

## **Kersey Parish Council - Chair's Report 2021-2022**

This is my ninth annual report. Kersey Parish Council is the first tier of government and aims to represent the best interests of our 360 residents.

Your Councillors are Penny Calnan, Esme Chapman, David Finch, Andrew Rogers (Vice-Chair) and me. Contact details are attached and are on the Kersey Parish Council website.

I regret that Pascoe Gibbons, Philippa Harris and Kevin Pratt resigned during the year. I thank them and the current Councillors for their previous and continuing contributions to our community. From May 2021, Parish Council Meetings have been held in public, in line with government regulations. I thank our District and County Councillors, Leigh Jamieson and Robert Lindsay for their attendance and providing support and advice.

Finances remain strong and well managed with adequate reserves. Estimated spend, excluding KCPC and footpaths, for 2021-22 is £8,900.00 against a budget of £9,633.00. The precept for 2022-23 is £10,080.00. The Parish Council element of Council Tax rates will remain unchanged for 2022-23 and so for a Band D property will be £53.32pa. The Millennium Book Fund was closed on 8.12.2021 and the balance used to help fund the Playground Improvement Project. The Council received a grant from Screen Suffolk of £1,750.00 which will be used to help fund projects such as the Jubilee Street Party.

The Parish Council considered 18 Planning Applications of which 15 were supported. A Planning Inspector turned down the Appeal against the decision by Babergh DC to refuse permission for an application to build houses between Hall Road and Vale Lane.

The Council's website access was improved and compliance with Privacy and Electronic Regulations achieved. Policies were reviewed and amended accordingly. Consultation responses were provided to Babergh and Mid-Suffolk, the National Grid and the Boundary Commission.

Although the Quiet Lanes Project was withdrawn, plans were made for the Jubilee Street Party on June 5, 2022, supported by a successful application to The National Lottery Community Fund. A Nuisance Parking Communication Plan was prepared for implementation. The Bell was successfully registered as a Community Asset. This means that if the current owners wish to sell, until 4.1.2027 it would have to be offered to the Community to purchase. 'Pride in Our Parish' articles were prepared for each Newsletter highlighting current issues.

In Spring 2021, Kersey was the focal point for the filming of 'Magpie Murders'. It caused some minor disruption but brought some excitement and glamour at a difficult time in the COVID pandemic. Among the benefits was a £1,750 grant to the Parish Council and a free showing by the producers of two episodes and a talk by the director and author.

The time spent on governance, regulatory and legal matters inhibits attendance and discourages Councillor candidates. Plans to change how these matters are dealt with should make our meetings more accessible and interesting.

We have two current Councillor vacancies and I urge the next generation to take an active role in our community affairs.

Finally, on behalf of your Parish Council, I thank our Clerk, Sarah Partridge for her organisational flair and knowledge and her ability to keep us on track.

John W Hume  
Chair, Kersey Parish Council  
10 April 2022

## **Kersey Parish Council Contacts**

### **Parish Councillors:**

John Hume (Chair)	Ayres End, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 810098
Andrew Rogers (Vice Chair)	The Gables, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 212242
Penny Calnan	Wickerstreet House, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 210459
Esme Chapman	Carlton House, The Street, Kersey IP7 6DY	07910 170606
David Finch	1 Row Cottage, Priory Hill, Kersey IP7 6DX	07769 612933

There are currently two Parish Councillor vacancies.

Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Chair or Clerk.

### **Clerk & RFO:**

Mrs Sarah Partridge kerseypc@gmail.com	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	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 including a calendar of Kersey community organisation events.

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

The Parish Council has set a budget for 2022/23 and agreed the precept received from Babergh. The Parish Council has approved a precept of £10,080. This means that the Kersey parish element of the council tax for a band D property for 2022/23 has not increase from last year and remains at £53.32.

The Parish Council financial year ends on 31 March, the Parish Council usually approves the year end accounts at the Parish Council meeting in May.

See the Parish Council Finance page on the website for more information.

<https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/parish-council/parish-council-finance/>

Kersey Parish Council budget, precept and actual finance figures are shown on the next page.

## Kersey Parish Council budget, precept and actual finance figures

<b>Parish Council spending</b>	<b>Budget/ Precept Year ending March 2022</b>	<b>Actual to 31 Mar 22</b>	<b>Added to reserves in year</b>	<b>Budget/ Precept year ending March 2023</b>
Admin	£788.00	£702.42	£0.00	£815.00
Clerk's salary & staff costs	£6,230.00	£5,742.01	£0.00	£6,330.00
Training/external meetings	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Street lighting	£300.00	£259.95	£0.00	£540.00
Parish Council insurance	£300.00	£294.28	£0.00	£300.00
Glebe insurance	£50.00	£49.66	£0.00	£55.00
Hedge cut - The Glebe	£80.00	£54.00	£0.00	£85.00
Playground safety inspection	£90.00	£89.50	£0.00	£93.00
St Mary's PCC	£460.00	£460.00	£0.00	£460.00
Defibrillator & VETS	£215.00	£126.00	£89.00	£215.00
Dog bin emptying	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Chairman's allowance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Election costs	£165.00	£0.00	£165.00	£165.00
Church Walk future maintenance	£130.00	£0.00	£130.00	£130.00
Footpath map printing reserve	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00	£75.00
Mowing The Glebe	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00
Contingencies	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£467.00
<b>Precept</b>	<b>£9,533.00</b>	<b>£7,777.82</b>	<b>£709.00</b>	<b>£10,080.00</b>
Agreed spending from reserves	£100.00		£0.00	£100.00
Fixed asset reserve			£1,046.18	
	<b>£9,633.00</b>	<b>£7,777.82</b>	<b>£1,755.18</b>	<b>£10,180.00</b>
Footpath spending	£447.50	£159.62		
Jubilee spending		£281.02		
KCPC spending	£9,067.00	£7,058.34		
<b>Total actual net spend</b>		<b>£15,276.80</b>		
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Actual</b>		
BDC council tax support grant		£164.00		
Bank interest		£2.01		
Filming donations		£1,750.00		
PC precept plus other Income	£9,533.00	£11,449.01		
Footpath Income	£729.18	£752.48		
KCPC income	£1,000.00	£2,293.33		
Millennium book fund income		£2.93		
<b>Total actual net Income</b>		<b>£14,497.75</b>		