

Minutes of Kersey Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 11 April 2022 in Kersey Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present

John Hume (Chair), 7 members of the public, Leigh Jamieson Babergh District Councillor and Sarah Partridge (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending the meeting.

APA 1/22 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Penny Calnan, Esme Chapman and Andrew Rogers. Robert Lindsay - Suffolk County Councillor, Adrian Blyth, Jonathan Marsh, Norah Orriss, Kevin Pratt, Mark Pertwee, Mark Rigby, Suzie Rudkin, Veronica Partridge, Rachel Wells and Neville Whittell.

APA 2/22 Minutes of the previous Parish Assembly

The minutes of the previous Parish Assembly, held on 11 October 2021 were confirmed as being correct and signed.

APA 3/22 Reports

Full reports are all appended to these minutes and will be published on the Kersey website.

Suffolk County Council

A report was received from Robert Lindsay.

Babergh District Council

Leigh Jamieson gave his report and answered questions.

Kersey Parish Council

John Hume gave his report.

Kersey Parish Council working groups:

Footpath Working Group – a Report was received from Kevin Pratt

KCPC Working Group - A report was received from Jonathan Marsh.

KVG Working Group - John Hume gave his report.

Jubilee Working Group – John Hume gave his report.

Forget-Me-Nots

A report was received from Veronica Partridge.

Franey, Rand and Pest House Charities

Rachael Rogers gave her report.

Friends of The Bells of St Mary's Church

A report was received from Neville Whittell.

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Friends of St Mary's Church Trust – FoSM

A report was received from Mark Rigby.

Grays' Trust

Philippa Harris gave her report.

Kersey Church of England Primary School

Sarah Stirling gave her report.

Kersey Playing Field Association

A report was received from Mark Pertwee.

Kersey Projects

A report was received from Suzie Rudkin.

Lewis Mowles Trust Fund

A report was received from Norah Orriss.

Neighbourhood Watch

There continues to be a vacancy for a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, anyone interested should contact the Parish Council.

Nightingale Trust and Allotments

A report was received from Mark Rigby.

St Mary's Church PCC

Linda Newbigging gave her report.

Table Tennis Club

A report was received from Adrian Blyth.

Tuesday Club

A report was received from Rachel Wells.

Village Hall

A report was received from Veronica Partridge.

Village Produce Association

A report was received from Rachel Wells.

Information about all the community organisations and more can be found on the Kersey website.

www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/

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APA 4/22 Progress with a solution to nuisance parking in the parish

Following complaints from parishioners in The Street, Church Hill and The Green, and a Parish Assembly held in October 2021, the Parish Council discussed and agreed an action plan. Advice was received from a local resident who is a traffic and parking consultant. The Parish Council agreed to follow his advice and to approach the problem in three stages. These are consult, communicate and as a last resort, enforcement. There is little support for yellow lines and traffic marshalling, so the emphasis is on the first two stages. There has been an article in the Newsletter followed by some improvement. Things may change again when the tourist season gets started. A letter has been prepared for distribution shortly to permanent residents and another to holiday let owners. These contain a reminder of the need to park safely, legally and considerately.

APA 5/22 Parish Action Plan update

A copy of the updated Parish Action Plan is appended. Some action points have been completed and progress has been made with others. It was noted the Parish Council needs to carry out a review of the current action plan, this has been delayed by the pandemic. The Parish Council will need to consult widely with all residents, community organisations and businesses. A new action plan can then be put together based on the wishes of all interested parties setting out the priorities for Kersey for the next few years.

APA 6/22 Any other business

Leigh Jamieson said he may be able to offer financial support to any community organisations if they need. If he is unable to help, he would be able to sign post on to other funding organisations. It was confirmed the defibrillator in Kersey is regularly checked to ensure it is available if needed in an emergency. The Parish Council has a support service from the Community Heartbeat Trust.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.42 pm.

There are 29 pages appended to these minutes.

Kersey events calendar on the Kersey website. Just a reminder that this is a community calendar where you can keep up to date with all the events planned in Kersey by the many community organisations. If you already use a google calendar you can add this so you get automatic reminders of events. If you are planning an event, please check this first to avoid clashes. If you would like your event listed, please contact Sarah Partridge kerseypc@gmail.com.

<https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/events/>

Signed

Date

Annual Report Kersey Parish Council 2021-22 from Robert Lindsay, County Councillor

Some successes and some failures

School Sign

After a lengthy battle by parents and governors at Kersey School, backed by me, Highways have given the go ahead to a direction sign to the school on the Mill Lane turn off from just by Kersey Mill.

Suffolk Biodiversity Recommendations

After Conservatives backed a Green motion for increased biodiversity a year and a half ago, I sat on a cross party policy development panel which drew up recommendations for cabinet. **These were approved in February. The headline figure was a goal to enhance the biodiversity value of at least 30% of the county's land by 2030. Other recommendations include planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, phasing out glyphosate use on verges by 2023 and developing nature-based flood management solutions.** For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/councils-commitment-to-further-enhancing-suffolks-natural-environment>

Cycling plan for Suffolk starting to come to fruition.

Nearly four years ago (July 2018) I successfully introduced a motion to draw up a prioritised, costed list of cycle routes across Suffolk. As a result, in June 2020 Suffolk's Cabinet approved a 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk, which identified 148 potential routes to be prioritised.

That list was passed on to Babergh to produce an LCWIP – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – which has basically improved and refined the list just for Babergh. This list was approved by Babergh cabinet meeting in April 4th. It includes footways and cycle storage, crossings etc and is not just about cycle ways. It is not definitive and is meant to be an evolving document.

An LCWIP is officially recognised by the Dept for Transport, and so can be used to win bids from Government and get money from developers as conditions for planning permission. So any wish list for footway or cycling infrastructure you may have in Kersey for example, is worth lobbying to include.

Buses

Unfortunately similar work desperately needed for planning better bus services in the county has not been done.

The council failed to win a single penny of its £77 million bid for the Bus Back Better money from Government. When the £3bn funding pot was advertised the county hastily drew up a plan to improve a few key bus routes in the county. **My political group criticised it for lacking ambition** and, as a recent commentary in the EADT said, it “looked as though it was drawn on the back of a fag packet”. Even if Suffolk had won the bid, it would have merely kept a few services between major towns going, rather than, for example, set a goal for proper regular services for all citizens, including those who live in villages. **The Government cut the total pot from £3bn to £1.2bn and only 31 of the 70 authorities that bid were awarded any money.**

Locally I am pleased to report that the 112 Bildeston to Sudbury bus run by GoStart, who I helped bring in when the commercial operator pulled out and still has not a penny of subsidy from the county council, is still going strong.

Cost of heating crisis

This is something that needs national government to step in properly but there are things that can be done locally. The Bildeston Community Support Group, which began during the first lockdown, is now running a Foodbank and is now supporting 15 families (down from 18 a year ago) this would have been lower but for the heating cost crisis which many people are now struggling with. Donation boxes continue at both Monks Eleigh and Hitcham. Separately a Heating Bildeston project which I have been supporting is in its early stages. This seeks to use bore holes and heat pumps to heat water in the village that can be piped to residents and replace the need for oil tanks. It has just won a £40,000 grant to fund a feasibility study. If it works, it is likely to be a model for many Suffolk villages who want to end their dependence on the volatile cost of oil and get to carbon zero any time soon.

I'd like to thank Kersey Parish Council for being a pleasure to work with and I look forward to another year working with you all.

Annual District Council Report 2021/22

The Council has faced a number of major topics over the course of the last twelve months. Key amongst these was the disappointing situation with the **Joint Local Plan (JLP)**.

The examination of the JLP, which was initially due to start in June, eventually began in September. However, the hearings were paused soon after they began. The process hit a roadblock during the hearing that looked at spatial distribution and site selection. The inspector expressed concerns about how the council made decisions to discount certain proposed allocations. In particular the settlement hierarchy, spatial distribution of housing and the housing site selection process. The inspector was also unhappy with the open space designations and housing for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people.

To ensure that the inspection process can continue the council have agreed to scrap several policies and retain the settlement boundaries in the current (as opposed to proposed) policies map. The council will then review site allocations in all the settlement tiers.

The council will also need to provide robustly justified open space designations and a relevant development management policy, along with an up-to-date assessment of need for accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling show-people.

As a full review of these policies is likely to take over a year to complete, the JLP will be split into two parts with the remaining policies in Part 1 of the JLP continuing through the examination process. This will allow the council to have a new local plan in place at the earliest opportunity.

Despite the disappointment of the delays to the JLP, the council received confirmation that it still has more than the required **5-year housing land supply**, which helps deflect bad planning applications.

Another big debate is the form of Governance that the council uses, whether it should be a **Cabinet or Committee System**. The Council agreed to review the Governance system, after Green Party Councillors proposed a motion to return to a committee system, back in October.

Although many Councillors are unhappy with the Cabinet model, considered undemocratic, a vote at the March Council meeting went with the status quo and stayed with a Cabinet, although improvements to this model were promised.

In the last week, the “rainbow” cabinet that Councillor Ward has been so proud of has collapsed in on itself. After expelling one Independent Councillor from the Cabinet the other three Independents resigned followed by the one Lib Dem councillor. This leaves the Cabinet in the hands of a minority administration that is not a true democratic representation of our residents.

The catalyst for the problems that have befallen the Cabinet began when the environment portfolio holder announced, in the autumn, that the proposed **car parking charges** in Hadleigh and Sudbury, agreed by the Council last February [2021] were postponed indefinitely.

The cabinet made the decision after adding two additional conservatives to the Cabinet and the decision set off public arguments that played out in the press and on Radio Suffolk.

In March, the Council agreed to an **increase in the pay of the Senior Management team**, except the CEO, which we will look at again later this year. Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk councillors approved the increase, which had initially been rejected back in the autumn, after receiving a full explanation that it is only a 2-3% increase and will open the door for a full pay review for all council staff. The increase will now align the council with other district councils in the East.

At this year's **budget review** the council voted to increase Babergh's element of residents' council tax by 2% - meaning an extra £3.48 per year, an average Band D household. Councillors also agreed to freeze sheltered housing charges and garage rents at 2021/22 levels, but council tenants will see an increase of 4.1% to their rents.

Babergh put several **environmental initiatives** into place this year.

- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils began installing £2.8m worth of green energy measures at their leisure centres including a mixture of both solar PV panels and an air source heat pump
- The councils switched the waste fleet to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) – slashing carbon emissions by up to 90%.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils received the green light for £72k of funding - £32,849 and £38,678 respectively - to go towards biodiversity mapping and a tree canopy survey across both districts.
- The tree and hedgerow programme was re-opened for applications for 2022 planting schemes. The major change to the programme is that it is now a rolling programme of tree and hedge planting with no deadline for application submission, or dates by which trees or hedgerow plants need to be in the ground.

Babergh have also developed a **Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**. The LCWIP will include a walking and cycling network plan, which identifies preferred routes, core areas for further development, as well as a prioritised programme of infrastructure improvements for future investment. Babergh's cabinet. recently approved this plan.

The **Virtual High Street** has launched in Hadleigh and Stowmarket, joining over 130 businesses already signed up to the platform in Sudbury. This allows shoppers to shop local at a range of high street stores, independent retailers, and market stalls, as well as cafes and restaurants.

At the September Council meeting I submitted a motion, which the council passed, asking the Council to sign up as a client partner of the **Considerate Constructor Scheme**. This demonstrates that the Council is an organisation that proactively commits to raising standards in the construction industry. The scheme aims to achieve best practice in the industry, particularly around areas of Safety, Community, Environment, and the Workforce.

I also, successfully, called for the council to become a **council of sanctuary** at the March council meeting. By signing up to this organisation the council commits itself to welcome refugees, and to collaborate with community groups to ensure that they are thought of in everything that we do and integrated in all aspects of life.

Leigh Jamieson (Cllr)

Green Party

Babergh District Councillor – South East Cosford

Kersey Parish Council - Chair's Report 2021-2022

This is my ninth annual report. Kersey Parish Council is the first tier of government and aims to represent the best interests of our 360 residents.

Your Councillors are Penny Calnan, Esme Chapman, David Finch, Andrew Rogers (Vice-Chair) and me. Contact details are attached and are on the Kersey Parish Council website.

I regret that Pascoe Gibbons, Philippa Harris and Kevin Pratt resigned during the year. I thank them and the current Councillors for their previous and continuing contributions to our community. From May 2021, Parish Council Meetings have been held in public, in line with government regulations. I thank our District and County Councillors, Leigh Jamieson and Robert Lindsay for their attendance and providing support and advice.

Finances remain strong and well managed with adequate reserves. Estimated spend, excluding KCPC and footpaths, for 2021-22 is £8,900.00 against a budget of £9,633.00. The precept for 2022-23 is £10,080.00. The Parish Council element of Council Tax rates will remain unchanged for 2022-23 and so for a Band D property will be £53.32pa. The Millennium Book Fund was closed on 8.12.2021 and the balance used to help fund the Playground Improvement Project. The Council received a grant from Screen Suffolk of £1,750.00 which will be used to help fund projects such as the Jubilee Street Party.

The Parish Council considered 18 Planning Applications of which 15 were supported. A Planning Inspector turned down the Appeal against the decision by Babergh DC to refuse permission for an application to build houses between Hall Road and Vale Lane.

The Council's website access was improved and compliance with Privacy and Electronic Regulations achieved. Policies were reviewed and amended accordingly. Consultation responses were provided to Babergh and Mid-Suffolk, the National Grid and the Boundary Commission.

Although the Quiet Lanes Project was withdrawn, plans were made for the Jubilee Street Party on June 5, 2022, supported by a successful application to The National Lottery Community Fund. A Nuisance Parking Communication Plan was prepared for implementation. The Bell was successfully registered as a Community Asset. This means that if the current owners wish to sell, until 4.1.2027 it would have to be offered to the Community to purchase. 'Pride in Our Parish' articles were prepared for each Newsletter highlighting current issues.

In Spring 2021, Kersey was the focal point for the filming of 'Magpie Murders'. It caused some minor disruption but brought some excitement and glamour at a difficult time in the COVID pandemic. Among the benefits was a £1,750 grant to the Parish Council and a free showing by the producers of two episodes and a talk by the director and author.

The time spent on governance, regulatory and legal matters inhibits attendance and discourages Councillor candidates. Plans to change how these matters are dealt with should make our meetings more accessible and interesting.

We have two current Councillor vacancies and I urge the next generation to take an active role in our community affairs.

Finally, on behalf of your Parish Council, I thank our Clerk, Sarah Partridge for her organisational flair and knowledge and her ability to keep us on track.

John W Hume
Chair, Kersey Parish Council
10 April 2022

Kersey Parish Council Contacts

Parish Councillors:

John Hume (Chair)	Ayres End, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 810098
Andrew Rogers (Vice Chair)	The Gables, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 212242
Penny Calnan	Wickerstreet House, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 210459
Esme Chapman	Carlton House, The Street, Kersey IP7 6DY	07910 170606
David Finch	1 Row Cottage, Priory Hill, Kersey IP7 6DX	07769 612933

There are currently two Parish Councillor vacancies.

Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Chair or Clerk.

Clerk & RFO:

Mrs Sarah Partridge kerseypc@gmail.com	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	01787 210859
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Kersey Parish Council publishes on the Kersey website past minutes, financial information, ordinary meetings dates for the year and contact information. There is also a wealth of other useful information on the Kersey website including a calendar of Kersey community organisation events.

Kersey Website: www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk

The Parish Council has set a budget for 2022/23 and agreed the precept received from Babergh. The Parish Council has approved a precept of £10,080. This means that the Kersey parish element of the council tax for a band D property for 2022/23 has not increase from last year and remains at £53.32.

The Parish Council financial year ends on 31 March, the Parish Council usually approves the year end accounts at the Parish Council meeting in May.

See the Parish Council Finance page on the website for more information.

<https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/parish-council/parish-council-finance/>

Kersey Parish Council budget, precept and actual finance figures are shown on the next page.

Kersey Parish Council budget, precept and actual finance figures

Parish Council spending	Budget/ Precept Year ending March 2022	Actual to 31 Mar 22	Added to reserves in year	Budget/ Precept year ending March 2023
Admin	£788.00	£702.42	£0.00	£815.00
Clerk's salary & staff costs	£6,230.00	£5,742.01	£0.00	£6,330.00
Training/external meetings	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Street lighting	£300.00	£259.95	£0.00	£540.00
Parish Council insurance	£300.00	£294.28	£0.00	£300.00
Glebe insurance	£50.00	£49.66	£0.00	£55.00
Hedge cut - The Glebe	£80.00	£54.00	£0.00	£85.00
Playground safety inspection	£90.00	£89.50	£0.00	£93.00
St Mary's PCC	£460.00	£460.00	£0.00	£460.00
Defibrillator & VETS	£215.00	£126.00	£89.00	£215.00
Dog bin emptying	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Chairman's allowance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Election costs	£165.00	£0.00	£165.00	£165.00
Church Walk future maintenance	£130.00	£0.00	£130.00	£130.00
Footpath map printing reserve	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00	£75.00
Mowing The Glebe	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00
Contingencies	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£467.00
Precept	£9,533.00	£7,777.82	£709.00	£10,080.00
Agreed spending from reserves	£100.00		£0.00	£100.00
Fixed asset reserve			£1,046.18	
	£9,633.00	£7,777.82	£1,755.18	£10,180.00
Footpath spending	£447.50	£159.62		
Jubilee spending		£281.02		
KCPC spending	£9,067.00	£7,058.34		
Total actual net spend		£15,276.80		
Other Income	Estimate	Actual		
BDC council tax support grant		£164.00		
Bank interest		£2.01		
Filming donations		£1,750.00		
PC precept plus other Income	£9,533.00	£11,449.01		
Footpath Income	£729.18	£752.48		
KCPC income	£1,000.00	£2,293.33		
Millennium book fund income		£2.93		
Total actual net Income		£14,497.75		

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Kersey Parish Council working groups:

Footpath Working Group (FWG)

Another difficult year has passed for the Kersey Footpath Working Group (FWG). The restrictions of Covid-19 together with some exceptional weather changes created many challenges for the volunteers of the FWG.

As in previous years, I wish to extend my thanks to all the Volunteers and Landowner Representatives for all the help and co-operation given throughout the course of the year. The flexibility shown in dealing with the cutting and maintenance of the footpaths and equipment has been greatly appreciated.

Throughout the year a number of posts and signs were repaired or replaced. We continue to seek the support of everyone in the Parish to keep the FWG advised of any areas they find require attention on our Footpaths and Bridleways.

The annual budget for the FWG was recently approved by the Parish Council and there are sufficient funds currently available in the accounts to enable the work of cutting and maintaining the Footpaths in the season ahead.

As the local communities begin to be return to some degree of normality, we fully expect an increase in foot traffic in our beautiful Parish.

We expect to begin our first cutting of the footpaths from May. Anyone interested in joining the FWG volunteer team would be very welcome.

I trust you will all enjoy walking in the beautiful Kersey countryside in the year ahead.

Kevin R Pratt
Chair, Footpath Working Group

KCPC Working Group

The playground has been available all year for the village to use. The new basket disability swing was installed and has bedded in well and has hopefully been enjoyed by all. We are very grateful for all the hard work the Parish Clerk has put in to raise the necessary funds from the Parish and local grants.

The RoSPA report highlighted a number of issues that have been addressed or are being monitored. The gate into the playground has been replaced and the new bench engraved on the back rest. Repairs to the climbing frame posts were completed and pleasingly this saved the frame from being replaced entirely. The Cricket net was maintained and available for use through the year.

The grass cutting rota was maintained by the working group on an ad hoc basis and the mower survived another season without being replaced. I am particularly grateful to Pasco Gibbons for running this and completing the quarterly inspections.

Unfortunately, our main fundraising activity of the year, the quiz night, could not be held due to rising COVID rates within the district, and a mixed reception from an informal polling of the normal participants. It is very much hoped that we will be able to resume activities as normal this year.

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The normal grass cutting rota has now resumed after a maintenance day and it is hoped that this will run normally for the remainder of 2022. As always, we are looking for volunteers as inevitably people drop out as commitments rise or they leave the village. Further to that we are now looking to recruit another member of the working group after Jonny Hamp stepped down due to other commitments.

I am most grateful for all the support I have received over the year and would like to thank the working group and also the parish clerk. I'd also like to thank Francis for allowing us to house the mower in her garden, which makes the task of mowing so much very easier.

Jonathan Marsh
Chair, KCPC Working Group

KVG Working Group

The Kersey Volunteer Group (KVG) exists to make Kersey a pleasant, safe, attractive place to work, live and visit.

Local resident volunteers have been allocated roads and lanes where they collect litter, report potholes and other hazards. Volunteers are given safety advice and equipment.

There have been no significant issues this year and I thank the KVG for giving up their time to do this work. Anyone interested in joining the KVG would be very welcome.

John W Hume
KVG Chair

Jubilee Working Group

The Queen's 2022 Jubilee Street Party - 5 June 2022

As part of the national celebrations of Her Majesty's Jubilee, there will be a Street Party in Kersey.

This will be held from 12.45pm on Sunday, 5 June 2022 in the area between The Splash and The Bell. The Party will consist of a Hog Roast followed by local strawberries and cream.

All residents have been invited to attend by letter, sent out with the Newsletter, and asked to reply by the end of April. The letter was accompanied by a small gift of wildflower seeds.

The party will be free to Kersey residents, thanks to a generous grant from the National Lottery Community Fund, supplemented if needed by the donation from the Magpie Murders filming.

Entertainment will be provided by The Suffolk Concert Band and the Border Morris Dancers.

This Party is being organised by a small Working Group and I thank them for their energy, enterprise and enthusiasm in developing what will be a great afternoon.

John W Hume

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Forget-Me-Nots

The Forget Me Nots have come through Covid with only one of the group struck down with Covid just recently, fortunately it was asymptomatic.

We have resumed our activities, that is lunch out or coffee mornings out twice a month. We have welcomed two new members to the group and we are fortunate to have two or three drivers who participate whenever they can. A big thank you to them for their assistance.

Anyone who would like to join us as a member or a helper, would be made very welcome. The group are a jolly bunch and we travel to several eateries & hostelrys, particularly those that have various shops attached so we can browse.

You may contact me on 07595 263111 and I would be very pleased to chat to you about the group. It was set up over 35 years ago by the Church for anyone in the Community over the age of 60, and in those times the group was welcomed by the Parishioners into their homes for morning coffee, but mainly afternoon tea, once a month.

Over the years the format has changed to suit the members, who all look forward to getting out with friends. We have not set days for the outings, these are decided on the availability of the group on a particular day, so we are very flexible.

If you need to be picked up, all you have to do is tell me and it will be arranged.
Our next outing is on Maundy Thursday to Assington Barns for lunch and a browse.

Veronica Partridge
07595 263111 Or 01473 823188

Franey, Rand and Pest House Charities

The Trustees have met twice during the last year. Grants were made over the year to individuals and groups including The Hadleigh Elderly People's Welfare, Shelley Riding for the Disabled and Surviving Winter in Hadleigh, which could also benefit people from Kersey.

The wording for the Notice describing the Charity's work was updated and sent to the Churches and Parish Clerks in the areas covered so that it could be displayed.

The trustees are planning to meet again in June this year.

Rachael Rogers
Trustee

Friends of The Bells of St Mary's Church

Ringling resumed in August. We are low in number because not all the ringers returned after the lock down. The funds of the friends are the same as the last report as there has been no income or expenditure. We plan to ring for a wedding in June and the Jubilee Street Party.

Neville Whittell
Tower Captain

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Friends of St Mary's Church Trust – FoSM

After a very slow two years following covid, Friends of St Mary's reopened their events calendar with an American Supper Dance at St Mary's Church on Saturday 4th December 2021. It was a resounding success and raised over £1400 for the trust. The candlelit dinner showcased the magnificent church in all of its glory, starting with an American style cocktail bar followed by themed 'bring your own dinner' parties for over 60 people, with dancing until midnight. This evening was by far the most extravagant event put on by the trust and showed just what can be achieved in our beloved church. Further events are scheduled throughout the year as the trust moves back into fundraising at pace. In the year to 31 Dec 2021, FoSM had total income of £7,336. This came principally from Fundraising Events but also from Membership fees and the 500 Club monthly lottery draws. Event expenses amounted to £2,569, giving a net income for the year of £4,767.

One grant was paid out to the church in the year of £1,900, making a total of £5,000 paid to the church so far for restoration purposes. We are now fundraising for roof repairs as well as renovations to the medieval screen in between the North and South halls.

Overall funds held at 31 December 2021 were £3,475.24, of which £3,429.11 is held in the PCC Restoration account on our behalf awaiting transfer to the new FoSM bank account. At the time of this report the bank account has at last been opened so funds administration and banking can now be transferred to FoSM and managed separately from the PCC accounts. The trust would like to thank Colin Grannell and the PCC for all of their support whilst our account was being setup at Metro bank.

My personal thanks also to all of our Trustees for their continued support and hard work during an unprecedented period over the last year.

Mark Rigby
Chair of Friends of St Mary's (FoSM)

Grays' Trust

The Grays' Trust continues to fulfil its purpose in supporting the further education of residents of the parish.

Our income for the last year was £8,825 of which we distributed £8,325. 11 university students, and 2 Year 12 and 13 students received grants. Leaving presents were given to the 5 leavers of Kersey Primary School and a grant was given to the school itself. Once again, we did not make our usual donation to the Tuesday Club since it had been unable to meet due to pandemic restrictions.

At our AGM in February John Robinson retired as Chairman. We thank him for his years of service to the Trust and, in particular, for putting it in the sound financial position in which it is today. John will remain as a Trustee for the coming year and Peter Martin has been elected as our new Chairman.

Finally, I would like, once again, to remind everyone that the Grays' Trust is not just for teenagers. The 'Object of the Charity' as stated in our Charity Commission Scheme is to 'promote the education of persons who are resident in the area of benefit'. The 'area of benefit' is the Parish of Kersey and 'Persons' include adults who wish to undertake further training or study.

Philippa Harris
Secretary, Grays' Trust

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Kersey Church of England Primary School

The report to you this year comes at the end of two lockdowns, a commendable, high quality online provision that surpassed that of many other schools. Including ingenious solutions to engage not only the children but parents too. It has been a real joy to have all of the pupils back in school, we continue to make marked progress, which was necessary and is encouraging. We are very much looking forward to the return of continued normality in the summer term. Continuing to follow the national guidance where recommended.

We are now fully signed up members of the Tilian Academy Trust, which officially commenced on the 1st of November 2021. Tilian are Church of England Primary School Specialists, with a highly effective school improvement programme. A high level of financial expertise, HR and premises support. There are healthy levels of support and challenge. This will ensure the continued recovery, raising educational standards and growth of the school. A number of the original governing body prior to the installation of the Interim Executive Body, have returned to the board by invitation of the Tilian chief executive. We also welcomed some new faces and invaluable skills to the board. Exciting times ahead!

Claire Dunnell-Paley has been our interim head teach whilst Jess Damant left to have a baby back in November 21. Jess will return to Kersey at the end of this next term and Claire and Jess will combine a Headteacher job share, alongside an excellent level of teaching. Mrs Biltcliffe has left us and we now have Miss Chelsea Pratt, who has settled into Kersey brilliantly, "it feels like Miss Pratt has been part of the team forever" as quoted by our HT. Miss Pratt also holds her pilots license! The Learning Council can now meet in person to discuss their plans for fundraising for the summer term, as can the Junior Road Safety Officers to move forward with their road safety ideas for the remainder of the school year. Our daily Collective Worship has, as always, been greatly supplemented by Rev. Jackson. Children attending the Easter Service took on numerous roles as flag bearers, poem and bible readers. We are now running online workshops for parents!

Not only did the school have a visit from one of the Wattisham based Apaches up on the recreation ground, trips outside of school have commenced; The Wolsey Theatre, the science museum in London, Bridges Farm, a trip to the School Farm and Country Fair. We hope to attend the Hadleigh Show, who knows we may even aspire in future years to having a school sheep. After all, a Suffolk Sheep is the school emblem!

The school Nativity this year was a knockout, bit breezy too. It was a live performance held by kind permission of Sally Bendall at Hollow Trees on and around the Farm trail. What is it they say - you should never work with children and animals? It was a blast and great success. Plans are now well underway to support and celebrate in HRH's jubilee.

The Friends of Kersey continue to support the school, and are continually thinking of new ways to raise money. We have been lucky to have one of their popular film nights; we hope to have a few more of these before the end of the school year. Their support helps to keep our resources up to date, as well as providing children with opportunities to meet new visitors, most recently an ex Royal Military Band musician, or go on trips.

As well as individual music lessons, all Key stage two pupils have instrument lessons which some of them are continuing to do, even at home.

As ever, we are very aware of the vital involvement the community has facilitated through shared venues and facilities, without which the school would struggle to fully function; the village hall, the

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church, the Glebe, Partridges Farm and The Bell Inn. We thank them all for their cooperation and continued support. Thank you to all of you involved with the school. We have thoroughly enjoyed having local residents in to read with the children!

Please feel free to come and visit the school, just make an appointment so that we can welcome you.

Sarah Stirling
Chair of Governors

Kersey Playing Field Association

The Glebe continues to provide a large outdoor space that the village and school can use and indeed provided Kersey Projects the space to hold their very enjoyable 'Kersey Reunited' party on the August Bank Holiday last year.

We have also provided car parking for a couple of weddings/events and received a donation from the film company for spill-over parking if required.

We are grateful to KCPC for their ongoing maintenance of the facilities they have installed in the areas that the Parish Council lease.

We are also grateful for the ongoing grass cutting arranged by Suffolk County Council as their contribution for the school's usage. This arrangement may change now that the running of the school has changed but that is to be confirmed.

Mark Pertwee
Secretary, Kersey Playing Field Association

Kersey Projects

As probably with all village organisations, Kersey Projects was hit hard with all the Government Covid restrictions which precluded us from hosting any village activities until August 2021. When finally restrictions were lifted, we hosted a Village Picnic, where all members of the parish were invited to come to a Kersey Reunited Village Picnic on the Glebe.

Thanks to everyone who came – a lot – it was a great success and, I think, a very welcomed chance to meet up with friends and neighbours. A very simple affair but I think, judging from the feedback afterwards, a much needed and enjoyable event. Kersey really did get 'reunited'!

Suzie Rudkin

Lewis Mowles Trust Fund

The Lewis Mowles Trust has had a quiet year, no income or expenses. The balance of the account stands at £9330-00.

Norah Orriss

Neighbourhood Watch

There is a vacancy for the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, anyone interested in the role should contact the Parish Council.

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Nightingale Trust and Allotments

The trust had another strong year with all plots allocated out throughout the year. There are 2 vacancies at the time of writing but interest is already being shown at this very popular and well managed allotment association.

A strong year financially with rental income and deposits at £900, which combined with a charity investment uplift of £559.59 and other charitable interest brought the total income for the year to £1711.71. Expenditure was £3424.20 which included a one-off cost of £2800 for hedge cutting and clearance. The current account balance of £444.64, a premium reserve balance of £461.49, a charities Investment Fund balance of £9018.75, petty cash balance of £50.87 gave rise to a total fund for the trust of £9975.75.

After the AGM last year the trust was asked by the tenants to cut back and reset hedging and walkways around the allotment area including a general tidy up of the site. This was done in February after nesting to ensure all wildlife was protected. The overall standard of the allotments are very high and new guidelines have been agreed with the tenants regarding poultry maintenance, types of species permitted and maximum numbers per plot.

The trust made a number of winter payments to residents in the village to help support them through difficult times along with a matching food bank donation. Trustees also made themselves available to help those in need of transport to doctor and hospital appointments through the Kersey and Boxford community taxi scheme.

All trustee positions are filled and my thanks go to their continued hard work and support in helping to make this trust a very rewarding and successful contribution to the local community.

Mark Rigby
Chair of the Nightingale Trust

St Mary's Church PCC

An annual report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish for 2021
Adopted by the PCC on Wednesday 9th March 2022.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. There have been no safeguarding incidents in 2021.

Activities in 2021

Covid continued to have some impact on services and attendance, however we managed to hold the main service of Easter, Harvest and Christmas which were well supported by the village and held weddings and a baptism.

During this second year of challenge, it was very clear that keeping our church doors open was an important focus especially for our many visitors, pilgrims and tourists seeking comfort and peace in our beautiful Church.

This would not have been possible without the help from the fantastic teams of people from the parish who help in so many ways; flower arranging, cleaning, sides persons, clock winding and opening and closing the church doors each day – over 20 people in all. Thank you to Ian for playing on our wonderful organ from time to time and bell ringers for regularly ringing in our services and marking other national events such as Prince Philip's death.

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The teamwork you all display by sharing the responsibility for running the building and covering for each other where necessary is a great inspiration. The PCC would like to say thank you! The Parish Newsletter continues to inform and unite the whole village and our thanks go to all those who edit and produce the newsletter with its wonderful range of front cover photos, to the many regular contributors, to the proof-readers, the distributors and advertisers

The PCC

The PCC met 6 times during the year. We started work on items from the 2019 Quinquennial which had been delayed by COVID and upgraded the sound system to accommodate ipads etc.

The PCC has felt for some time that a long term, 5-year plan for the church, its spiritual and pastoral life and for the building should be undertaken. Discussions began in September and will be taken to the Parish for further input during 2022.

Fundraising

The cost of running the church continues to be a focus for the PCC. We benefitted greatly from the filming – but will need to work hard this year on further fundraising as Quota levels are set to increase.

We are also very grateful to FOSM for their fantastic fundraising during 2021 which generates such a sense of goodwill and fun among the parishioners.

Of course, our biggest thank you must go to Colin Grannell who undertakes the complex work of Treasurer (and more!) so thoughtfully. He will report in more details on the financial position.

Shrine

The PCC continued to refresh the art installation above the Shrine – thanks to Holly for her creativity and guidance. During 2021 we marked Church calendar seasons in the year with a new focus: Easter was a simple evergreen cross, Olive trees marked the summer months, doves for remembrance and stars for our Christmas theme this year.

If you feel you could help the PCC in any way then please do make contact.

Linda Newbigging
Secretary, St Mary's PCC

Table Tennis Club

The first part of our season was interrupted by Covid related issues and play did not start until September.

Attendance has been good although has fallen away in the last month.

Our hire fees increased from January but as yet this has not been passed on to attendees. There are sufficient surplus funds to support subsidising low attendance until the end of June when we break for the summer. Fees will be reviewed for the start of next season.

Overall, the Clubs finances remain healthy and reserves are available should equipment require replacement. The accounts for the year 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 have been audited. The club operates from Kersey Village Hall on Thursday evenings between 7:30 and 9:00pm. Players may elect to play either one hour or the full session at a current cost of £1.50 or £2.00 respectively. Juniors are charged £1.00 irrespective of the duration.

The purpose of the club is social and recreational and all abilities are welcome.

Adrian Blyth
01473 827805
amblyth1@gmail.com

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Tuesday Club

The club only met twice in 2021. Natalie Blyth came and talked about a holiday in India and we held the Christmas party. We continue our sponsorship of Tilly at the Shelley riding school. A full programme has been arranged for this year.

Rachel Wells

Village Hall

Kersey Village Hall has resumed bookings after a long stretch of inactivity due to lockdown. The Art Group, Table Tennis and Yoga have all been welcomed back to the Hall, but due to only 27 pupils in Kersey School, they have not needed to use the Hall this school year.

Maintenance on the Hall has been maintained over the year, and Natalie and Adrian Blyth have between them, kept the Hall and grounds in excellent order, grateful thanks to them both.

We have been gifted a picture of Kersey and will be getting it framed so we can add it to the Gallery we seem to be accumulating. But nothing else to report over this last year. Natalie, as Secretary has been looking into quotes for an upgraded Disabled access, but it seems there is a waiting list for any works from reputable builders.

The Committee look forward to the Hall being used more frequently as reluctance to have any group activities now will hopefully be laid to rest, and life will be able to resume to normal.

Veronica Partridge
Chair, Kersey Village Hall Committee

Village Produce Association

The marquees were let 9 times in 2021 this was better than expected given the Covid restrictions. It was agreed not to arrange an outing but the flower show went ahead in September. Donations were made to St Mary's church to help with newsletter, floodlights and churchyard. There is now a balance of £9122 in the accounts. We plan to visit Bressingham gardens on the 18th June. Schedules have been delivered for this year's show which is the 10th September.

Rachel Wells
Secretary, VPA

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Affordable Housing	<p>PP 2008. Wish for carefully planned expansion identified (18 households stated that someone would want affordable in the next 5 years)</p> <p>R2014. As 2008</p>	Monitor need for affordable housing and carry out further survey as necessary	Parish Council	Medium	<p><u>October 2011</u> Scheme abandoned as no residents attended the information event to express an interest in affordable homes in Kersey.</p> <p><u>October 2014</u> There may be a need for affordable housing but PC still not aware of current need in Kersey.</p> <p><u>November 2015</u> Parish Council to investigate idea of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Kersey.</p> <p><u>December 2015</u> During discussions about a planning application for new housing, which included an element of affordable homes, the PC acknowledged there was support from residents for affordable housing in Kersey which the Parish Council would need to address.</p> <p><u>January 2017</u> The Parish Council decided not to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan, it is too big a project compared to the possible benefit to the Parish. Alternative community led planning options are being considered by the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>April 2017</u> The PC agreed not to work on any formal community led planning policies. The PC will investigate carrying out a housing needs survey.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
					<p><u>November 2017</u> The PC decided not to carry out a housing needs survey because the benefit did not outweigh the considerable cost of £3,000 for a survey which would be valid for only 5 years. Professional advice was that a survey would identify a small need for affordable housing.</p> <p><u>January 2019</u> The Parish Council are considering whether Kersey should complete a Neighbourhood Plan. This will be an enormous task with a separate steering group and community consultation.</p> <p><u>September 2019</u> The Parish Council resolved there was not enough support to complete a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><u>February 2020</u> The Parish Council resolved not to carry out a Housing Needs Survey – the community benefit did not outweigh the significant cost and it would only be valid for 5 years.</p> <p><u>April 2022</u> Construction has started for 4 affordable homes for rent in the centre of Kersey.</p>
Market Housing	<p>PP 2008. Wish for carefully planned expansion</p> <p>R2014. To survey all residents about their</p>	To carry out a further survey of residents specifically asking about	Parish Council	Medium	<p><u>November 2015</u> Parish Council to investigate idea of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Kersey.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
	wishes relating to planning and development in the parish	building and development in the parish			<p><u>January 2017</u> The Parish Council decided not to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan, it is too big a project compared to the possible benefit to the Parish. Alternative community led planning options are being considered by the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>April 2017</u> The PC agreed not to work on any formal community led planning policies. The PC will investigate carrying out a housing needs survey.</p> <p><u>November 2017</u> The PC decided not to carry out a housing needs survey because the benefit did not outweigh the considerable cost of £3,000 for a survey which would be valid for only 5 years.</p> <p><u>January 2019</u> The Parish Council are considering whether Kersey should complete a Neighbourhood Plan. This will be an enormous task with a separate steering group and community consultation.</p> <p><u>September 2019</u> The Parish Council resolved there was not enough support to complete a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><u>February 2020</u> The Parish Council resolved not to carry out a Housing Needs Survey – the community benefit did not outweigh the significant cost and it would only be valid for 5 years.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Planning and Development	<p>R 2014. Improve the knowledge of residents about the planning system, powers of the Parish Council and the responsibilities of property owners.</p>	<p>Produce information for residents about the planning process, conservation areas and listed buildings</p>	<p>Parish Council and Babergh DC</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p><u>March 2017</u> A new web page (Planning and Development Management), a sub-page under the Parish Council tab, on the Kersey website has been created giving information and links to Babergh District Council website which covers planning applications, planning policy, heritage, Conservation Areas and listed buildings. ACTION POINT COMPLETED no further action.</p>
Cultural, Sporting and Recreational Facilities	<p>PP 2008. Desire for more planned social and sporting activities, including activities for young people to be achieved by creating a Kersey Sports and Social Club</p> <p>R2014. Clubs and groups enjoyed by members of the community but tend to be run by same few generally older volunteers. Younger people need to be encouraged to join in and volunteer to help</p>	<p>Monitor.</p> <p>Ensure website is up to date with contact info for all the various clubs.</p> <p>Encourage new volunteers to get involved in running clubs and societies.</p>	<p>Community members and Parish Council</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p><u>October 2014</u> No committee established for a Kersey Sports and Social Club; a variety of social and sporting activities take place in Kersey. See the Kersey newsletter and Kersey website for information on all the clubs, societies, events and activities in the parish.</p> <p><u>September 2016</u> A drop in event was held to showcase all the village organisations to the whole community.</p> <p><u>December 2016</u> Members of the community are organising one-off community social events such as a Christmas Party and erected a Christmas Tree in the centre of the village.</p> <p><u>March 2020</u> Welcome pack put together to be given to new residents which highlights events and gives details of the Kersey website to find more info.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Voluntary and Community Activity	<p>PP 2008. Desire for a Good Neighbour Scheme and a Volunteer Driving Scheme</p> <p>R2014. Support is offered on an informal basis. The community may support a formal scheme in future if the need arises</p>	Monitor possible future desire for schemes	Community members, Church and Parish Council	Low	<p><u>April 2011</u> Following further investigation Good Neighbour Scheme not pursued because residents did not wish for a formal scheme. Informal community help and support is evident in the parish.</p> <p><u>March 2018</u> Investigations are being made into the idea of setting up a volunteer driver scheme. May 18 agreed not to pursue as no appetite for scheme.</p> <p><u>March 2020</u> It is planned to set up a Village Emergency Telephone System which can support lone rescuers in the event of a medical emergency. A new volunteer group was set up to support residents during the Covid-19 pandemic. A flyer with contact details was hand delivered to every house in the Parish.</p> <p><u>February 2021</u> Kersey residents are now included in the Hadleigh and Boxford Community Car Scheme for lifts to medical appointments. The Nightingale Trust will provide financial help to those in need.</p>
Public Transport	<p>PP 2008. 80 people would use public transport</p> <p>R 2014. There is still a need for some public transport from and to Kersey</p>	Monitor provision	Parish Council and public transport users	Low	<p><u>March 2022</u> Hadleigh Community Transport Group operates a pre-bookable service covering Kersey and the Babergh area. There are no timetabled public transport services for Kersey.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Traffic Management	<p>PP 2008 Wish for 20mph speed limit in Kersey village and 30 mph speed limit in the rest of the parish</p> <p>R 2014. There are still concerns about the speed vehicles travel through centre of the village</p>	Monitor and investigate 20 mph limit for the centre of the village	Parish Council and SCC highways	High	<p><u>November 2015</u> Parish consultation in Sept 15 showed residents wished for 20 mph limit in existing 30 mph area in centre of village.</p> <p><u>January 2016</u> Parish Council met with SCC highways to discuss road safety and 20 mph limits. SCC agreed to carry out speed monitoring.</p> <p><u>May 2016</u> Speed monitoring data showed traffic speeds on Church Hill were quite low and indicated speeding was not an issue. A change in speed limit is therefore deemed not necessary.</p> <p><u>March 2019</u> Concerns raised with the Parish Council about speeding in the parish. SCC have been contacted to request speed monitoring in the Parish.</p> <p><u>Summer 2019</u> Continued concerns raised about poor visibility at the A1141 crossroads as you leave Kersey. The new landowner carried out some work to improve visibility. The PC is in communication with SCC to press for improvements.</p> <p><u>November 2019</u> Speed data from a number of locations in the parish were reviewed. This data indicated speeding was not excessive and the areas would not meet the SCC criteria for reduced speed limits. Any reduced speed limits would require additional signage and infrastructure such as</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

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					<p>speed humps or bollards paid for by the Parish Council. The PC agreed not to pursue a change to speed limits.</p> <p><u>March 2020</u> The police had carried out speed monitoring in Wickerstreet Green. This identified low levels of traffic with a few high speeds but not enough to trigger further action. Average speed 25.9 mph.</p> <p><u>November 2020</u> Interest registered for Quiet Lanes initiative.</p> <p><u>November 2021</u> The PC did not progress Quiet Lanes initiative.</p> <p><u>2022</u> Concerns about speeding are regularly reported to Parish Council meetings.</p>
Parking	<p>PP 2008. Concern about too many cars parked in the centre of the village and inconsiderate parking.</p> <p>R 2014. Lack of car parking and inconsiderate parking is still a problem</p>	Monitor and ask Police for support, liaise with school, explore car park options	Parish Council, police and school	High	<p><u>November 2015</u> Police carried out regular visits to Kersey at school drop off and collection times to remind parents of the need to park safely. School sent letter to parents.</p> <p><u>May 2016</u> The Parish Council has worked with the police and school to encourage more considerate parking by parents. Residents are encouraged to use off road parking as much as possible.</p> <p><u>March 2019 & 2020</u> The school contacted. School parents are regularly reminded to park considerately.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
					<p>Parents are able to park in The Bell carpark and walk up to the school.</p> <p><u>November 2021</u> Following public concern, a Parish Assembly was called to discuss parking. Following professional advice, the PC is now working on an education and communication strategy to alleviate parking problems in the centre of Kersey.</p>
Road Safety	<p>R 2014. To improve the footpath links between Vale Lane and the centre of the village</p>	<p>Progress Jubilee Steps and Vale Lane Footpath Link Project</p>	<p>Parish Council and SCC Rights of Way</p>	<p>High</p>	<p><u>January 2014</u> Stage 1 Jubilee Steps –proposal put to SCC Stage 2 Vale Lane Footpath Link – arrange to meet with landowner to discuss options</p> <p><u>November 2015</u> Parish consultation in Sept 15 showed residents wished to keep the grass path up beside the Church from the village sign to the Church lych gate. PC agreed to abandon plans for Jubilee Steps but continue working on finding a safe pedestrian route around the corner from Vale Lane to Church Walk. Working Group set up.</p> <p><u>May 2016</u> The working group met a couple of times after discussions with the landowner no progress could be made on a safe pedestrian route around the corner from Vale Lane to Church Walk. Working Group dissolved.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Natural Environment	<p>PP 2008. Requirement for Dog litter bins</p> <p>R 2014. Dog fouling still a problem</p>	<p>Monitor and publicise the issue.</p> <p>Put note in newsletter reminding owners of their responsibilities. Investigate need for more dog bins.</p>	Footpath Working Group and Parish Council	Low	<p>Dog litter bin installed in Kedges Lane in 2009</p> <p><u>March 2012 update</u> Installation of a dog bin in Water Lane not possible as Babergh would not be able to empty the bin in this location. New ‘no dog fouling’ signs put up in Water Lane and around the parish.</p> <p><u>April 2016</u> Note put in newsletter reminding owners to clear up after their dogs and to keep dogs under control or on a lead.</p> <p><u>March 2017</u> Dog fouling still a problem in some parts of the village, particularly Bell Fields footpath near the allotments. Noted at PC meeting & newsletter.</p> <p><u>April 2017</u> New signs to be put up and another note in the newsletter.</p> <p><u>March 2019</u> 3 new dog poo bins erected in the Parish. Kindly sponsored by The Bell, Kersey Mill and The Miller’s Kitchen café at Kersey Mill. Regular items put in the newsletter and signs on problem footpaths to encourage dog owners to clear up after their dogs.</p>
Natural Environment	<p>PP 2008. An appetite for working groups to tidy village.</p> <p>R 2014. As 2008</p>	Invite residents to take on areas they would like to keep tidy	Parish Council, Footpath Working Group and	Medium	<p><u>January 2014</u> There is a group of volunteers who have tidied areas of the parish, in particular the area of Cherry Hill next to the footpath.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
		<p>throughout the year. Encourage residents to join the Footpath Working Group to help keep paths walkable.</p>	<p>community members</p>		<p>PC to continue organising annual spring litter collection, promote widely to encourage participation. The Footpath Working Group maintains the footpath network in the Parish. <u>March 2017</u> Appeal in newsletter for more Footpath Working Group volunteers. <u>March 2018</u> The Footpath Working Group has several new members helping to keep footpaths well maintained. The Annual litter collection was well supported and the PC is to discuss an idea to organise regular litter collections throughout the year. <u>March 2019</u> Successfully annual litter collection again. <u>March 2020</u> Successful annual spring litter collection. Kersey school joined in again. Kersey Volunteer Group (KVG) launched. Members will collect litter on a regular basis as well as reporting other problems such as potholes. <u>April 2022</u> Footpath Working Group continues to maintain footpath network and KVG continue to keep the Parish tidy and report potholes. More volunteers would be welcomed.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Access to Information	<p>PP 2008. Creation of Website</p> <p>R 2014. Existing website is good but needs promoting</p>	Promote the website and continue to improve content	Parish Council	Medium	<p>Website created and launched Feb 2010. www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>March 2018 Website promoted in the newsletter and updated regularly. A new Local History page has been created.</p> <p>March 2020 Website continues to be developed. Events calendar added. Kersey Newsletter on website.</p> <p>April 2022 Website regularly promoted via the newsletter.</p>
Access to Information	R 2014. Improve Broadband speed and provision in the parish	To continue to highlight the issue with SCC	Parish Council and SCC Councillor	High	<p>March 2014 BB speeds variable but very slow in some areas. No fibre technology available in Kersey yet which would enable high speed BB.</p> <p>January 2017 Most homes in the parish can access fibre. Residents need to contact their service provider or seek an alternative provider who offers the high speed fibre service. ACTION POINT COMPLETED no further action.</p>
Access to Information	R 2014. Improve mobile phone reception in the parish	To investigate ways to boost the signals	Parish Council and SCC Councillor	High	<p>March 2014 Some areas, particularly near the Splash have very poor mobile reception.</p> <p>March 2022 The PC to contact Ofcom to see if the mobile reception can be improved for Kersey.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Local Democracy	PP 2008. Keeping the Parish Plan alive in the community R 2014. As 2008	Monitor	Parish Council	High	
Local Democracy	R 2014. Vacancies for Parish Councillors. Low public attendance at Parish Council meetings.	Encourage residents to engage with the Parish Council and review 'Parish Time' engagement at meetings.	Parish Council	Medium	<p><u>June 2015</u> Both vacancies for Parish Councillors now filled</p> <p><u>April 2016</u> PC considered ways to improve engagement with parishioners at PC meetings. It was agreed to keep 'Parish Time' at the end of meetings to give residents the opportunity to raise matters with the PC. The PC welcomes residents to all meetings and the Chair ensures the public present have the opportunity to comment during meetings, particular before discussion about planning applications.</p> <p><u>March 2019</u> A small number of residents regularly attend Council meetings. Their attendance and relevant contributions are appreciated by the Parish Council. 'Parish Time' moved to near the start of Parish Council meetings to enable engagement earlier in the meeting. Public participation guidance published on the website.</p> <p><u>May 2019</u> Contested Parish Council election with 9 candidates standing for 7 seats.</p> <p><u>March 2020</u> A very small number of residents continue to attend PC meetings regularly.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2022

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					<p><u>November 2020</u> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic remote Parish Council meetings held via Zoom. Residents have joined and participated in PC meetings.</p> <p><u>April 2022</u> The PC has been meeting in person since May 2021 but due to concerns around COVID-19 transmission public attendance has been poor. There are currently two Councillor vacancies.</p>

March 2021

This document now needs to be reviewed by the Parish Council and a new action plan written setting out the priorities for Kersey for the next few years.

April 2022

This review has been delayed due to COVID-19.