

**MINUTES OF KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 13 JULY 2015 IN KERSEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

**PRESENT**

John Hume – Chair, John Maltby, Yvonne Martin, Veronica Partridge, Giles Hollingworth, Iqbal Alam, 9 members of the public and the Clerk – Sarah Partridge. Jenny Antill attended for part of the meeting.

**83/15 APOLOGIES** were received and accepted from Ian Fidell. Alan Ferguson and PCSO Coleman sent their apologies.

**84/15 ACCEPT MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None**

All Councillors had now completed their Registers of Interests.

Following the query raised by Iqbal Alam at the last meeting regarding Declarations of Interest the Clerk had spent some considerable time taking advice from SALC, NALC and the Monitoring Officer at Babergh. The Clerk was correct in the original advice given; as a neighbour, Councillors do have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in a planning application and would have to declare this, take no part in the discussions and leave the meeting room. The sheet presented at the last meeting was just one person's interpretation of the Localism Act and this interpretation is not the view of any advisors. It is up to Councillors to make their own decisions regarding DPI's, the Clerk can give advice but it is just that 'advice'. However, should Councillors go against advice they could be liable to be reported for a breach of the Code of Conduct (anyone can report breaches of the code) and it is likely that if reported Councillors would be found to be in breach of the code in this situation. It should be noted that not declaring a DPI is a criminal offence. It is important that Councillors have read and understood the Code of Conduct including the 7 principles of public office. The reputation of the Council and the public's perception of this should be considered carefully, not declaring a DPI means the decisions made by the Council could be challenged in a court of law and this would not be good for the Council or Councillors involved, far better to declare a DPI and leave the meeting room if there is any doubt.

Iqbal Alam asked for it to be minuted that he did not agree with this clarification. The Chair reminded all Councillors that it was important to protect the integrity of the Council and individual Councillors and suggested they should take note of advice given by the Clerk. A Councillor asked for further guidance on the definition of 'neighbour'.

**85/15 CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS  
RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS – None received**

**86/15 REPORTS** -*The meeting was adjourned to receive reports.*

**a) Police** – PCSO Coleman had sent a report stating that there had been no reported crimes since the meeting on the 11 May.

**b) Suffolk County Councillor** – Jenny Antill gave her report and answered questions from the floor, her report is appended to these minutes.

*Jenny then gave her apologies and left the meeting.*

**c) Babergh District Councillor** – Alan Ferguson had sent a report, which was read by the Clerk and is appended to these minutes.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

**87/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2015 were signed and dated as being correct.

### **88/15 CLERK'S REPORT**

The landowner has given permission for volunteers to cut back the shrubby growth on Cherry Hill; however the Clerk will clarify exactly which areas can be cut back. Giles Hollingworth offered to co-ordinate volunteers to carry out this work. The Clerk attended a networking session at SALC which was a useful event; matters discussed were the new transparency code, Freedom of Information, pre-application planning protocols, Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and the new on-line Register of Interest forms. SALC were also promoting the new Local Council Award Scheme which may be something for the Parish Council to consider, the Clerk will circulate information about the scheme. The new Transparency Code has created a considerable amount more work for the Clerk, more information now needs to be published on-line and to enable this the Clerk has had to spend time remodelling the website and creating new pages. The Clerk has also been in contact with SCC Highways to discuss various highways matters.

### **89/15 CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence for the Parish Council had been circulated to Councillors. Items of note were:

- a) Babergh District Council has designated the Hadleigh Neighbourhood Area under regulation 7 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Hadleigh Town Council will now develop a Neighbourhood Plan working with their local community, key local partners and stakeholders.
- b) An email was received from a visitor to the village who witnessed a lady being injured while walking in the Splash to take a photograph. They were concerned at the slippery nature of The Splash and suggested warning signs might be necessary. The Clerk replied expressing concern for the injured lady but stating that The Splash was a highways rather than a Parish Council responsibility. The Clerk also mentioned that The Parish Council had discussed the slippery nature of The Splash in the past but had concluded that signs should not be necessary and would be an eyesore in such a beautiful and well photographed location. The Splash is a natural hazard, a surface permanently covered by water will always be slippery and anyone walking or cycling through has to use common sense and take an element of personal responsibility. There is a footbridge adjacent to The Splash to allow safe passage across the water, many cyclists already dismount and walk over the footbridge.
- c) The Parish Council had received a copy of a letter sent to Mr Harding expressing opposition to a proposed housing development for Kersey.
- d) The Parish Council had received an email, which has been copied to Babergh, expressing opposition to a proposed housing development for Kersey.
- e) SALC had sent a couple of surveys which the Council discussed and completed. The first survey was about possible proposals SALC are working on, making use of the Sustainable Communities Act, in relation to council finance, and planning. The second survey was asking what the Council felt about the Better Broadband for Suffolk Programme.

### **90/15 FINANCE**

A copy of the accounts to date and a financial statement, showing bank balances and expenditure for approval were tabled by the Clerk; these are appended to the minutes. Payments were all approved. Councillors then reviewed actual spending against the budget, sheet appended to the minutes. It was confirmed that Giles Hollingworth had verified and signed bank reconciliations, these have been completed to date and all is in order.

Natalie Blyth carried out her year-end internal audit on 22 May; her report was circulated to Councillors. Everything was found to be in order and Natalie completed the internal audit section of the external audit papers. BDO the external auditor has just written to say that they have concluded the audit and the annual return was approved. BDO found that there were no matters which came to their attention which required the issue of a separate additional issues arising report. The annual return and conclusion of audit notice is being displayed on the noticeboard. Unfortunately due to the insurance claim for the slide this additional income and expenditure caused the Parish Council to fall into the chargeable bracket for external audit; a fee of £100 plus VAT. £100 has been transferred from contingencies to cover this in the budget. *Power: Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003*

## **91/15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

B/15/00036/FHA Elm Lodge, Wickerstreet Green – Erection of cart lodge with storage/office over (existing barn and woodshed to be demolished). Babergh has granted permission for this application. B/14/01635/FUL & B/14/01636/LBC Rushes Farm, Hadleigh Road – Listed building consent and full permission for change of use and conversion of two barns to holiday lettings; erection of dwelling including workspace accommodation (following demolition of existing agricultural building); dismantling and relocation of barn to north of holding for continued agricultural use together with associated hard and soft landscaping works. Babergh has granted permission for these applications. B/15/00735/ROC Supreme Petfoods Ltd, Stone Street Farm, Stone Street, Hadleigh – Application under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) to vary conditions attached to planning permission B/09/01402 – Variation of conditions 1 and 6, to allow operating hours in the hay and straw building to be without interruption from 7am on Mondays to 2pm on Saturdays. Councillors discussed this application, in particular the possibility of noise disturbance. Councillors agreed they were happy to support this application because suitable noise reduction actions are and have been taken.

B/15/00730/FHA & B/15/00731/LBC Red House Farm, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey – Application for full and Listed Building consent – Erection of two storey rear extension and associated remodelling to rear elevation (following demolition of existing single storey rear extension) insertion of 2 additional window openings to match existing and minor internal layout alterations.

B/15/00739/FHA & B/15/00740/LBC Red House Farm, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey – Application for full and Listed Building consent – Erection of outbuilding/barn. *The meeting was adjourned to hear comments from the public.* The applicant was present who said they wished to restore the existing house and add an extension and to demolish one outbuilding which is beyond repair and to replace it with a traditional style barn. They will also be restoring other outbuildings on the site. There were no other comments from the public. *The meeting was reconvened.*

Most Councillors had been on a site visit to gain a better understanding of the proposals. Councillors looked at the plans and documentation relating to these applications and discussed the proposals. Councillors agreed to fully support all four applications for Red House Farm.

Councillors then discussed viewing planning applications including plans and documents on-line on the Babergh website. This site seems to be very unreliable, sometimes documents are not available for viewing and the quality of some drawings is very poor. Councillors found it difficult to view documents due to their size and the slow speed of the internet in Kersey, sometimes documents fail to load. It was agreed the Clerk should write to Babergh to outline these concerns and to suggest that e-planning should not be introduced until all these concerns have been addressed. The Parish Council will still require paper documentation for all applications until Kersey has fast broadband so documents can be easily and quickly viewed.

## **92/15 KCPC WORKING GROUP**

Jonathan Marsh had sent a report to the Clerk stating that the Working Group met in The Bell on 20 May attended by three members. A provisional date for the Quiz Night is Saturday the 14 November subject to confirmation and notice in the Parish Magazine and availability of the Village Hall. The grass cutting rota seems to be working well. Mark Pertwee has been asked to order some new weed killer. Pascoe Gibbons carried out the quarterly inspection in June with no new problems uncovered. He had noticed little activity on the fitness equipment. The cricket net has had greater use this year, though the boarding now needs to be mended. Rabbits and moles continue to push dirt on to the wicket, but it has been swept on an irregular basis to keep it clean. As far as major expenditure is concerned, KCPC are looking for an external contractor to refurbish the bark area and boards. No progress has been made on quotes to date. The mower will be serviced at the end of the summer for the new season next year. KCPC are looking for new committee members/grass cutters and Linda Newbigging had circulated a letter around the school to see if there were any volunteers - Work in progress.

### **93/15 FOOTPATH WORKING GROUP**

John Maltby reported that The Footpath Working Group had met on 16 June. Generally the footpath network is walkable. The Clerk had received a criticism about an overgrown path in Wickerstreet Green, however, when the complainant heard that the footpath network was managed by a team of volunteers he said he would consider joining the working group and would contact the Council again. The stock of footpath maps is running very low so Councillors discussed the options for getting some more maps printed. The current map is accurate and does not need to be updated. The map will be printed by SCC who will share the printing costs 50:50. The Clerk had enquired about advertising sponsorship to reduce the cost to the Parish Council; adverts are not usually included because they tend to go out of date before the leaflets are used up and there would be an additional design charge which would not prove cost effective in this case. It was agreed to ask for a print run of 3,000 maps at a total cost of £273, making the cost to Kersey £136.50. There is £100 in the footpath map printing reserve and another £75 in the budget for this year so enough to cover the cost of printing. *Power: LGA 1972 s142 (the provision of information).*

### **94/15 TO DISCUSS PROGRESS WITH THE PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE FOOTPATH LINKS BETWEEN THE CENTRE OF THE VILLAGE AND VALE LANE INCLUDING THE PROPOSED JUBILEE STEPS**

Giles Hollingworth and the Clerk had been discussing this project with highways officers at SCC and making a very small amount of progress with the proposals for Jubilee Steps but there are still lots of unanswered questions. Finding a solution for a safe pedestrian route from Vale Lane to the entrance to Church Walk had not yet been considered in detail. Concerns were expressed about the danger to children and adults who walk around the corner, particularly when cars are parked dangerously on the corner. A question was asked about whether the police had visited the area at school time recently; the Clerk will discuss this with PCSO Coleman. The grass on the verge around the Vicarage corner and near the church lychgate and down the footpath into the village is being mown by Mr Norman. Councillors are very grateful to Mr Norman for doing this work voluntarily, it is nice to see residents making a contribution to the community; the Clerk will write to thank him. It was mentioned again that one solution to the parking problems would be a new parking area somewhere near the school. The Clerk was asked to talk to the School about possible options.

### **95/15 TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF REMOVING ONE OF THE TELEGRAPH POLES NEAR THE SPLASH**

The Clerk gave an update on this situation. It appears that at some point BT have erected a new pole and transferred their equipment across just leaving our street light on the old pole. It is disappointing that BT did not contact the Parish Council or SCC before moving their equipment. There are other poles in the village with BT equipment and street lights attached. The Parish Council needs to consider if a light is necessary at this location. Councillors felt there should be a light near The Splash. Therefore, the best outcome for this situation would be for BT to allow us to transfer our street light to their new pole. While doing this it would probably be cost effective to fit a new LED low maintenance and low energy cost lantern (approx. £550) since the existing lantern is quite old. The power supply would also need to be transferred (approx. £500). The other option is for the Parish council to purchase a column for the street light but costs vary enormously due to local conditions but could be £2,000 just for the column plus other costs as already mentioned. John Hume said he had a contact at BT and would discuss the situation with them to see if there could be another solution. It was also agreed to discuss the situation with the property owners adjacent to the poles.

### **96/15 TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ADOPTING THE TELEPHONE KIOSK**

Usage of the payphone has been very low. In 2010 there were no paid for calls, 2 free calls and 2 emergency calls. Since July 2013 there has been 1 free call made to an 0800 number. Councillors discussed whether there was a need for a working public phone but agreed that since usage was so low it was probably no longer necessary. The box is a K6 box and is available for adoption from BT at a

cost of £1. However, there are cost implications for the Parish Council should they wish to take ownership of the kiosk so it can be retained in the village. BT can continue to supply the power free of charge on our behalf, but reserves the right to disconnect the electricity supply after consulting the Parish Council. The Kiosk would need to be insured and may need to be lit at night. Public liability for the kiosk would be automatically covered but premiums for damage vary depending on the value the Parish Council wish to put on the kiosk. The Parish Council would also be responsible for maintenance of the kiosk and would need to find a use for it. Councillors did not have any particular ideas for its use so agreed a note should be put in the next newsletter asking for ideas from residents.

### **97/15 REVIEW PARISH COUNCIL ASSETS, INCLUDING REPORT ON PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF ASSETS AND INSURANCE COVER, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF FIDELITY GUARANTEE**

Councillors all had a copy of the fixed asset register, copy appended. All the assets had been inspected and everything was found to be in order, insurance cover is appropriate. One or two items are beginning to show their age but are OK at the moment. The Parish Council has £25,000 fidelity guarantee cover which is appropriate since current funds at the bank are approx. £20,000.

*One member of the public left the meeting.*

### **98/5 TRAINING**

Information about training courses is regularly circulated to all Councillors.

A whole Council training session has been organised for Monday 10 August in the village hall. This will cover the role of the Councillor and public office, the role of the Council, RFO, Clerk, Chairman, Suffolk Code of Conduct and an insight into planning. The total cost of this course will be £110. It was agreed the session should start at 6pm. *Power: LGA 1972 s112 and LGA 1972 s145*

### **99/15 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS**

SALC/Babergh Area meeting - John Maltby had been unable to attend this since there was an extraordinary Parish Council meeting the same evening. SALC had sent an update from the meeting; the speaker was from the Babergh planning department and spoke about the new Local Plan, sustainable development and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). At the meeting questions were asked about the appropriate location of large scale housing developments near Sudbury, Hadleigh and Ipswich Fringe and the topic of CIL and how this should benefit communities. During the meeting there was a discussion about precept referendums and the wish in Suffolk for the removal of the precept referendum provision from the Localism Act. The latest indication is that Government might agree a 5 year agreement on precept referendums. If this goes ahead it would mean that all smaller councils would know that Government would not introduce precept referendums for the remainder of its term, which would be helpful when budgeting.

Babergh Parish Liaison meeting – the Clerk had attended this meeting and read her report, which is appended to these minutes.

### **100/15 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

SALC/Babergh Area meeting 7 September, 7pm John Maltby will attend.

Footpath Working Group meeting 22 September, 7.30pm The Bell.

### **101/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The idea of introducing a 20mph speed limit on the roads near the school at the top of Mill Lane was put forward. It is the belief that introducing a 20mph limit or having ‘20’s plenty’ signs may prevent an accident. It was then suggested that traffic, parking, footpaths and road safety are regular topics the Parish Council discuss and perhaps the whole situation needs to be considered as one. The Clerk will enquire about the new rules for 20 mph speed limits and add this item to the next agenda. It was also agreed that wider consultation in the parish would be needed.

Following discussion concerning Little Manor, the Clerk was asked to contact the Babergh Planning Officer to clarify whether the tiles and the colour of the weatherboarding of the extensions and the style of the new wall beside the road were as specified in the application.

It was asked if a new page could be added to the Parish Council section of the Kersey website with information about planning, including a link to the Babergh website planning pages. The Clerk said this was something she had considered and would do this when time allowed.

*The meeting was adjourned for 'Parish Time'*

Concern was raised that another property in Kersey had recently been sold as a holiday home, it was suggested that this is not good for the Kersey community.

The gulley opposite The Old Vicarage is still blocked by leaves and debris which would cause a drainage problem if it was not cleared, highways would be informed.

A number of potholes were mentioned – outside 6 Vale Lane and near the oak tree triangle on Vale Lane, in fact the whole lane is getting in a poor condition. Despite some work being carried out there are still potholes on the Bildeston road and new ones will appear at the dip in the road because the drainage problem has not been fixed and the road will flood again in wet weather.

It was asked if the grass under the timber village sign could be mown, Giles Hollingworth agreed to do this. It was also asked if the grass on the Bildeston road corner near the bench and bin could be mown, John Maltby offered to do this with the footpath mower.

The over grown hedge next to the footpath up the hill from the pump towards The Priory was mentioned. The Clerk will contact the owner.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.07 pm.

Appended to these minutes are 12 sheets:

- SCC report from Jenny Antill (2 sheets)
- Babergh report from Alan Ferguson (2 sheets)
- Kersey Parish Council Receipts and Payments to date (2 sheets)
- Kersey Parish Council Finance sheet for 13 July 2015
- Kersey Parish Council budget comparison to 31 March 2016
- Kersey Parish Council Fixed Asset Register (3 sheets)
- Report from Babergh Parish Liaison meeting on 11 June 2015

## **Report to Kersey Parish Council. 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

### **Finance**

The newly formed Cabinet has not really done a great deal to address the budget gap since it was formed in May. We wait with interest to find out where necessary savings will be found. The administration has however committed £5m extra from the Capital Budget to build a new 'heritage facility' in Ipswich to accommodate material from the Records Office. This, which is currently in Bury St Edmunds, is now very old and is running out of space. The new 'iconic building' will be jointly developed with University College Suffolk, will be on the waterfront and will include café and shop facilities.

The Cabinet has also agreed to spend an additional £800,000 from the Capital Budget on improvements to the Corn Hill in Ipswich and a similar amount from the revenue budget to support the Raising the Bar initiative.

### **Fire Service issues**

SCC's Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) started a 4-week pre-consultation on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, which is running until 24<sup>th</sup> July. SCC is calling on people to have a say in helping to shape the future of the Service.

How can you get involved: email [FireServiceRedesign@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:FireServiceRedesign@suffolk.gov.uk) ; call the Fire and Rescue Service on 01473 260588 between 9am and 5pm (Monday to Thursday and 4pm on Fridays); or send a letter to Service Redesign Programme Manager, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service HQ 8, Russell Rd, Ipswich, IP1 2BX. To ensure views are taken into account they should be received no later than 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The pre-consultation booklet and related information can be found on the Service's webpage: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/emergency-and-rescue/fire-service-redesign/>

### **Recruitment**

The fire service is currently seeking to recruit more on call firefighters.

I appreciate that Kersey is too far from a fire station for residents to qualify, you may well know someone working or living elsewhere in the county who would be interested. For further information call 01473 260588 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm).

### **Scamnesty in Suffolk**

Every year, more than three million people in the UK fall victim to scams, losing hundreds and sometimes thousands of pounds to fraudsters.

To raise awareness of this increasing problem Suffolk Trading Standards, in partnership with BBC Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy Show, is launching Scamnesty; a month long initiative that encourages people to report potential scams and help prevent others from falling victim.

Throughout July, Scamnesty bins will be placed all across the county; here people can discard any suspicious letters/leaflets/mail they suspect may be fraudulent. Everything

placed into the bins will be analysed and the information shared with Trading Standards and partner enforcement agencies in the UK.

Look out for the bins at libraries, council buildings and Citizen's Advice Bureaux. A full list of locations can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/scamnesty](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/scamnesty) The closest bin to Kersey is at Hadleigh library.

### **Garden Waste..**

Currently Suffolk County Council subsidises the District Councils in respect of their brown bin deliveries. As part of our cost cutting measures it has been decided to take the level of this subsidy down to the statutory level. This is obviously not very popular with the Districts some of whom, but not Babergh, offer the brown bin service free to residents. It remains to be seen whether as a result of this measure Babergh will choose to increase charges or absorb the increase within their own budget.

### **Kersey.**

On the whole all has been quiet from Kersey.

### **Broadband**

I am now part of a group that includes members from particularly remote areas in the county. The aim is to try to keep up to date with regard to where the Suffolk high speed broadband has got to, and also to monitor the progress of mobile reception. I recently wrote a piece for my website about the current situation and will continue to post updates. The short version is that a lot more information will be available for those without high speed broadband before the end of the year. Most of Kersey is in this position. The commitment to provide at least 2 mps to anyone who cannot achieve this stands and further details of how to apply will also be available by the end of the year.

Jenny Antill

July 2015



**REPORT TO KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015**  
**ALAN FERGUSON (DISTRICT COUNCILLOR FOR SOUTH COSFORD)**

**Introduction**

I apologise for not being able to join you for the Parish Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July, but we are away walking in the Yorkshire Dales for the week. You will begin to think that we are always on holiday – not so I assure you!

**The New Council**

As expected the pace of change in Babergh has accelerated since we moved to a Conservative majority. I am reasonably well placed to keep abreast of what's going on as I have been appointed to three Committees/Boards:

1. The Strategy Committee for Babergh District Council.
2. The Economy Programme Steering Board for Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils.
3. The Shared Revenues Partnership Board – Ipswich, Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Not to mention the number of Planning Committee Meetings that now seem to require my presence every Wednesday when South Cosford Ward applications are considered. So far in that context we are “doing OK”.

**The Interesting Updates**

**1. Devolution:**

You will have read in the papers that Devolution of responsibility and accountability for local government matters is high on the Party agenda. In Babergh and the whole of Suffolk, the process of seeking a devolved arrangement is running at full throttle with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive involved. At this stage there are many more questions than answers although the Government is keen to move the process forward as soon as possible. At this juncture it's probably important to stress that devolution will be rolled out to the lowest level possible, but it has to be accompanied by a process of financial probity and governance to ensure that adequate structures are in place to make the new arrangements under a local deal properly accountable. For example, whilst it hasn't yet been discussed amongst potential partners in Suffolk, I can't see that “Planning” decisions will be devolved to Parish Councils – that is likely to be inappropriate under probity requirements. However, I feel sure that there are many other aspects of devolution to District and Parish Councils that can be delegated with confidence and I am assured that Babergh will ensure that constituents are briefed as fully as possible when the picture begins to become more clear.

**2. Council Office Location**

Again, as mentioned in my last report, work has proceeded to consider the best option for locating Babergh & Mid-Suffolk District Councils now that back office processes have been closely aligned. A number of options have been considered but we are a long way off taking any decision and it's important to ensure that decisions of this nature are “joined up” for the other pieces of the jigsaw. Whatever, I can't see that 2 locations (Hadleigh & Needham Market) will remain for more than a couple of years – personal opinion. Whatever, the plan will ensure that local people are provided with a service close to their homes irrespective of where the eventual home of Babergh/Mid Suffolk District Councils.

**3. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

You have been advised that the introduction of CIL is a matter of “when” and not “if”. I am advised that the final report with recommendations etc is likely to be issued in September 15. Then we should know when the new collection process will be implemented. As an aside, S106 will still not disappear entirely as they will remain relevant for example, at Strategic sites. However, to all intents & purposes CIL will become our source of funding at a level that should not decrease from current allocations. Again, still much water to go under the bridge and additional briefings will be offered to ensure that all Parishes are appraised of the detailed new arrangements.

**4. IT Support to Babergh and Mid-Suffolk**

The alignment of Babergh and Mid Suffolk IT has been challenging. However, most aspects of the new IT systems are in place, albeit at a higher cost than anticipated, and we are using a common IT support system as Suffolk County Council. They can actually speak to each other! Irrespective of the way forward for the Districts etc, this is an encouraging development that offers the potential for even further efficient shared services at least cost in a scenario of reduced grants from Central Government.

## **5. Planning Applications**

As you are only too well aware, and as I mentioned in my last report, planning applications can lead to difficult splits in villages. I need hardly remind Parish Councils that there is a need for additional housing in Suffolk (of all sorts) but it is also clear that the need should be put in context ie “right location and right type” for that location. I am now in the Babergh loop for notification of planning applications across the Ward, but for me to take an objective view on applications in Kersey and to give you appropriate advise/support it will still be helpful if I am given a “heads up” as soon as the Parish Council becomes aware of those more contentious applications. I hope that you will appreciate that I cannot pre-judge, but for me, “location and style” will always be important factors to be considered.

### **The Future**

Clearly there will be many and varied issues to be considered as Babergh moves forward with its Conservative majority. It is still very early days but the work by Councillors and by Council Officers at Babergh and Mid-Suffolk is moving a pace. I assure you that I will consult with and keep you in the picture as much as I possibly can.

## ***Alan Ferguson***

PS I have 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in the diary for the next meeting of the Kersey Parish Council





**KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL  
FINANCE**

**Details for Parish Council Meeting, 13 July 2015**

**Bank Balances At 30 June 2015**

Business Saver Account	£15,846.61
Current Account	<u>£1,041.29</u>
	£16,887.90

**Payments made since the last meeting**

Chq no.  
None

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**Payments Due**

<u>Chq no.</u>		
101052	Babergh District Council - non contested election charge	£87.50
101053	SALC- Clerk's Networking	£18.00
101054	BDO LLP - External audit	£120.00
101055	S Partridge - Clerk's Salary	£961.87
101056	S Partridge - Clerk's home working expenses	£39.00
101057	S Partridge - Clerk's expenses	£18.44
101058	Kersey Playing Field Assoc - Glebe insurance	<u>£37.77</u>
		£1,282.58

Expenditure Agreed .....

Prepared by the Clerk for Kersey Parish Council

**KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Budget to 31 Mar 2016 and Precept for 2016/2017**

Printed on 06/08/2015

	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	
	Budget/ Precept 2015/2016	Actual to 30 June 2015	Estimated balance to 31 March 2016	Estimated total to 31 March 2016	Estimated Budget/ Precept 2016/2017	Notes:
Post/Tel/Stationery	£100.00		£100.00	£100.00		
Allow £70.00 for copier cartridge	£35.00		£35.00	£35.00		Biannual replacement usually sufficient, put 50% in each year
Clerk's computer/working from home	£156.00		£156.00	£156.00		£3/week agreed in May 2014 & confirmed at appraisal & review in Nov 14
Hall Hire:Parish Council 10 @ £5	£50.00		£50.00	£50.00		
Annual Parish Meeting @ £10	£10.00		£10.00	£10.00		
SALC subscription	£162.00	£162.00	£0.00	£162.00		
Community Action Suffolk subs	£30.00	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00		
Audit	£0.00		£100.00	£100.00		14/15 to 16/17 no fee if income/exp below £10,000 <b>15/16 £100 from contingency</b>
ICO Data Protection registration	£35.00		£35.00	£35.00		15/16 investigate and clarify need to register
<b>Sub total for Admin</b>	<b>£578.00</b>	<b>£192.00</b>	<b>£486.00</b>	<b>£678.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	
Clerks Salary	£3,845.00		£3,845.00	£3,845.00		15/16 SCP27 £12.317/hour
Training/External Meetings	£250.00		£250.00	£250.00		Cllr £108 Chair £100 Clerk netwk x2 £20+mileage, others£25? <b>15/16 + £200 from last yr budget</b>
Street Lighting	£210.00		£210.00	£210.00		
CAS Suffolk Insurance	£480.00		£480.00	£480.00		3 year long term undertaking from Oct 2014
Glebe Insurance	£50.00		£50.00	£50.00		
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£83.00		£83.00	£83.00		
Playground Safety Inspection	£85.00		£85.00	£85.00		
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£43.00		£43.00	£43.00		
St Mary's Church	£400.00		£400.00	£400.00		15/16 split £245 Churchyd £110 Nletter £45 Clock (last increased Nov 2014)
Chairman's Allowance	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00		If there is a surplus at year end charitable donations could be considered
Election costs	£25.00		£25.00	£25.00		Routine elections every 4 years, next due May 2015
Church Walk future maintenance	£130.00		£130.00	£130.00		
Footpath Map printing reserve	£75.00		£75.00	£75.00		Build up reserve for reprint £75/year (approx 1,000 maps/yr)
Contingencies:	£300.00		£300.00	£300.00		<b>15/16 £100 to audit budget</b>
Tax base fluctuation allowance	£146.00		£146.00	£146.00		Introduced to protect the PC from having to increase council tax due to tax base changes.
	£6,700.00	£192.00	£6,608.00	£6,800.00	£0.00	In recent years changes to the way tax bases are calculated has impacted council tax with the potential of precept capping it was felt best to keep council tax at the same level
Agreed spending from reserves:						
	<b>£6,700.00</b>	<b>£192.00</b>	<b>£6,608.00</b>	<b>£6,800.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>Precept for 2015/16 £6,700 plus a Council Tax Support Grant from Babergh £86.17</b>
						<b>Tax Base 180.31 = £37.16 for a band D property</b>
				<b>Estimated</b>		
				<b>at 31.3.16</b>		
<b>Reserves (Cash at Bank)</b>	<b>As at 1.4.15</b>					
Footpath Working Group	£1,250.43					Precept for 2014/15 £6604 plus a Council Tax support grant from Babergh £129.25
KCPC Working Group (Ring fenced)	£4,025.71					Tax Base 177.72 = £37.16 for a Band D property
Jubilee Steps Working Group	£771.56					
Election provision	£850.00					Precept for 2013/14 £6375.00 plus CTax support grant £471
Church Walk Maintenance Fund	£1,170.00					Tax Base 171.55 = £37.16 for a Band D property
Admin photocopier reserve	£0.00					
Footpath Map printing reserve	£100.00					Precept confirmed for 2012/13 £6151
Fixed Asset Reserve	£300.00					Tax Base 187.00 = £32.89 for a Band D property
Council Tax Support grant money	£600.25					
General Parish Council Reserve	£4,573.84					
	<b>£13,641.79</b>					
						Precept agreed for 2011/12 £5930
						Tax Base 183.96 = £32.23 for a Band D property
Reserves should be between 3-12 months gross expenditure (£1,600 to £6,400)						

<b>Estimated PC Income 2015/16</b>
Precept £6,700 rec'd £3350 April
Babergh Tax grant £86.17 rec'd
VAT repayment £1,003.61
Bank Interest £5
<b>Total £7794.78</b>

Last amended July 2015

## KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL FIXED ASSET REGISTER

Date of Acquisition	Acquisition Cost	Description	Replacement/ Reinstatement Cost	Location	Additional Details (including disposal)
Jan-95	£2,030.00	Embankment Slide (2.5m high 6.55m long) Castle and Ramp	£5,500.00	Playground, The Glebe, Hall Rd	Remodelled July 2011 by Norfolk Games & Frames. Slide now incorporated into a castle with a timber ramp to climb up. Following damage by fallen tree, insurance claim, slide replaced and fort repaired by NGF May 2014
Jul-11	£3,000.00	slide remodel (castle & ramp)			
Jul-11	£950.00	Seal See-Saw	£1,000.00	Playground, The Glebe, Hall Rd	Supplied & installed by Norfolk Games & Frames
Jan-95	£1,650.00	Adventure Trail - Balance Beam, Tram Tacks, Swinging Steps and Log Walk	£1,975.00	Playground, The Glebe, Hall Rd	
Jan-95		Spring Rooster		DISPOSED OF MAY 2014	Removed as broken May 2014 original acquisition value £590.
Jan-95	£950.00	Junior Swing (1 flat, 1 cradle seat)	£1,526.00	Playground, The Glebe, Hall Rd	Swing seats & chains replaced July 2011 Timber swing frame replaced May 2014 by Norfolk Games & Frames
Jan-95	£1,110.00	Mini Playframe	£2,650.00	Playground, The Glebe, Hall Rd	Remodelled July 2011 by Norfolk Games & Frames. Scramble net replaced with timber climbing wall.
	£20.00	Metal rubbish bin with lid	£0.00	Playground, The Glebe, Hall Rd	
May-07	£100.00	Mower Hutch	£150.00	KCPC (The Haven)	
		<i>Playground total</i>	<u>£12,801.00</u>		
Jul-11	£320.00	Timber Exercise Bench (2m long)	£320.00	The Glebe, Hall Road	Supplied & installed by Norfolk Games & Frames (For insurance just an asset in same way as a bench, no playground equipment liability)
Jun-11	£937.00	Air Skier	£935.00	The Glebe, Hall Road	Supplied & installed by Fresh Air Fitness
Jun-11	£1,262.00	Self Weighted Rower	£1,260.00	The Glebe, Hall Road	Supplied & installed by Fresh Air Fitness
Jun-11	£1,207.00	Elliptical X Trainer	£1,205.00	The Glebe, Hall Road	Supplied & installed by Fresh Air Fitness
		<i>Outdoor Fitness Equipment total</i>	<u>£3,720.00</u>		
Dec-08	£4,460.00	Cricket practice net	<u>£2,000.00</u>	The Glebe, Hall Road	
1997	£220.00	Street Lamp No6 SONI50-SG	£215.00	Top of The Street next to Pump	All street light brackets mounted on electricity/BT poles.
	£200.00	Street Lamp No1 SON50-SG	£215.00	The Street outside Cresslands	All street lights maintained under a contract by SCC
	£200.00	Street Lamp No2 SONI50-SG	£215.00	Church Hill half way up the hill	
	£200.00	Street Lamp No3 PL-TX42-HF	£215.00	Outside Vicarage, Church Hill	
	£200.00	Street Lamp No5 SONI50-SG	£215.00	Vale Lane outside No 9	
Jun-04	£323.00	Street Lamp No7 PL-T42-HF	£215.00	Vale Lane outside No 2	
1995	£80.00	Large Noticeboard	£180.00	The Splash	Made by Bryn Hurren. Oak, 1/2 open 1/2 glass lockable door
Dec-00	£85.00	Large Noticeboard	£180.00	The Forge	Made by Bryn Hurren. Oak, 1/2 open 1/2 glass lockable door
1995	£15.00	Wooden Noticeboard	£0.00	Next to Telephone Box	Made by Bryn Hurren. Small open noticeboard fixed to single post
1995	£15.00	Wooden Noticeboard	£0.00	Vale Lane	Made by Bryn Hurren. Small open noticeboard fixed to single post
1995	£15.00	Wooden Noticeboard	£0.00	Wickerstreet Green	Made by Bryn Hurren. Small open noticeboard fixed to single post
1995	£15.00	Wooden Noticeboard	£0.00	The Tye	Made by Bryn Hurren. Small open noticeboard fixed to single post

Last amended July 2015

## KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL FIXED ASSET REGISTER

Date of Acquisition	Acquisition Cost	Description	Replacement/ Reinstatement Cost	Location	Additional Details (including disposal)
Nov-01	£86.00	Wooden Bench Seat (34"55"34")	£120.00	Bildeston Road Corner	Bench with no back in 3 sections, made by Bryn Hurren
	£348.00	Metal Bench (98" long)	£400.00	Outside Priory Cottage	
1992	£300.00	Wooden Bench (65" long)	£400.00	Top of The Street next to Pump	Made by Bryn Hurren. 'KERSEY' carved in back rail and brass plate 'In Memoriam Richard B Kersey 13 July 1915 - 17 April 1989 Muriel Kersey 18 June 1913 - 31 May 1993'
1997	£310.00	Wooden Bench (71" long)	£400.00	The Splash	Brass plate 'Village of the Year Competition 1997'
Dec-09	£358.00	Wooden Bench (68" long)	£400.00	Church Hill next to village sign	Made by Bryn Hurren. Plaque 'Donated by Lewis Mowles Trust 2009'
Sep-08	£348.00	Wooden Bench (70" long)	£400.00	At the top of Church Walk outside Church Lych Gate	Made by Bryn Hurren. Plaque 'Donated by Lewis Mowles Trust 2009'
1993 & Oct 09	£705.00	Wooden Seat around Oak Tree (bench sections each 40" long)	£1,500.00	Vale Lane Triangle	6 sided bench with back rests around the tree. Plaque 'Donated by Lewis Mowles Trust 1993'. Repaired & enlarged 2009
Feb-07	£635.00	Wooden Top seat on white brick base (52" long)	£250.00	Vale Lane Triangle	Rebuilt by Mark Mansfield Feb 07. Cast metal plaque 'Commemoration of the Coronation of King George VI May 12 1937' Timber top replaced Dec 11
1995	£300.00	Wooden Bench (64" long)	£400.00	Children's Playground, Glebe	Made by Bryn Hurren. '19 KERSEY 95' carved in back rail.
	£795.00	Village Pump	£795.00	Top of The Street	Cast Iron water pump workings (probably Victorian) covered by oak shuttering. Tony Farnish replaced timber frame and shuttering & hand rail Sept 2007.
1987	£2,500.00	Village Sign	£2,500.00	Church Hill	Made by Phil Darby (gifted to PC). Decorative carved Oak sign, box section top on solid post. Oak carved plaque added Sept 2003 'Designed and Made by Phil Darby 1 Nov 1917 - 12 Nov 2002'. Brick plinth constructed around the base April 2012. Oak weatherboard top with lead strip replaced by Bryn Hurren July 2013
	£1,000.00	8 Oak Bollards surrounded by Granite Sett paving	£1,000.00	Church Hill	Oak bollards replaced and Granite Setts repaired by Tony Farnish June 2006.
2004	£100.00	Metal Plaque	£0.00	Oak Tree at Williams Green	Cast metal plaque on stand.'Commemoration of the Coronation of King George VI May 12 1937' (gifted to PC)
Nov-10	£0.00	Oak Street Sign 'Kedges Lane'	£0.00	Entrance to Kedges Lane, fixed to wall outside Kedges End	Made by John Maltby (gifted to PC)
2003	£80.00	Oak Street Sign 'The Street'	£0.00	The Street, fixed to wall outside Cresslands	Made by John Maltby (gifted to PC)
2003	£80.00	Oak Street Sign 'Church Hill'	£0.00	Church Hill, fixed to wall outside The Pottery	Made by John Maltby (gifted to PC)
2008	£50.00	Street Signs x 2 'Cyclists please Dismount')	£0.00	Fixed to either side of the foot bridge over the Splash	Made by John Maltby (gifted to PC)
Mar-08	£53.00	Metal Litter Bin	£53.00	Wall mounted near The Splash	
May-09	£144.00	Dog Litter Bin	£144.00	Post Mounted in Kedges Lane	
	£50.00	Wooden/metal Litter Bin	£0.00	Bildeston Road corner	
Oct-13	£15.00	Timber grit box with lid	£0.00	Vale Lane	Box constructed for PC by Giles Hollingworth
		<i>Miscellaneous total</i>	<u>£10,412.00</u>		



Last amended July 2015

## KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL FIXED ASSET REGISTER

Date of Acquisition	Acquisition Cost	Description	Replacement/Reinstatement Cost	Location	Additional Details (including disposal)
1995	£260.00	Strimmer	£220.00	Footpath Working Group - JM	Zenoah Komatsu G23L
1998	£800.00	Grass Cutter	£100.00	Footpath Working Group - JM	Tecumseh engine, manual start DR VECTOR XL/C
Jul-07	£520.00	Grass Cutter	£600.00	Footpath Working Group - JM	Briggs and Stratton engine, electric start DRT TRM O55E Code No 93301
Mar-06		KCPC Lawnmower		DISPOSED OF JUNE 2013	Original acquisition cost £160 Disposed of June 2013 - Sold to I Fidell £20
Apr-13	£510.00	KCPC Lawnmower	£425.00	KCPC - Mower hutch	Husqvarna R153SV Mower, PNC 953 876 509 Serial No 0350
		<i>Mower totals</i>	<u>£1,345.00</u>		
Dec-01	£250.00	Canon FC224 Photocopier	£250.00	Clerk's Office (Inc in std cover)	Serial Number UUE 13142
	<u>£30,161.00</u>	<b>Total Acquisition Value</b>			

### Total replacement/reinstatement value of assets owned by Kersey Parish Council

Children's Playground	£12,801.00
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	£3,720.00
Cricket Net	£2,000.00
Miscellaneous Assets	£10,412.00
	<u>£28,933.00</u>
Mowers/Strimmers	£1,345.00
Office Equipment	£250.00
<b>Total Current Value of PC Assets</b>	<b>£30,528.00</b>

Oct-09	2 x Table Tennis Tables	£460.00	Kersey Village Hall	2 x Blue Indoor Butterfly Compact tables <b>owned by Kersey TT Club</b> insured by PC acquisition cost £400
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### Breakdown for Insurance

General PC assets	£28,933.00	Office equipment not included since it is included in standard cover
Tabel Tennis Tables	£460.00	
	<u>£29,393.00</u>	
Mowers & strimmers	£1,345.00	

March 2011 Acquisition values recorded for all assets following change in audit requirements  
 Valuations reviewed by Parish Council July 2015, Minute reference 97/15

Note: Due to the excess on insurance policy it was agreed (July 12 Min 85/12) to place a £0 insurance value for some items with a low value. The items are on the register so still covered by public liability.

## **Report from Babergh Parish Liaison Meeting 11 June 2015**

Jonathan Free opened by giving a brief update about the Better Broadband for Suffolk project. So far BT is on target to complete the 85% fiberoptic coverage this summer. To access the higher broadband speeds households will have to contact their service provider and move on to a new tariff. As take up of the fiberoptic service increases this will release further funding to reinvest in the project to help increase coverage above the planned 95%. They are trying a variety of alternative technology to help increase coverage, Babergh and SCC are keen to work with BT to increase coverage to all households if possible but they do not have unlimited funds. In September an updated map showing the next phase of rollout will be released. Those households not able to access 2mb will be able to apply for a satellite service at discounted rates which will be charged based on download usage.

Babergh are carrying out a review of sports and leisure facilities in the District. A company is carrying out a review of what facilities there are across the district, assessing out what is needed and then make recommendations for how Babergh can achieve this. As well as surveying all parishes/town councils and taking feedback from the parish liaison event they are also talking to national bodies and sports clubs.

Bron Curtis, a Babergh officer then gave an update about the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and how this will take over from section 106 contributions following new developments. A portion of the CIL will be passed to parishes who can either spend the money in their own parish or could work together with other parishes or their functional cluster to provide better facilities which would benefit the parish ie health, education or transport services. Parishes will be accountable for how the money is spent and will have to feedback to Babergh on a regular basis. The average 3 bed house will generate between £7,000 and £15,000 CIL in total. All parishes will receive 15%, those with neighbourhood plans will receive 25%.

David Spokes a planning policy officer spoke about the new joint local plan. The districts and SCC are working together; housing and economic growth is vital to bring in funding including the new homes bonus. They are looking 15 years ahead and objectively assessing the needs, taking account of local housing need and predicted population growth. Following the consultations on the general planning issues it is hoped to get a draft local plan produced by the end of the year. This will not be such a detailed plan as the old 2006 Local Plan and growth will be more spread out, not just restricted to where the services are located ie larger towns and villages. In the new plan large sites for development will be allocated but it is not practical to allocate lots of small sites so the new plan will have a more flexible approach to appropriate sustainable development. Growth in smaller villages will be needed to keep the villages alive and ensure facilities and services are viable. Any new development will have to be well related to the village and take into account the character of the local area. The new local plan along with national planning policy and the core strategy will guide how development is managed. The plan will include development management policies, large site allocations and area designations.