

# **KERSEY ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY - 9 APRIL 2018**

## **Chair's report**

This is my fifth Annual Report as Chair of Kersey Parish Council.

I thank my fellow Councillors and Clerk Sarah Partridge for another year of valued contribution to our community. I also thank the many members of our Parish who provide service to others by supporting their neighbours through individual initiatives, membership of formal and informal groups, societies, social networks and local charities. This work goes on largely behind the scenes but is highly valued and appreciated.

We are a small parish but there are over 25 businesses, voluntary groups, societies and local charities in Kersey. I am delighted with the continued success of our local school and grateful to the local farming community, Kersey Mill and The Bell for their contribution to our community. Kersey is a special place in which to live and visit and I will continue to encourage younger and newer residents to take a more active role in village life.

Kersey Parish Council is the first tier of government. We aim to represent the interests of Kersey's 360 residents, enhancing well-being and security throughout the Parish. All Parishioners are encouraged to raise matters of concern either with individual Councillors or by attendance at Parish Council Meetings. The Parish Council would welcome more attendance and participation at our regular meetings.

Existing Councillors are Iqbal Alam, Giles Hollingworth, Yvonne Martin (Vice-Chair), Veronica Partridge, Kevin Pratt, Andrew Rogers and me. Contact details are attached to this report and are on the Kersey Parish website. Those interested in serving the community by being a Councillor are invited to contact me or the Clerk. I thank Ian Fidell and John Maltby who both resigned this year. John Maltby has a long record of service to the Parish Council, including as Chair and we are grateful for his stewardship and advice over the years.

Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor and Alan Ferguson, Babergh District Councillor regularly attended Parish Council Meetings and we thank them for their advice and for taking up issues on our behalf.

During the year, the Parish Council received 11 planning applications. 9 were supported, some with additional comments where heritage assets were involved. The two proposals not supported were for 8, Vale Lane, which was refused by Babergh District Council and 1-6 The Cottages which is now the subject of a legal challenge following the decision of Babergh's Planning Committee in November. The Parish Council's main objections to this latter application included harm to heritage and environment, precedent, safety, lack of housing needs assessment and the belief that more suitable sites are available within the parish and district.

Councillors attend training on planning and new Councillors are required to take part in courses to learn about their new responsibilities.

The Parish Plan actions have been implemented.

An Emergency Plan will be submitted to Babergh and Suffolk County Council for implementation shortly.

The Clerk liaised with Suffolk County Council on requests for pot hole repairs. Parishioners are encouraged to use the Suffolk Highways Department on-line reporting system to report damage to roads and signs.

Fly tipping and general litter continues to be a problem. Anglian Water have installed gates at the water treatment plant to dissuade fly tipping. I am pleased to report that 13 residents volunteered for the annual litter collection in early March. Although delayed by bad weather, we were able to clear up all the lanes in the Kersey area and even ventured further into local Parishes. A proposal to provide more regular litter collection and pot hole reporting by local residents will be considered by the Parish Council at the following meeting. I thank all those public-spirited residents who regularly collect litter and rubbish.

A Village Emergency Telephone System will be set up in the next few months.

Ann Baker has taken on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. Kersey remains a safe and pleasant place in which to live.

Finances are monitored at every meeting. Your Parish Council remains financially strong with funds in the bank of just over £20,000. Expenditure in the year was within budget. The Precept for 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 was £7,340.00. The four-year Council Tax Support Grant has ceased. The Transparency Grant is £311.04 and will not be available next year. The Precept for 2018/19 will be £7,953.00 and Council Tax for a Band D property will increase to £43.94. The Precept has increased because of a change in the tax base and expenses. Staff hours were increased to ensure compliance with new data protection legislation.

Finally, I thank all of you who have contributed by providing service to others. Kersey is a vibrant, flourishing, safe and generous community. This will be maintained with more engagement and contribution from younger residents.

John W. Hume - Chair, Kersey Parish Council.  
3 April 2018

Financial information and Councillor contact details below

## Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept

	2017/18	2018/19
	<b>Budget/ Precept 2017/2018</b>	<b>Budget/ Precept 2018/2019</b>
<b>Parish Council</b>		
Post/Tel/Stationery/copier cartridge	£135.00	£135.00
Clerk's working from home exp	£208.00	£208.00
Hall Hire:Parish Council 11 @ £5	£50.00	£55.00
Annual Parish Assembly @ £10	£10.00	£10.00
SALC subscription	£172.98	£180.00
External Audit	£100.00	£100.00
Data Protection	£35.00	£188.00
Website hosting	£100.00	£100.00
<b>Sub total for Admin</b>	<b>£810.98</b>	<b>£976.00</b>
Clerk's Salary & Staff Costs	£4,150.00	£4,915.00
Training/External Meetings	£250.00	£250.00
Street Lighting	£210.00	£225.00
Parish Council Insurance	£500.00	£340.00
Glebe Insurance	£50.00	£50.00
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£83.00	£80.00
Playground Safety Inspection	£85.00	£87.00
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£45.00	£45.00
St Mary's Church	£400.00	£420.00
Defibrillator & Village Emergency Tel	£226.00	£135.00
Chairman's Allowance	£0.00	£0.00
Election costs	£25.00	£25.00
Church Walk future maintenance	£130.00	£130.00
Footpath Map printing reserve	£75.00	£75.00
Contingencies	£300.00	£200.00
Adjustment to round precept	£0.02	
<b>Precept</b>	<b>£7,340.00</b>	<b>£7,953.00</b>
<i>Transparency Fund Grant</i>	£311.04	
<i>Other PC income</i>	£552.98	
<b>PC Income</b>	<b>£8,204.02</b>	
Agreed spending from PC reserves:		£100.00
	<b>£8,204.02</b>	<b>£8,053.00</b>

£50 filming donation  
£500 Kersey Mill  
donation, added to the  
Defib & VETS reserve)  
  
from Defib & VETS  
reserve

The precept for 2017/18 was £7,340.

For a band D property the council tax was £40.00

The precept for 2018/19 will be £7,953

For a band D property the council tax will be £43.94

## **KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS**

### **Parish Councillors:**

John Hume (Chair)	Ayres End, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 810098
Mrs Yvonne Martin (Vice Chair)	Row View, The Street, Kersey IP7 6DY	01473 828361
Mrs Veronica Partridge	Chestnuts, Kersey, IP7 6EL	01473 823188
Giles Hollingworth	Chapel House, Church Hill, Kersey IP7 6DZ	01473 824663
Iqbal Alam	4 Ancient Houses, The Street, Kersey IP7 6EA	01473 827079
Andrew Rogers	The Gables, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 212242
Kevin Pratt	Green Gables, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 823028

### **Clerk:**

Mrs Sarah Partridge	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB Email: <a href="mailto:kerseypc@gmail.com">kerseypc@gmail.com</a>	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.

**Kersey Website:** [www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk)