

Minutes of Kersey Parish Assembly held on Monday 11 October 2021 at Kersey village hall at 7.30pm

Present

John Hume (Chair), 3 Parish Councillors, 11 members of the public and Sarah Partridge (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending. The Chair confirmed that in order to allow time for all residents present to speak and keep the debate balanced each person will be invited to speak once for a maximum of 3 minutes. The Chair reminded everyone to:

- Act in a way which is orderly and maintains the polite conduct of the meeting.
- Remember to respect other speakers' rights to express their views without interruption.
- Remember not to say anything defamatory, insulting.

APA 6/21 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Dave Finch, Andrew Rogers and Rachel Wells.

APA 7/21 Minutes of the previous Parish Assembly

The minutes of the previous Parish Assembly, held on 12 April 2021, were confirmed and signed.

APA 8/21 Discuss the issue of nuisance parking and come up with some potential solutions to this problem

The Chair confirmed that this was a consultative meeting and no decisions would be made. The Parish Council will consider the matter, taking account of the comments made, at a future Parish Council meeting. This meeting had been called so Parish Councillors could listen to the concerns and views of residents.

The Parish Council has already put a note in the newsletter asking residents to park considerately and to use their off-road parking where possible. The Chair has also been in contact with holiday let owners in the Parish asking them to highlight the parking issues with any clients staying in Kersey. Most residents present then spoke about the problem of parking in Kersey, which some feel has become more of a problem in recent months.

The main points raised were:

General parking and access

Some of the parking and access problems had arisen due to poor and dangerous parking. Examples of poor parking highlighted were:

- Parking on bends,
- Parking on pavements,
- Not parking neatly next to the kerb,
- Parking directly opposite other cars on narrow sections of the road.

The main problem is how people park. Everyone in Kersey, residents, visitors and holiday let occupants need to park more sensibly.

It is important clear road access is always available for emergency vehicles as well as deliveries, tractors and other traffic.

Residents should be using their off-road parking where possible.

Some residents do not like visitors parking on the street outside their houses, particularly when they have used their off-road parking.

Patrons of The Bell need to be encouraged to use The Bell carpark. The Bell carpark gets muddy in winter limiting the space available but a permanent hard surfaced carpark would not be welcomed. Some holiday lets have multiple cars needing space to park at one time which causes a problem to local residents.

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A car park

Some felt a car park is needed for visitors.

A suitable location for a carpark would not be easy to find but local landowners should be approached.

The Glebe could be considered as a location for parking.

Some felt a car park would not be used because people do not like to walk far from where they are staying or visiting.

The car park at the Church and school should be used more.

Yellow Lines

Some would welcome yellow lines in some parts of the village, particularly on the bends.

Others would not wish to see yellow lines in Kersey.

Traffic and parking restrictions

Speed humps were suggested to slow traffic down.

A one-way system was suggested to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow and safety.

Parking permits could be required for residents to prevent visitors from parking in The Street and Church Hill, once an alternative car park has been set up for visitors.

It was suggested the Parish Council appoint a consultant to advise on parking and traffic issues.

A local resident, who also happens to be an expert on parking and already provides advice to local authorities in the region was present and having listened to the comments made some suggestions.

1. Communication and education

The Parish Council has already made a good start with communication and education. This needs to be on-going.

2. Alternative parking provision

If restrictions are to be put in place, then there needs to be provision of alternative areas to park. A car park needs to be close to a visitor's destination or they will not use it. Signage to alternative parking needs to be clear.

3. Parking restrictions and enforcement

Resident's parking permits could be considered but there is a lot of legislation, set up costs and a cost to residents. You can designate whole zones as restricted but that would apply to everyone, residents and visitors. Yellow lines, parking bays, bollards are all restrictions which could be considered. However, the legislation around parking restrictions is cumbersome and is not an elegant solution.

Councillors present felt that communication was the most important action to get right. This is particularly important for holiday let owners who need regular clear information, particularly on where and how to park. This needs to be given to clients at the time of booking and a reminder with their arrival details. Residents are fortunate to live in such a beautiful village and people always have and always will wish to visit Kersey. Poor, dangerous and inconsiderate parking is probably the biggest problem. No-one has the right to a parking space outside their house. Concern was raised about spoiling the look of Kersey with signs, permits and yellow lines. Residents and visitors need to be considerate when parking and park sensibly.

The Chair summed up the discussion and commented that parking had been a contentious issue before and it is not easily solved. Yellow lines, marked parking bays, residents permits and signage

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are all costly. Providing a car park would not be as simple as it seems with consideration needed for surfacing, lighting, insurance, ensuring it is safe, not a financial burden and well managed. Having provided a car park you cannot make people use it, which would be a concern.

The Chair thanked everyone for their constructive comments. The Parish Council will discuss the matter further at a Parish Council meeting. These meetings are always open to the public, the agenda and minutes are all published on the Kersey website.

APA 9/21 Any other business - None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.
There are no pages appended to these minutes.

Signed

Date