

**MINUTES OF KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY 2013
IN KERSEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7 PM**

PRESENT

Andrew Cumming – Chair, Giles Hollingworth, John Hume, Veronica Partridge, and the Clerk – Sarah Partridge

21/13 APOLOGIES were received and accepted for John Maltby and Yvonne Martin.

John Robinson was not present.

22/13 ACCEPT MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Councillors present; Andrew Cumming, Giles Hollingworth, John Hume and Veronica Partridge declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 to discuss the budget and set the precept since they all live in the parish and pay council tax. A dispensation has previously been granted allowing them to fully participate and vote.

23/13 CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS – None received

24/13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2013 were signed and dated as being correct.

25/13 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

B/12/01307/FHA & B/12/01308/LBC Manor Farm, Williams Green – Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of part two storey, part single storey rear extension and first floor side extension. Creation of bay window in east elevation. Erection of 2 bay cart lodge, garage and store to adjoin existing cart lodge. Conversion of existing cart lodge to form annexe. Babergh District Council has granted permission for these applications.

No new applications had been received to consider.

26/13 PRECEPT 2013/2014 - DISCUSS BUDGET, SET PRECEPT AND SIGN FORMS

Councillors all had a copy of the budget and precept spread sheet, appended. Councillors had also seen various correspondence regarding precept setting and the possibility of future automatic referendums from SALC and Babergh. Babergh had confirmed that the tax base for Kersey for 2013/14 will be 182.00 and this is used to calculate the Band D Council Tax. This figure had been amended due to changes in legislation and is around 2% lower than if using the previous calculations. Due to these changes the government agreed to give authorities a local council tax support scheme grant to offset this reduction. The grant for Kersey will be £127. Babergh has stated that the grant is only guaranteed for 2013/14 and parishes should perhaps plan for this support grant not to continue in future years due to the current economic climate. To reduce paperwork Babergh has asked the Parish Council to levy the 'normal' precept and they will reduce this by the grant in calculating the Band D Council Tax. There was a proposal by the government to introduce an automatic referendum for excessive council tax increases (no indication was given for the % increase that would be considered excessive) this will not be introduced in 2013/14 for town and parish councils but will be looked at again for the following year. Councillors considered all this information and looked again at the proposed budget of £6375.00. Councillors agreed that the proposed budget was fair and having looked ahead at forecast figures for the next few years would ensure that the precept should not fluctuate as much as it had in the past. Due to the uncertainty about future funding and the possibility of an automatic precept referendum in future Councillors agreed that it was right to set the budget and precept at £6375. For a Band D property this will mean a council tax charge of £34.33 which is a 4.4% rise, in monetary terms this is only a £1.44 increase for the year. It was agreed to put a short note in the next newsletter to explain the increase to residents before they receive their Council Tax bills. The Precept request form was completed and signed requesting £6375 which includes the support grant.

General Admin	£616.00
Clerks Salary	£3,515.00
Training/Meetings	£200.00
Street Lighting	£265.00
Street Light ILS conversion repayment	£75.00
Suffolk ACRE Insurance	£575.00
Glebe Insurance	£50.00
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£70.00
Playground Safety Inspection	£83.00
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£41.00
St Mary's Church	£380.00
Chairman's Allowance	£0.00
Election costs	£25.00
Church Walk future maintenance	£130.00
Footpath Map printing reserve	£50.00
Contingencies	<u>£300.00</u>
	£6,375.00

27/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Following his appointment as Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Giles Hollingworth has been investigating the benefit of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to the Parish and parishioners. With the introduction of the Police Direct system, which anyone can sign up to receive alerts about crimes or potential crimes in the area, it may be that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is no longer necessary. A note asking for feedback on this subject will be put in the newsletter and it will be discussed again at the next Parish Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.18 pm.

Appended to these minutes is 1sheet:

Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept spread sheet