

KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY, 8 APRIL 2019

Chair's Report.

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

The 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. Residents are encouraged to raise matters of concern either with individual Councillors or by attendance at Parish Council Meetings.

Existing Councillors are Penny Calnan, Giles Hollingworth, Yvonne Martin, (Vice Chair), Stuart McQuaker, Andrew Rogers and me. Contact details are shown below and are on the Kersey Parish Council page of the Kersey website. The website also contains minutes of meetings and financial details. Iqbal Alam and Veronica Partridge both resigned during the year and I thank them both for their contribution and service. All Councillors have attended initial Parish Councillor training with further guidance from the Clerk where needed. Further planning training will be organised for Councillors after the May election.

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

Your Parish Council is financially strong, as will be seen when the Year End Accounts are published. Reserves are well within the percentage range of annual expenditure. Finances are monitored at every meeting and details included in the minutes. This includes comparisons of income and expenditure against budget, bank reconciliations, noting of balances, expenditure approval and signing of cheques by approved signatories. Finances are also audited regularly.

15 Planning Applications were made during the year, of which ten were approved by the Parish Council and Babergh District Council. Of the remainder, one at Kersey Mill was supported by the Parish Council but refused by Babergh, one at Wickerstreet Green was not supported by the Parish Council but was approved by Babergh after some amendments. One in The Street was objected to by the Parish Council and refused by Babergh and the remaining two will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting later this evening.

Work continues on the Emergency Plan, The Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) and the Parish Council approved a number of new policies to comply with data protection and other legislation. Councillors also approved a proposal for new approach to Risk Management but implementation will have to be considered by the newly constituted Parish Council after May. The Kersey Volunteer Group (KVG) has been created to allocate specific responsibility for litter collection and reporting potholes. New extra dog bins have installed. The triangle on top of the post war school sign on Church Hill was stolen and the Parish Council are considering how to replace it. There is still a vacancy for a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

Matters raised in Parish Time have been highway safety, traffic speed, grit heaps, diversions and damaged and discarded road signage.

I thank my fellow Councillors and Clerk, Sarah Partridge for another year of service to our community. I also thank the many members of our Parish who provide service to others by supporting neighbours, through individual initiatives, membership of formal and informal groups, societies, networks and local charities. This work goes on behind the scenes but is highly valued and appreciated. Although we are a small parish, there are over 25 businesses, groups, societies and local charities. Kersey is a vibrant, flourishing, safe and generous community but for this to continue into the future, we need more engagement and contribution from younger residents.

On May 2nd, we will have a contested election for Parish Councillors, with nine people standing for seven vacancies. Giles Hollingworth has decided not to stand and I thank him for his work as a Councillor and in particular for his practical approach to solving problems. Yvonne Martin has also decided not to stand. Yvonne has been a Councillor for over fourteen years and during this time has also been Chair and Vice-Chair. We will miss her experience, wise counsel and her calm, analytical and principled approach. I am delighted that both have indicated they would be willing to continue to support the Parish Council's future activities.

Finally, in the last two years, we have seen planning applications in Kersey which have been very contentious. I strongly recommend that the newly elected Parish Council embarks on a Neighbourhood Plan to gain community wide agreement on where development can take place.

John Hume
Chair, Kersey Parish Council, 8 April 2019.

Kersey Parish Council Contacts

Parish Councillors until the election on 2 May 2019:

John Hume (Chair)	Ayres End, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 810098
Mrs Penny Calnan	Wickerstreet House, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 210459
Giles Hollingworth	Chapel House, Church Hill, Kersey IP7 6DZ	01473 824663
Mrs Yvonne Martin (Vice Chair)	Row View, The Street, Kersey IP7 6DY	01473 828361
Stuart McQuaker	The Mount, The Street, Kersey IP7 6DY	01473 828722
Kevin Pratt	Green Gables, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 823028
Andrew Rogers	The Gables, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 212242

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Partridge	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB Email: kerseypc@gmail.com	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

Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept

	Budget/ Precept 2018/201 9	Budget/ Precept 2019/2020
Parish Council		
Post/Tel/Stationery/copier cartridge	£135.00	£135.00
Clerk's working from home exp	£208.00	£208.00
Hall Hire:Parish Council 12 @ £5	£55.00	£60.00
Annual Parish Assembly @ £10	£10.00	£10.00
SALC subscription	£180.00	£180.00
External Audit	£100.00	£100.00
Data Protection	£188.00	£35.00
Website hosting	£100.00	£100.00
Sub total for Admin	£976.00	£828.00
Clerk's Salary & Staff Costs	£4,915.00	£4,905.00
Training/External Meetings	£250.00	£250.00
Street Lighting	£225.00	£240.00
Parish Council Insurance	£340.00	£340.00
Glebe Insurance	£50.00	£50.00
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£80.00	£80.00
Playground Safety Inspection	£87.00	£87.00
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£45.00	£45.00
St Mary's Church	£420.00	£420.00
Defibrillator & Village Emergency Tel	£135.00	£215.00
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	£200.00	£300.00
Precept	£7,953.00	£7,990.00
<i>Other PC income</i>	£28.41	
PC Income	£7,981.41	
Agreed spending from PC reserves:	£100.00	£100.00
	£8,081.41	£8,090.00

Defibrillator costs funded
from Defib and VETS
reserve

The Precept for 2018/19 was £7953
For a band D property the council tax was £43.94

The Precept for 2019/20 will be £7990
For a band D property the council tax will be £44.83