

## **Minutes of Kersey Parish Council meeting**

**held on Monday 11 August 2025 at Kersey Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** John Hume (Chair), Liz Bostock, David Butcher, Penny Calnan, and Richard Walker.

**In attendance:** 12 members of the public and Sarah Partridge (Clerk)

Before the formal meeting started the Chair thanked Frances Whymark for her many years of service to the village. Frances has delivered newspapers in Kersey for more than 40 years. A new company has taken over the service and Frances has been made redundant. The Chair also passed on condolences to the family of Norah Orriss. Norah was born and lived her whole life in Kersey. She was a stalwart of village life. Village post mistress for 25 years and village hall treasurer for over 50 years. Although nostalgic, Norah wanted the village to be a vibrant place for families to live. She will be missed.

**97/25 Apologies** – Apologies were received and accepted from Esme Chapman (personal) and Andrew Rogers (work)

**98/25 Accept Members' Declarations of Interest and consider Dispensation requests for Pecuniary Interests** - none

**99/25 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2025 were confirmed as being correct and signed.

**100/25 Public forum and reports**

a) **Parish Time – Parishioners' opportunity to raise matters and ask questions** – none.

**101/25 Planning applications**

a) **Progress** – nothing to report.

b) **Consider planning applications received:**

**DC/25/03017 3-6 The Street, Kersey, IP7 6ED**

Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent. Internal alterations to listed terrace to allow for the installation of sanitary facilities across all dwellings, new kitchen facilities to dwellings 3 & 4, a new stair case in dwelling 3 and a new bedroom in dwelling 5 following the closure of an existing opening to dwelling 6.

The applicants were present and outlined their plans to alter the layout of the properties to make them suitable for modern living. They have worked with English Heritage and Babergh to ensure the heritage aspects are respected and there is no harm to the listed building. Several members of the public spoke to express concern that the properties might become holiday lets, there are already too many in the centre of Kersey, which is not good for the community. They would also welcome them being affordable homes for local people. There was concern about more on-street parking for these properties. The applicant responded to say they are creating off-street parking behind the houses and would like to restore these properties and let them on long term tenancies to local people. They would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in becoming a tenant. It is not their intention or part of their business plan to create holiday lets. The Council then discussed the application. The Council was pleased the applicants had taken the time to fully engage with the planning process and were at the meeting to answer Councillors questions. The Parish Council was unanimous in fully supporting the proposed changes which will ensure the houses are brought up to modern day living standards, whilst protecting the heritage aspects of the properties. The Parish Council understands that off-street parking is to be created behind the properties,

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which they fully support. The Parish Council would like to see the trades people involved in the restoration work making use of this off-street parking to avoid congestion in the village. The Parish Council is also very keen to support these houses being long term homes for local people and would object to them becoming holiday lets. The Parish Council welcomes the restoration of these properties in the centre of the village, which are part of the important historic street scene.

### **DC/25/02536 Groton Wood Cottage, The Tye, Kersey (re-consultation, amended design)**

Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of a cart lodge, relocation of septic treatment plant, replace existing post and rail fence with new boundary wall and repairs to existing garden wall. Erection of a gated pedestrian entrance. Proposed erection of cart lodge within grounds of host dwelling, including associated external works inclusive of new boundary wall, garden walling, relocation of new septic treatment plant, making good of ground. Application for cart lodge only follows approval of details under DC/24/05019, of which works are underway but separate to this proposal.

The applicant was present and spoke about the amendments they have made to their proposals. These amendments have reduced the footprint by 13%, introduced a hipped roof and lowered the ridge height which has reduced the visual impact. The hardstanding area has also been reduced with a yard gully which runs to a soak away. There were no comments from the public. The Council thanked the applicant for attending the meeting, fully engaging with the planning process and answering Councillor questions. The Council considered the proposals. The Parish Council appreciates the fact that the applicants had taken notice of their earlier concerns and reduced the scale of the cart lodge, as well as reducing the amount of hardstanding. It is now more in keeping with the house and surroundings. The Parish Council was unanimous in fully supporting these amended proposals.

### **102/25 Consider progress with the People and Place Plan**

David Butcher reported that the steering group had conducted an analysis of the residents survey responses as well as survey responses from community organisations. One point that is clear from the results is the enthusiasm for more small affordable homes for families in Kersey. The steering group are now working on action points which have come out of the survey data. The next step is to organise a public consultation event in Kersey Village Hall to consider the proposed action points and ask 'so what?' It is important that the People and Place Plan fully reflects the views of residents. The public consultation event will be another opportunity for residents to engage in this process and feed-back their comments. The event will be held on a Saturday morning and a Monday evening in October, date to be confirmed. The survey also highlighted that residents are not all aware of the many community organisations and events they organise. The community organisations will all be invited to have a stand at the public consultation event to promote what goes on in Kersey. The survey results and more information about the progress of the People and Place Plan will be published on the Kersey website in September so residents can find out more before the event. The steering group will meet again next week.

### **103/25 Any other business – Councillors' opportunity to bring matters to the Council's attention – none.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.11pm.

There are no pages appended to these minutes.

Signed .....

Date .....