

# **KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

## **KERSEY ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY - 3rd APRIL 2017.**

This is my fourth 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. Kersey is a special place in which to live and visit and I wish 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, Ian Fidell, Giles Hollingworth, John Maltby, Yvonne Martin (Vice Chair), Veronica Partridge 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.

During the year, the Parish Council received 18 Planning Applications. 17 were fully supported, some with additional comments where heritage assets were involved. One supported application was refused by Babergh District Council. Babergh approved another application that was not supported by the Parish Council and correspondence continues on that application. Councillors attend training on Planning. We have agreed to change our previous practice of attending the sites of all applications and now only visit on a discretionary basis.

The Parish Plan actions are being implemented.

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

An over zealous sub-contractor of Suffolk County Council planned to tidy a footpath by removing the Pudding Stone outside the Ancient Cottages. This was prevented by an alert local resident, Ray Attridge, who asked for the work to stop and promptly enlisted the help of the Parish Council to avert a serious heritage loss.

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

Although fly-tipping and general litter has worsened this year, I am pleased to report that 13 residents volunteered for the litter collection day on 4 March. We were able to clear up all the lanes in the Kersey area and even ventured further into local Parishes. The fly-tipping at the water treatment plant was cleared by Anglian Water. They are now considering installation of cameras to prevent further spoilage.

A defibrillator was installed at The Bell and training conducted in its use. This was funded by Rosanna and Kim Gaywood's Swing Dance, a £1,000 Locality Grant from County Councillor Jenny Antill and two anonymous local donors.

Planning is now underway to install a Village Emergency Telephone System.

High Speed Broadband reached most of the Parish during the year, although to date, not all available capacity has been taken up.

Yvonne Martin and Veronica Partridge organised an excellent 'Drop In Event' on 24 September 2016 to publicise and encourage interest in the more than 20 businesses, voluntary groups, societies and local charities that exist in Kersey. Members of these organisations provided excellent presentations of their work and over a third of adult residents attended.

Jenny Antill, Suffolk County Councillor and Alan Ferguson, Babergh District Councillor, regularly attended Parish Council Meetings and I thank them for their advice and for taking up issues on our behalf. Jenny Antill is standing down this year and we wish her well for the future.

The Parish Council are delighted with the continued success of our local school and note the contribution made by the farming community, Kersey Mill and The Bell to the standard of life in Kersey. Although there have been four recent burglaries, one of which was very serious, Kersey remains a safe and pleasant place in which to live.

John Maltby has retired as Chair of the Footpath Working Group and was succeeded by Giles Hollingworth. I thank John for his many years of valuable service in maintaining the footpath network.

Finances are monitored at every meeting. Your Parish Council remains financially strong with funds in the bank. Expenditure in the year was within budget. The Precept for 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 was £6,786.00 plus a Council Tax Support Grant of £48.08 and a Transparency Grant of £344.33.

The Precept for 2017/18 will be £7,340.00. Council Tax for a Band D property will be £40.00 which is a 6.8% increase on the previous year. This is mainly to fund the maintenance of both the defibrillator and the Village Emergency Telephone System.

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

**John W. Hume - Chair, Kersey Parish Council. 3 April 2017.**

## **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
John Maltby	Pax, 7 Church Hill, Kersey, IP7 6EE	01473 828383
Mrs Veronica Partridge	Chestnuts, Kersey, IP7 6EL	01473 823188
Giles Hollingworth	Chapel House, Church Hill, Kersey IP7 6DZ	01473 824663
Iqbal Alan	4 Ancient Houses, The Street, Kersey IP7 6EA	01473 827079
Ian Fidell	The Cottage, Church Hill, Kersey, IP7 6DZ	01473 828887

### **Clerk:**

Mrs Sarah Partridge	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	01787 210859
	Email: <a href="mailto:kerseypc@gmail.com">kerseypc@gmail.com</a>	

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)

## Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept

	<b>2016/17 Budget/ Precept</b>	<b>2017/18 Budget/ Precept</b>
Post/Tel/Stationery/copier cartridge	£135.00	£135.00
Clerk's computer/working from home	£208.00	£208.00
Hall Hire:Parish Council 10 @ £5	£50.00	£50.00
Annual Parish Assembly @ £10	£10.00	£10.00
SALC subscription	£166.00	£172.98
Community Action Suffolk subs	£30.00	£0.00
External Audit	£100.00	£100.00
ICO Data Protection registration	£35.00	£35.00
Website hosting		£100.00
<b>Sub total for Admin</b>	<b>£734.00</b>	<b>£810.98</b>
Clerk's Salary	£3,920.00	£4,150.00
Training/External Meetings	£250.00	£250.00
Street Lighting	£210.00	£210.00
CAS Suffolk Insurance	£480.00	£500.00
Glebe Insurance	£50.00	£50.00
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£83.00	£83.00
Playground Safety Inspection	£85.00	£85.00
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£44.00	£45.00
St Mary's Church	£400.00	£400.00
Defibrillator & Village Emergency Tel		£226.00
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	£300.00
	<b>£6,786.00</b>	<b>£7,339.98</b>
<i>Transparency Fund Grant</i>	£344.33	
<i>Locallity grant from SCC Jenny Antill</i>	£1,000.00	Spent on defibrillator
<i>Donations from residents</i>	£137.00	Spent on defibrillator
Agreed spending from reserves:		
Defibrillator project S137	£771.56	
	<b>£9,038.89</b>	<b>£7,339.98</b>

The precept for 2016/17 was £6786, plus a council tax support grant of £43.08  
For a band D property the council tax was £37.44

The precept for 2017/18 will be £7340  
For a band D property the council tax will be £40.00

The main reason for the budget and precept increase is to cover the on-going maintenance and running costs of the defibrillator and emergency telephone system.