

**MINUTES OF KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 8 APRIL 2013 IN KERSEY VILLAGE HALL AT 8.30 PM**

PRESENT

Andrew Cumming – Chair, John Maltby, Veronica Partridge, John Hume, John Robinson, 11 members of the public and the Clerk – Sarah Partridge

56/13 APOLOGIES were received and accepted from Yvonne Martin and Giles Hollingworth.

57/13 ACCEPT MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- John Hume declared an interest in agenda item 5b to consider a tree preservation order for Ayres End as the owner of the property.

58/13 CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS – None received

59/13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2013 were signed and dated as being correct.

60/13 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No progress on earlier planning applications had been received.

A question was asked about progress on the Little Manor application. (B/12/00211/LBC Little Manor, Kersey – Application for Listed Building consent for internal and external works.) This application will not be determined by Babergh, it is now the subject of an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate and a date for a site inspection is yet to be arranged.

Trees at Ayres End. *John Hume declared an interest in this item and took no part in discussions.*

An email had been received from Graham Sheppard, a tree surgeon, informing the Parish Council that he had been contracted to remove 1 willow tree and possible crown reduction or removal of 1 walnut tree, depending on the condition of the tree once work commenced. These trees are in a conservation area so Mr Sheppard had contacted David Pizzey, Babergh tree officer who had granted consent to carry out the work as necessary in order to make the trees safe. The Parish Council supported the tree work.

61/13 TO DISCUSS THE GOVERNMENT PRECEPT REFERENDUM BILL

On 19 March the first reading of a proposed new government bill was introduced; the Parish and Town Council Precepts (Referendums) Bill. This bill proposes to cap local council precepts by imposing referendums on a precept increase of 2% or more. It is hoped that this bill will be withdrawn but if it was implemented it would have serious implications for Town and Parish council finances in the future. A limit of 2% and a threat of a referendum is an alarming concept in the context of town and parish council carefully controlled budgets with relatively low per household costs and with all the expenditure benefitting local people. A 2% increase on the Kersey precept of £6375 would only amount to £127.50. Any community projects wishing for financial support would become prohibitively expensive with the cost of a referendum added in. It was agreed that this bill goes against whole ethos of localism as supported by the government. The Parish Council had already written to express concern about this proposal along with the changes to the way the council tax base is calculated. It was agreed to write another strongly worded letter to the government and our local MP objecting to this bill.

62/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A councillor asked for an update on highways matters in the parish. The Clerk had been in contact with the highways department who stated that the area near The Splash should have been swept in January but the contractor had omitted to do this, for which highways apologised. The area has now been swept and they will continue to monitor the surface. They will continue to investigate the drainage problem near Ailsa Cottage. A technician will visit the parish shortly to check sites of pot holes and arrange for repair works. The C723 from the A1141 to the village is on the programme this year for major repairs followed by surface dressing in the summer. Highways has arranged for the ditch to be cleaned out and the kerb outlets rodded at the A1141 crossroads which should resolve the drainage problem.

The Anglian Water works from the Hall Road towards Polstead were discussed; the roadside banks along the Hall Road should be made good with topsoil and grass seed where they have been damaged.

The meeting was adjourned for 'Parish Time'

It was requested that Anglian Water are made aware that there is a leaking pipe near the A1071 junction where work was carried out as part of the water main replacement. Andrew Cumming offered to do this. It was commented that it was important that the community take on responsibility for updating the Parish Plan to help give the Parish Council direction to shape Kersey for the future. It was agreed this would be put on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

The meeting was reconvened.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

There are no sheets appended to these minutes.