

## KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIR'S REPORT, 2013-2014.

Kersey Parish Meeting, 7 April 2014.

I have been Chair of the Kersey Parish Council since May 2013 and this is my first Annual Report. I would like to record my thanks to my fellow Councillors and to Sarah Partridge, our Parish Clerk for another year of valued contribution to the Parish Council. I also thank the many members of our Parish for their hard work and dedicated service to our community, through membership of formal groups and societies and by providing neighbourly support. This helps maintain the physical and social fabric of our village and makes Kersey a special place to live and visit. Much of this work goes unrecognised but is valued and appreciated.

Kersey Parish Council is an elected body, formed to represent local views to the District and County Council and is the first tier of government for the Parish of Kersey. The Parish Council is committed to representing the interests of the residents of Kersey and enhancing well-being and security. All Parishioners are encouraged to raise matters which concern them with individual Councillors or the Parish Council as a whole. Wider attendance at Parish Council Meetings is encouraged and welcome.

Andrew Cumming resigned as a Councillor and Chair last May. I would like to thank Andrew for his work as a Councillor and especially for his three years of successful leadership as Chair. It is with regret that I report that John Robinson resigned in February this year after many years of service as a Councillor. His advice on all topics, particularly financial matters, is missed. The existing Councillors, whose contact details are given later, are Giles Hollingworth, John Maltby, Yvonne Martin, Veronica Partridge and me. We therefore have two vacancies for Councillors. We are seeking candidates to fill these roles with people who are interested in representing their fellow parishioners and who have an interest in actively serving our community.

Jenny Antill was elected as our Suffolk County Councillor last May and she has regularly attended Parish Council Meetings to provide information on County Council matters and to take up issues on behalf of the Parish Council and individual residents. Dawn Kendall has resigned as our Babergh District Councillor and we thank her for her attendance and representation.

During the last year, the Parish Council have considered 13 planning applications. All Councillors and the Clerk attended a one day training seminar in November 2013 on the role of Parish Councils in Planning matters. The Parish Council have been unimpressed with the service from the Babergh District Council Planning Department and have complained accordingly. Improvements have been promised and we will monitor this closely. We have been also concerned about the long delays caused by Planning Appeals to the work on restoring Little Manor.

Some of the other items dealt with by the Parish Council are set out below.

A working party of Councillors have been working on a scheme to provide safer pedestrian access between the centre of the village and Vale Lane and good progress has been made in consulting with residents and local authorities on the design and scope of the project. I would like to thank Giles Hollingworth for leading this group and Veronica Partridge for her generosity in hosting the meetings.

Councillors have also been working on an Emergency Plan, to mitigate any problems arising from a serious event, such as a prolonged power cut, fire, flood, illness or accident.

We are also conducting a Review of the Parish Plan, to determine how the interests of residents can be best served.

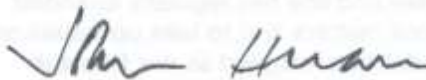
The Clerk regularly liaises with Suffolk County Council on the repair of road surfaces and other relevant safety issues in the Parish. Our experience is that these are not dealt with by the Council and their contractors as promptly or effectively as in the previous years.

The Parish Council were disappointed to hear that the faster Broadband promised by BT has been delayed and will now be included in the County Council Broadband project. The completion date for Kersey, likely to be in 2016, will be confirmed in June 2014.

The Parish Council remains strong, with funds in the bank and we will meet our budget for the year. However, we were disappointed that Babergh District Council changed the tax base, resulting in a higher precept. The Council Tax Band D therefore increased by 12.98%, from £32.89 to £37.16.

I am very grateful to those who regularly come to the Parish Council Meetings and raise questions on behalf of residents. However, as mentioned earlier, I would welcome even more involvement and participation from all members of our community, by either volunteering as a Councillor, or attending meetings.

Attached to this report are two sections. One contains names and contact details of Kersey Parish Councillors and the other a summary of the Kersey Parish Council Precept and Budget.



Councillor John Hume  
Chair, Kersey Parish Council  
April 2014

## Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept

	2013/14	2014/15
	Budget/ Precept 2013/2014	Budget/ Precept 2014/2015
Post/Tel/Stationery	£100.00	£100.00
Allow £100 for copier cartridge	£35.00	£35.00
Clerk's computer/working from home	£110.00	£120.00
Hall Hire:Parish Council 10 @ £5	£50.00	£50.00
Annual Parish Meeting @ £10	£10.00	£10.00
Footpath Group 3 @ £5	£15.00	£15.00
SALC subscription	£154.00	£158.00
Community Action Suffolk subs	£25.00	£30.00
Suffolk Preservation Society subs	£0.00	£0.00
Local Council Review Magazine	£17.00	£0.00
Audit	£100.00	£100.00
<b>Sub total for Admin</b>	<b>£616.00</b>	<b>£618.00</b>
Clerks Salary	£3,515.00	£3,551.00
Training/Meetings	£200.00	£200.00
Street Lighting	£265.00	£265.00
Street Light ILS conversion repayment	£75.00	£75.00
Suffolk ACRE Insurance	£575.00	£590.00
Glebe Insurance	£50.00	£50.00
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£70.00	£80.00
Playground Safety Inspection	£83.00	£85.00
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£41.00	£43.00
Kersey Guide booklet printing	£0.00	£10.00
St Mary's Church	£380.00	£380.00
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	£50.00	£50.00
Contingencies:	£300.00	£300.00
Taxbase fluctuation fund		£152.00
	<b>£6,375.00</b>	<b>£6,604.00</b>

### KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

#### 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, IP 6EL	01473 823188
Giles Hollingworth	Chapel House, Church Hill, Kersey IP7 6DZ	01473 824663
Vacancy		
Vacancy		

#### Clerk:

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

For more information about Kersey Parish Council, including contact information, ordinary meeting dates, agendas and minutes of previous meetings please see the Kersey website [www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk)