

Date