

**MINUTES OF KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 10 JUNE 2013
IN KERSEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT

John Hume – Chair, John Maltby, Yvonne Martin, John Robinson, Giles Hollingworth, Veronica Partridge, 5 members of the public and the Clerk – Sarah Partridge

84/13 APOLOGIES - None

85/13 CO-OPTION TO FILL THE VACANCY FOR ONE PARISH COUNCILLOR

Babergh District has confirmed that there is no need for an election and the Parish Council can now co-opt to fill the vacancy. There were no applications as yet. It was agreed to put up some notices to encourage residents to consider becoming a Parish Councillor and to put a note in the next newsletter.

86/13 ACCEPT MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

John Hume declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6b, for the planning applications B/13/00463/FHA & B/13/00464/LBC for Ayres End, The Green because he is the applicant.

87/13 CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS – None received

88/13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2013 were signed and dated as being correct.

89/13 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

B/12/00211/LBC – Listed Building Consent – Internal and External works. Parish Councillors had received a letter from the owners of Little Manor expressing their disappointment and concern that following their appeal to the Planning Inspectorate (PI) Ref APP/D3505/E/12/2187857 this application has still not been determined. The Clerk had contacted the PI again as it had been expected that a decision would be made by 10 June. The PI confirmed that the file was complete and a site visit was needed. No date has been set for a site visit because there is no planning inspector available, it is hoped an inspector will be available to do a site visit in early to mid-July. It was only their aim to make a decision by 10 June but due to the lack of a suitable planning inspector being available early to mid-July is the earliest a site visit will take place. There is not a deadline by which the PI has to make a decision but their aim is to make decisions within 26 weeks. Following a site visit it is usually a few weeks before an inspector makes a final decision. The PI suggested that if the Parish Council wrote to express concern about the poor state of the building and the need for an urgent decision this would have little effect since the delay was due to the lack of availability of a suitable inspector.

Despite this suggestion Councillors discussed the situation and agreed to write a letter to the Planning Inspectorate expressing their grave concern about the delay in work commencing on this historic building. The building is in a very poor state and there is a concern for the fabric of the whole building, which includes another property as well as the property concerned with this application. It was agreed to copy this letter to Babergh, Suffolk Preservation Society and the MP

B/13/00463/FHA & B/13/00464/LBC Ayres End, The Green, full application and listed building consent – Demolition of single-storey front element; Demolition of part front wall of existing side link element; Erection of single storey front extension; Blocking up of existing doorway in existing side link element; Erection of new external wall and roof extension to existing side link element; and internal alterations. John Hume commented that this application is the same as permission previously granted but which had lapsed.

John Hume declared an interest and left the meeting.

Councillors looked at all the documentation relating to this application, following a discussion Councillors agreed to fully support the application.

John Hume re-joined the meeting.

B/13/00553/LBC Quill House, The Street – Listed building consent – Replacement of internal flooring; external repairs and works to garden wall. Councillors looked at the plans and documents for this application. Councillors had also received a letter of objection from the owners of the adjoining property.

The meeting was adjourned to hear comments from members of the public present

The owner of the adjacent property outlined his objection to the application. The description of the work sounded good but his concern lies with the process of how the work is to be carried out. He believes that the owner plans to carry out the work himself rather than appointing a professional builder with experience of working on historic buildings. His concern is that the work may impact on the structure of the whole building (the application property and the adjacent properties) which could cause irreversible damage.

The meeting was reconvened.

Councillors discussed the application in detail. The Parish Council agreed the following response: Kersey Parish Council is in favour of work being completed to preserve the fabric of the building. Part of the proposed works is to remove the concrete render from the plinth and leave brickwork exposed rather than painting it black again as the other properties in this row, and as is traditional for this type of building. The Parish Council objects to the proposed work changing the visual appearance of the listed property; it is part of a terrace of properties which the Parish Council feel should all look the same, particularly in the Conservation Area of Kersey. The Parish Council noted the strong objection by the adjacent property owner who fears the proposed work may damage the historic frame of the building. The Parish Council has concerns about how the proposed work is to be carried out due to possible damage to the structural integrity of the whole building, not just the application property. The Parish Council also note that work has already started on the garden wall. Councillors commented that they felt they needed a little more guidance about the role of the Parish Council when considering planning applications.

90/13 TO DISCUSS WAYS TO IMPROVE THE SCRUFFY APPEARANCE OF SOME PARTS OF THE VILLAGE AND THE FOOTPATH LINKS BETWEEN THE CENTRE OF THE VILLAGE AND VALE LANE INCLUDING THE PROPOSED JUBILEE STEPS

Veronica Partridge gave a brief report from the informal meeting held to discuss ways to raise funds for the Jubilee Steps. It was agreed to try and involve the whole community and to start raising money now which should then encourage other groups to pledge money for the project. The Millennium Book Fund may still be used as a source of some funding, though it was agreed that it would be best not to use too much from this fund. It was agreed that the draft plans needed to be firmed up with proposals for surfacing which could then be put to Suffolk County Council Rights of Way team and then to Babergh for approval since the footpath is the responsibility of SCC and it is in a Conservation Area and an Area of Visual and Recreational Amenity. It was also agreed to put together a proposal for the Jubilee Steps detailing the benefit to the parish which could then be used when approaching organisations for funding.

Areas of the village considered scruffy which needed attention were discussed. Giles Hollingworth said he could get a group of volunteers together to work on some areas. Giles will tidy the area beside the timber village sign on Church Hill. The Priory Walk footpath from the village pump up towards The Priory was an area mentioned before, the owner of The Mount is going to attend to the hedge over the summer, there are also overhanging trees from the properties on the opposite side of the footpath. The area of riverbank next to the footbridge by The Splash was recently cutback by SCC; the Clerk is still investigating which department at SCC completed the work since several residents were unhappy with the way work was completed. It was thought to be a bridge team in preparation for a bridge survey in the coming weeks. SCC highways are looking into this matter; it may be possible that in future this area, along with the verges near The Splash and in the Market Place under the village sign can be added to their urban cutting contract completed by Babergh. The Parish Council agreed this would be welcomed assuming there is no cost to the Parish Council.

91/13 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

24 June Footpath Working Group, 7.30 Village Hall

92/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Maltby reported on the SALC/Babergh Area meeting attended on 3 June. Information was distributed about managing flood risk, copies of which will be put in the Parish Council box in the Church.

The Parish Council had received information about community emergency plans and how to develop one; Councillors agreed that it would be of value to investigate writing up a short emergency plan for the Parish. John Hume offered to carry out some initial research. This will be added to the agenda for the Parish Council meeting in July.

The meeting was adjourned for 'Parish Time'

The hedge at the top of Mill Lane outside School House is rather overgrown reducing visibility and space in the road.

It was commented that perhaps the Jubilee Steps should be a Jubilee Slope to make it easier for prams and pushchairs. Giles explained that the proposed Jubilee Steps are a series of 15 long steps with a shallow rise which would be easily negotiated with a pram or pushchair.

Another consideration for this footpath was the retention of a gate at the bottom as this would prevent children from racing down the hill straight out onto the road. It was agreed it would be good to talk to current users of the path before finalising the project plans.

Members of the public expressed their concern about the lack of progress with Little Manor and that the adjoining property was also being put at risk since it was an integral part of the building which was once one property.

The meeting was reconvened.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.14 pm.

There are no sheets appended to these minutes.