

KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIR'S REPORT 2015-16
Kersey Annual Parish Meeting 11 April 2016

This is my third Annual Report as Chair. I again wish to record my thanks to my fellow Councillors, with particular tribute to Sarah Partridge for another year of valued contribution to our Parish Council. Sarah has ensured we complied with the Transparency Code, coordinated the new Parish Plan and has maintained high standards of governance and financial administration. Her calm, authoritative approach is highly regarded by Councillors. I also thank the many members of our Parish who give up their time to provide service to our community through their membership of formal groups, societies, social networks and providing neighbourly support. These activities, such as supporting our School, the Church, the Playing Fields, the Footpaths and the Village Hall, all maintain the physical and social fabric of our village and make Kersey such a special place in which to live and visit. Much of this work goes on behind the scenes but I can assure you it is highly valued and appreciated. I would like to encourage younger and newer Parish residents to take a more active part in our village life.

Kersey Parish Council is a body formed to represent local opinions to the District and County Council and is the first tier of government. The Parish Council is committed to represent the interests of the residents of Kersey, enhancing their well-being and security. All Parishioners are invited to raise matters which concern them, either with individual Councillors, the Parish Council as a whole or by attendance at Parish Council Meetings. The constructive, informative contribution of those who regularly attend these meetings is welcomed and adds useful insights into making decisions. My fellow Councillors and I would, however, like to see even more attendance and participation at these meetings.

During the year Iqbal Alam joined the Parish Council. The existing Councillors, whose contact details are attached and also appear on the Kersey Parish website, are Iqbal Alam, Ian Fidell, who was co-opted during the year, Giles Hollingworth, John Maltby, Yvonne Martin, Veronica Partridge and me.

We have no current Councillor vacancies but are always interested to hear from candidates who are interested in representing and serving our community.

Jenny Antill, our Suffolk County Councillor and Alan Ferguson, our Babergh District Councillor regularly attended Parish Council Meetings to report on relevant matters, give advice and take up issues on our behalf. PCSO Mandy Coleman also attended until the changes in Policing Policy. I thank each of them for their time and support.

During the year, the Parish Council received 18 Planning Applications. 14 were fully supported and of these Babergh approved 12 and are yet to decide on the other two. Of the remaining four, the Parish Council supported one change of use which was refused by Babergh, were in favour of repairs to Kersey Mill which were approved by Babergh, voted against one Application which was approved by Babergh and voted unanimously against an Application which the Applicant has reportedly withdrawn to reconsider. This last Application was the biggest and most contentious issue the Parish Council has had to decide upon for 20 years. The proposal is to build five terraced two bedroom houses and one two bedroom house at the rear and in the grounds of 1-6 The Cottages, The Street. Two of the houses would be designated as "affordable". At a meeting attended by 70 members of the public, the Parish Council voted unanimously against the proposal, mainly on the grounds that harm to heritage and environment outweighed any benefits.

To improve our performance in dealing with planning applications, the Parish Council has attended specific training on planning law and we have introduced the practice of visiting, wherever possible, the application site.

Plans to modify the path from the bottom of the Church Steps to the School were dropped but we continue to investigate ways of providing safer pedestrian access between the centre of the village and Vale Lane. A draft Emergency Plan will shortly be submitted to Babergh. The Parish Plan was reviewed and updated. The Clerk regularly liaises with Suffolk County Council Highways Department to request road repairs and Parishioners are encouraged to use the Suffolk County Council on-line reporting system to report pot holes and other road damage. General litter and fly tipping has worsened in lanes in the Parish over the last 12 months and it was disappointing that only four people turned up to the annual litter collection in early March.

There have been no significant crimes reported in the year and Kersey remains a safe place to live. The Parish Council are delighted with the success of our local school and will continue to support the growth of local enterprise and employment. We note the contribution made by the farming community, Kersey Mill and The Bell to the standard of life in Kersey.

Your Parish Council remains financially strong, with funds in the bank. Parish Council expenditure in the year was within budget. The Precept for the year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 was £6,700 plus a Council Tax Support Grant of £86.17 and a Transparency Fund Grant of £ 1091.01. The Precept for 2016/17 will be £6,786, plus a £43.08 Council Tax Support Grant. Council Tax for a Band D property in 2016/17 will increase by 0.74% from £37.16 in the previous year to £37.44.

John Hume, April 2016

Parish Councillors:

John Hume (Chair)	Ayres End, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 810098
John Maltby (Vice Chair)	Pax, 7 Church Hill, Kersey, IP7 6EE	01473 828383
Mrs Yvonne Martin	Row View, The Street, Kersey IP7 6DY	01473 828361
Mrs Veronica Partridge	Chestnuts, Kersey, Ipswich 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
Ian Fidell	The Cottage, Church Hill, Kersey, IP7 6DZ	01473 828887

Clerk & RFO:

Mrs Sarah Partridge kerseypc@gmail.com	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	01787 210859
---	--	--------------

For more information about Kersey Parish Council, including contact information, ordinary meeting dates, agendas and minutes of previous meetings please see the Kersey website.

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

Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept

	2015/16 Budget/ Precept 2015/2016	2016/17 Budget/ Precept 2016/2017
Post/Tel/Stationery/copier cartridge	£100.00	£135.00
Allow £70.00 for copier cartridge	£35.00	£0.00
Clerk's computer/working from home	£156.00	£208.00
Hall Hire: Parish Council 10 @ £5	£50.00	£50.00
Annual Parish Meeting @ £10	£10.00	£10.00
SALC subscription	£162.00	£166.00
Community Action Suffolk subs	£30.00	£30.00
Audit	£0.00	£100.00
ICO Data Protection registration	£35.00	£35.00
Sub total for Admin	£578.00	£734.00
Clerks Salary	£3,845.00	£3,920.00
Training/External Meetings	£250.00	£250.00
Street Lighting	£210.00	£210.00
CAS Suffolk Insurance	£480.00	£480.00
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	£43.00	£44.00
St Mary's Church	£400.00	£400.00
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: software for laptop	£300.00	£300.00
Tax base fluctuation allowance	£146.00	
	£6,700.00	£6,786.00
<i>Transparency Fund Grant</i>	<i>£1,091.01</i>	
	£7,791.01	£6,786.00

Precept for 2015/16 was £6,700 plus a Council Tax Support Grant from Babergh £86.17
Council Tax for a band D property was £37.16.

Precept for 2016/17 will be £6,786 plus Council Tax Support Grant from Babergh £43.08
Council Tax for a band D property will be £37.44.