

MINUTES OF KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017 IN KERSEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT

John Hume – Chair, Giles Hollingworth, Veronica Partridge, Yvonne Martin, Iqbal Alam, Andrew Rogers, Kevin Pratt, 8 members of the public, and the Clerk – Sarah Partridge. Robert Lindsay and Alan Ferguson attended for part of the meeting.

105/17 APOLOGIES – none

106/17 CO-OPTION TO FILL THE VACANCY FOR ONE PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Parish Council had received two applications for the Parish Councillor vacancy. Their letters of application had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillors discussed the applications, commenting that it was a very difficult decision because of the quality of both candidates. Councillors took a vote and Kevin Pratt was co-opted onto the Parish Council. The Chair congratulated Kevin and welcomed him to join the Council. Kevin completed and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor.

107/17 ACCEPT MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

108/17 CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS – None received

Robert Lindsay joined the meeting.

109/17 REPORTS

a) **Babergh District Councillor** – Alan Ferguson gave his report. It is appended to the minutes of this meeting. Alan answered questions from the floor.

Alan then gave his apologies and left the meeting.

b) **Suffolk County Councillor** - Robert Lindsay gave his report. It is appended to the minutes of this meeting. Robert answered questions from the floor. There were several concerns raised about the SCC proposals to change financial support for education transport. It was felt this proposal would hit rural areas very hard. Concern was also raised with Robert about the service provided by Highways and the Kier contract which does not seem to be keeping the highways in a good state of repair.

Robert then gave his apologies and left the meeting.

110/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2017 were signed and dated as being correct.

111/17 CLERK'S REPORT

Following the fly-tipping discussion at the last meeting the Clerk had spoken to the local police who advise that Babergh is the authority who can help in this matter. The Clerk also spoke to Babergh who said that any fly-tipping should be reported to them and they will then clear it up. Parishioners should not be attempting to clear fly-tipping because it may contain hazardous waste and could be a danger to their health and safety. Babergh are concerned by the increasing number of fly-tipping incidents across the District and it is expected they will have discussions to see what can be done to reduce the problem. One point that came up was the opening hours of local waste recycling centres and the restriction on the items that the local centre can and cannot take. This may be something the Parish Council should take up with the County Council. Councillors discussed this issue and suggested part of the problem is due to charging to leave some waste at recycling centres. It was agreed the Clerk should write to Robert Lindsay to highlight these concerns. The County Council should reconsider

how the waste recycling centres operate in order to improve the service they offer which should in turn reduce fly-tipping. The Government has recently updated the national Litter Strategy which is based on three themes - education, enforcement and infrastructure. The Clerk has added a section to the useful information page on the Kersey website which gives some advice for parishioners and an article has been forwarded to the newsletter team for publication.

The Clerk contacted the landowner regarding the concerns raised about a rat infestation at a property near the school and also about getting the hedge cut back and weeds/shrubby growth cut down near the bench outside the church lych gate. The landowner is going to check the property and see what can be done to resolve these issues. The Clerk has also contacted the landowner about the shrubby growth beside the A1141 cross roads. The landowner was going to inspect the area and see whether he can improve the visibility when leaving Kersey by cutting back the growth. Both the damaged road signs on the A1141 have been reported to highways.

112/17 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence for the Parish Council had been circulated to Councillors. The items to note are:

a) Babergh and Mid Suffolk are currently consulting on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan - Consultation Document (Reg 18 Stage). This is an important document which will provide the strategy for the growth of the Districts, setting out what and where development will take place up to 2036. Residents, local businesses and stakeholders are being asked to have their say on the new Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. Once adopted, the new Joint Local Plan will replace the existing local planning policies for both Babergh and Mid Suffolk. Closing date for responses is 10 November. Public drop in sessions are being held across the Districts, there is one in Hadleigh Town Hall on 11 October from 2-7pm. The Babergh website has a well set out section with plenty of information about the consultation and ways to respond.

b) Robert Lindsay had highlighted a new County Council proposal which will change education transport provision. The gist of the proposal is that children who are getting free travel to the school in what used to be their catchment area - since renamed "transport priority area" - will no longer get that free travel if it is not their nearest school. They are also proposing to withdraw the current subsidised travel for over 16s to their nearest college, even though the Government requires compulsory education for 16-18 year olds. It was agreed that if this becomes a consultation the Parish Council would respond.

c) Email correspondence between Alan Ferguson, Elmsett and Aldham Parish Councils has been received raising concerns about the planning department. Elmsett and Aldham have both written to Babergh with complaints about the planning department recently. An offer has been made to meet with Tom Barker the Assistant Director - Planning for Growth to discuss these concerns. He wants to put together an agenda for a joint meeting with Aldham, Elmsett and Kersey. It was felt that the planning department is understaffed and under pressure to deliver extra houses across the district. It was agreed The Chair, John Hume, should attend a meeting with the other Parish Council chairs. The meeting should be a positive one to learn how best to respond to planning applications and to build a positive relationship with the planning department.

113/17 FINANCE

a) A copy of the accounts to date and a financial statement, showing bank balances, income and expenditure for approval were tabled by the Clerk; these are appended to the minutes. Payments were all approved.

b) Councillors all had a copy of the current budget comparison, copy appended. This shows the estimated total to the end of the financial year should be within budget.

c) Giles Hollingworth checked the bank reconciliations had been completed and verified them against the cash book. Giles signed to confirm they had been completed correctly.

114/17 TO CONFIRM DATE OF INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT

Natalie Blyth, the internal auditor, will carry out an interim internal audit on 10 October 2017.

115/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Progress

B/17/00477 8 Vale Lane - Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved) - Erection of bungalow. BDC refused permission 4 September 2017. Information giving the reasons for this decision are available on line on the Babergh website.

No new applications had been received to consider.

116/17 KCPC WORKING GROUP

Jonathan Marsh had sent a report which was read by the Clerk. This is appended to the minutes.

117/17 FOOTPATH WORKING GROUP

Giles Hollingworth reported that as far as he knew all paths were walkable. The new mower is working well and is very effective. Many of the hedges and paths have recently been cut by landowners following harvest. A member of the public commented that the steps on path 16 from Mill Lane to Rushes Farm are not in very good condition. The Clerk will report this to the SCC Rights of Way team.

118/17 TO DISCUSS THE PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE COVER

The Parish Council is currently insured with Community Action Suffolk. The Clerk had eventually received a quote for the renewal; this would be an annual premium of £486.69 or £462.36/year for a 3 year agreement or £438.02/year for a 5 year agreement.

The Clerk had also asked for quotes from Came and Company, who are a reputable insurance broker used by many parish councils. The cover they offer is similar to the existing cover and in some cases an improvement. The best quote from Came and Company was for cover from Inspire (AXA insurance provider) with an annual premium of £349.22 or £331.76/year for a 3 year agreement.

This new policy has a £250 excess so any assets with a value of less than £250 are not included, although cover is still provided for public liability and if they were part of a larger claim then there would be cover. Councillors discussed the quotes and agreed to take out insurance with Came and Company for the Inspire quote and to take up the 3 year agreement. This would be well within the budget figure of £500 for insurance cover.

119/17 TO DISCUSS THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR

Giles Hollingworth had recently spoken to Ann Baker who had expressed an interest in taking on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Kersey. The Parish Council confirmed this appointment and thanked Ann for taking on the role.

120/17 TO SET A MEETING DATE TO DISCUSS HOUSING NEEDS SURVEYS WITH THE BABERGH OFFICER.

An officer from Babergh is happy to come to Kersey to discuss how to carry out a housing needs survey and what support Babergh can offer. Among questions she will be asking are: Why does the Parish Council want to carry out a survey? What does the Parish Council hope to get out of the process? How will the Parish Council use the survey information? Councillors discussed possible dates for meetings and agreed that Monday 6 November was the best date.

121/17 TO APPROVE THE TRANSPARENCY GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2017/18

The Clerk had completed a Transparency Fund Grant application form to claim for expenses arising from complying with the Transparency Code. The items the Parish Council can claim for are website hosting costs and the Clerk's hours for preparing and uploading information to the website so that the Parish Council continues to comply with the code. The Parish Council approved the application for a total of £311.04.

122/17ARRANGE CLERK'S JOB APPRAISAL AND SALARY REVIEW

John Hume will meet with the Clerk to carry out her appraisal on 11 October.

123/17 TRAINING

Information about training courses is regularly circulated to all Councillors. New Councillors are encouraged to attend training offered by SALC. Andrew Rogers confirmed that he hoped to have time during the winter months to attend a new councillor course. The Clerk will email details about the courses to Kevin Pratt. The Clerk will be attending a Clerk's Networking session on 15 September and Data Protection Reform briefing on 10 October.

124/17 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS

Police and Parish Forum – No councillors attended.

Babergh Local Plan briefing 7 September – Yvonne Martin and Iqbal Alam had attended this session. Yvonne gave a report which is appended to these minutes. Iqbal Alam made some further comments about the briefing. He thinks CS11 may be removed from planning policy. CS11 relates to development strategy in core and hinterland villages. He feels that the only thing protecting the village from development at the moment is that it is a Conservation Area. The need for more houses to be built in Babergh does not take into account the houses which could be brought back into use. It was agreed the Parish Council will hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss and agree a response to this Local Plan consultation. The meeting will be on Friday 29 September.

125/17 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Footpath Working Group Tuesday 26 September 7.30 The Bell

Police and Parish Forum 26 October at Stutton – Ann Baker said she would try to attend.

126/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A Councillor asked if there had been any progress with setting up the Village Emergency Telephone System. The Clerk said due to all the additional work around the recent planning meetings she had not had time to work on the project but it was something she would be working on shortly.

A question was asked about who is responsible for cutting the grass near The Splash, it had recently been cut by a contractor on behalf of Babergh but it was unclear how often they would visit to cut the grass here or anywhere else in the Parish. The Clerk will make some enquiries.

127/17 PARISH TIME

Following the success of the parish Christmas tree in the centre of the village last year a resident enquired whether it would be possible to arrange for this to be repeated in 2017. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the resident about arrangements and applying for a licence. Support for this project would be needed from other residents. John Hume said he would ask Clive Arthey if he would be kind enough to donate a tree again this year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.44pm.

Appended to these minutes are 8 sheets:

- Babergh report from Alan Ferguson
- SCC report from Robert Lindsay
- Kersey Parish Council receipts and payments to date (2 sheets)
- Kersey Parish Council finance sheet for 11 September 2017
- Kersey Parish Council budget comparison
- KCPC report
- Babergh Local Plan briefing report

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2017

Introduction

The summer months are traditionally a quiet period for Council business and in most respects that has been the case in 2017. However, the move from Babergh to Endeavour House, Ipswich has generated significant activity that's the main source of update in this report

Public Access

The move of Babergh/Mid Suffolk Council staff will be completed by the end of the September. Then, anyone wishing to visit Council Officers will have to go to Sudbury or Stowmarket unless a special meeting is arranged. The new arrangement will be significantly beneficial for the Babergh/MS Officers but it's clearly a reduction in service for those who are not computer literate/owners of smart phones etc . It's important to get the message around that a single phone number has been introduced to make it easier to contact an individual of department in the new building. It is: **0300 123 4000.**

In theory at least this should make contact with Council Officers easier but it has been subject to teething troubles. Please keep me advised.

Boundary Commission

The Boundary Commission has 3 inputs for a restructuring of Babergh to come down from 43 to 31 District Councillors (in 2019). One input is from the Conservative Group for 30 DCs; one is from the opposition Group for 32 Councillors and the third is one that Councillor Dawson and I developed for 31 Councillors. This number (31) was the proposed number from the Boundary Commission. We will be given the Boundary Commission's proposal in October when the next consultation period will start.

Housing – Private Sector

The Babergh Planning Committee has approved applications for about 350 houses in the last couple of months. Some of these approvals have been as a direct result of Babergh no longer having a 5 supply of land bank of potential building sites.

New Joint Local Plan (Draft)

The new draft Joint (Babergh & Mid Suffolk) Local Plan has identified 2 possible sites for housing development in Kersey. They are the one close to The Bell and the one on Water Lane. Both are known to the Parish Council already and no others have been included from Babergh's "call for sites" exercise. **It's important to appreciate that their inclusion in the new Joint Local Plan carries NO WEIGHT when they go to a Planning Committee. If they get that far they will be subject to the full standard Planning Committee scrutiny.**

Drawings For Planning Applications

As you will be aware, Babergh no longer provides large scale drawings to Parish Councils when they consider for planning applications in the village as a routine. However, you can request them and I strongly recommend that you do so. In my experience the larger drawings are essential if the PC is to have a full understanding of the application. Your call !

Babergh DC Bye Election – Sudbury

Following the recent resignation of a Babergh Council Conservative Member in Sudbury a bye election was held on 5th September 17. The Labour candidate won the seat **by one vote after several recounts.**

Rumour Control Merger Babergh & MS

You may have seen the article written by Paul Geater in the East Anglian about the resurrection of discussions concerning a possible merger of Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils. It would be dishonest to tell you that the option is not being debated following the move to Endeavour House. However, I can absolutely assure you that no decision has been taken and from a personal perspective I am very aware that 6 years ago Babergh voters elected **NOT** to merge in a referendum by 60% to 40%. Even if another referendum is not required this cannot be ignored in any future discussion of the option.

Alan Ferguson

11th September 2018

(tel: 01449 741542)

Report for Kersey PC 11/9/17 Robert Lindsay County Councillor

Highways reshuffle

A highways reshuffle means the usual points of contact for you and me have gone and we are being asked to report standard defects on the Highways reporting tool and more complicated issues by emailing or phoning the Phoenix House “service delivery centre”.

Secret cabinet committees

Suffolk County council at their July proposed new cabinet committees which would have seats for councillors from all three political groups. However, the final proposal was that these committees would sit in secret. I introduced an amendment to say they should be in public as are all other council meetings. This was defeated by Conservative councillors who were ordered to vote against. The unamended motion was then carried. I will be sitting on one of the four cabinet committees and am quite prepared to report anything significant to you and my constituents.

Cabinet members vote to boost their allowances

The council in July also proposed to increase the allowance for cabinet members, but for no other councillors. I and most of my group, voted against this. Again the Conservative majority were ordered to vote it through. I believe councillors need to make the arguments over allowance increases after they have served four years, not just after they have been elected.

Cutting of free school buses and post 16 travel subsidy

Schools cabinet member Gordon Jones is bringing before cabinet tomorrow [Monday] a plan by which from Sept 2019.

1. Free travel for 11-16 year olds would no longer be provided, where a student is not attending their nearest school (even if that school is their catchment school).
2. Subsidised travel for 16-18 year olds would no longer be provided.

There will be 789 pupils in Cosford affected. For secondary school pupils, our division will be the worst hit in Suffolk with 37% having their free bus withdrawn and parents facing with the choice of changing school, having to arrange their own car sharing transport or purchasing tickets on a commercial service – if one is available. This move will disproportionately hit rural areas across the county, and amounts to an attack on rural communities. This was only announced last week but from what I have heard from my fellow group members so far, I am hopeful there will be enough support to call this ill-thought decision in to scrutiny. It also goes against Government guidance on changing school transport which recommends a phase-in to allow children to continue their education uninterrupted. I would like to see the council make an effort to make routes to school safe and thereby cut the cost of taxi transport for primary children deemed to have unsafe routes.

KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL
1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018

Printed on 05/09/2017

RECEIPTS

Date	Credit ref	Detail	Precept	KCPC	Footpath	Other Receipts	VAT	Total Receipts	<i>Sub total</i>
1-Apr-17		Balance brought forward		£ 2,453.66	£ 2,035.35	£ 9,520.72		£ 14,009.73	
3-Apr-17	Direct C	Babergh 50% Precept	£ 3,670.00					£ 3,670.00	£ 17,679.73
16-May-17	Direct C	Screen Suffolk - photo shoot				£ 50.00		£ 50.00	£ 17,729.73
			£ 3,670.00	£ 2,453.66	£ 2,035.35	£ 9,570.72	£ -	£ 17,729.73	

KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL
1 April 2017- 31 March 2018

Printed on 05/09/2017

PAYMENTS

Date	Cheque No	Detail	General Admin	Clerks Salary	Training/ external meetings	Street Lighting	KCPC	Footpath	S137	Other Payments	VAT	Total Payments	Sub total
15-May-17	101131	c SALC - Annual Subscription	£ 173.71									£ 173.71	
15-May-17	101132	c Suffolk.cloud - website hosting	£ 100.00									£ 100.00	
15-May-17	101133	c WJ Green - KCPC					£ 46.50				£ 9.30	£ 55.80	£ 329.51
10-Jul-17	101134	N Blyth - Footpath exp						£ 4.83			£ 0.97	£ 5.80	
10-Jul-17	101135	c S Partridge - Clerk's salary		£ 1,036.53								£ 1,036.53	
10-Jul-17	101136	c S Partridge - Home working exp	£ 52.00									£ 52.00	
	101137	x cheque cancelled										£ -	
24-Jul-17	101138	Kersey Playing Field Assoc								£ 42.00		£ 42.00	
24-Jul-17	101139	c Ernest Doe - Footpath mower						£ 729.17			£ 145.83	£ 875.00	£ 2,340.84
21-Aug-17	101140	BDO - External audit	£ 100.00								£ 20.00	£ 120.00	£ 2,460.84
			£ 425.71	£ 1,036.53	£ -	£ -	£ 46.50	£ 734.00	£ -	£ 42.00	£ 176.10	£ 2,460.84	

**KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE**

Details for Parish Council Meeting, 11 September 2017

Bank Balances At 31 August 2017

Business Premium Account	£14,952.29
Current Account	£484.40
	<u>£15,436.69</u>

Transfers between Business Premium and Current account since the last meeting

24-Jul-17	Transfer from BPA to current account	£2,200.00
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Income received since the last meeting

None	<u>£0.00</u>
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Payments made since the last meeting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chq no.</u>		
24-Jul-17	101138	Kersey Playing Field Association - Glebe insurance Note cheque 101137 cancelled as amount incorrect	£42.00
24-Jul-17	101139	Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd - Footpath mower	£875.00
21-Aug-17	101140	BDO LLP - External Audit fee	£100.00
			<u>£1,017.00</u>

Payments Due

<u>Chq no.</u>		
101141	MR Sargeant - Glebe hedge cut	£84.00
101142	S Partridge - Clerk's Salary	£1,036.63
101143	S Partridge - Home working expenses	£52.00
101144	S Partridge - Clerk's expenses	£8.50
101145	Kersey Village Hall - Hire	£45.00
		<u>£1,226.13</u>

Expenditure Agreed

Prepared by the Clerk for Kersey Parish Council

KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL
Budget to 31 Mar 2018 and Precept for 2018/2019

VAT not included in budget figures	2017/18	2017/18	2017/18	2017/18	2018/19	
	Budget/ Precept 2017/2018	Actual to 31 Aug 2017	Estimated balance to 31 March 2018	Estimated total to 31 March 2018	Budget/ Precept 2018/2019	Notes:
Parish Council						
Post/Tel/Stationery/copier cartridge	£135.00		£135.00	£135.00		
Clerk's computer/working from home	£208.00	£52.00	£156.00	£208.00		£4/week
Hall Hire:Parish Council 10 @ £5	£50.00		£50.00	£50.00		
Annual Parish Assembly @ £10	£10.00		£10.00	£10.00		
SALC subscription	£172.98	£173.71	£0.00	£173.71		
External Audit	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00		
ICO Data Protection registration	£35.00		£35.00	£35.00		
Website hosting	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00		Used to be free with SCC, SCC withdrew service, now with Suffolk.cloud
Sub total for Admin	£810.98	£425.71	£386.00	£811.71	£0.00	
Clerk's Salary	£4,150.00	£1,036.53	£3,113.47	£4,150.00		SCP27 17/18 £12.564/hr
Training/External Meetings	£250.00		£250.00	£250.00		LCPAS whole cl £120 Clerk netwk x2 £20+mileage
Street Lighting	£210.00		£210.00	£210.00		
CAS Suffolk Insurance	£500.00		£500.00	£500.00		Long Term undertaking expired,new agreement due Oct 17
Glebe Insurance	£50.00	£42.00	£0.00	£42.00		
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£83.00		£83.00	£83.00		
Playground Safety Inspection	£85.00		£85.00	£85.00		
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£45.00		£45.00	£45.00		
St Mary's Church	£400.00		£400.00	£400.00		17/18 split £245 Churchyd £110 Nletter £45 Clock (last increased Nov 2014)
Defibrillator & Village Emergency Tel	£226.00		£226.00	£226.00		£137 CHT membership inc Defib managed solution £126 VETS £100
Chairman's Allowance	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00		
Election costs	£25.00		£25.00	£25.00		Routine elections every 4 years, next election in May 2019
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		
Adjustment to round precept	£0.02		£0.02	£0.02		
Precept	£7,340.00	£1,504.24	£5,828.49	£7,332.73	£0.00	Precept for 2017/18 £7340 (approved 16 Jan 17 minute ref 15/17)
Transparency Fund Grant						Tax base 183.47 = £40.00 for a band D property
Other PC income	£50.00					
PC Income	£7,390.00					
Agreed spending from PC reserves:						
	£7,390.00	£1,504.24	£5,828.49	£7,332.73	£0.00	
KCPC	£967.00	£46.50	£920.50	£967.00		Estimated KCPC Income 17/18 - £820.00
Footpath	£282.00	£4.83	£277.17	£282.00		Spent £729.17 on new mower from FP reserves Estimated Footpath Income 17/18 - £415.40
Millennium Book Fund	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00		Estimated Millennium Book Fund Income 17/18 - £2.80
				Estimated at 31.3.18		Precept for 2016/17 £6,786 plus CTax Support Grant £43.08
Reserves (Cash at Bank)	As at 1.4.17					Tax Base 181.25 = £37.44 for a band D property
KCPC Working Group (Ring fenced)	£2,453.66					Budget approved 25 Jan 16 minute ref 18/16
Footpath Working Group	£2,035.35					VAT repayment 2017/18 £611.77
Defib & VETS project	49.06					Precept for 2015/16 £6,700 plus a CTax Support Grant £86.17
Election provision	£812.50					Tax Base 180.31 = £37.16 for a band D property
Church Walk Maintenance Fund	£1,430.00					
Training reserve	£285.69					Precept for 2014/15 £6604 plus a CTax support grant £129.25
Footpath Map printing reserve	£113.50					Tax Base 177.72 = £37.16 for a Band D property
Fixed Asset Reserve	£1,145.82					
Council Tax Support grant money	£729.50					Precept for 2013/14 £6375.00 plus CTax support grant £471
General Parish Council Reserve	£4,954.65					Tax Base 171.55 = £37.16 for a Band D property
	£14,009.73					
Millennium Book Fund Account	£2,844.75					
General PC reserves - advice is to hold between 6-12 months gross expenditure (£5,000 - £10,000)						
General PC reserves vary from year to year partly due to VAT being paid one year and reclaimed the following year.						

KERSEY COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

REPORT for Kersey Parish Meeting

11th September 2017

A meeting of the committee took place on Friday 8th September in the Bell. Minutes of the meeting will be available in due course.

There will be a maintenance day on Sunday the 5th November at 10 am to put the playground to bed for the winter. It is expected to take about 2 hours and all help gratefully accepted.

The mower will be put in for its annual service.

The bench is in need of repair and Bryn Hurren will be approached to see if it can be fixed or needs replacing.

The Quiz Night is confirmed for Friday the 10th November. The entrance fee is fixed at £10 per head. Details as per previous years. The event will be advertised in the Village Newsletter and posters will be put up around the area. The committee would be most grateful for tables to be registered as early as possible to help with calculating numbers for the food order. It is hoped we will see more support this year as last year numbers were down which caused some problems with the local chip shop as they had taken on extra staff for the evening.

The cricket net has been available all summer without incident.

The exercise equipment is available for use.

Comments have been made about the serviceability of gates into the playing field but I understand that they are not our responsibility.

We are expecting the ROSPA report in due course.

No major issues to report.

Jonathan Marsh

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION BRIEFING

7 SEPTEMBER 2017

Iqbal Allam and I attended the new local plan briefing last week. The consultation started on 21st August and runs until 10th November, the closing date for responses. This local plan will determine district council planning and development policy for the next 20 years. The consultation document is a framework only of general intent, and the district council promises to respond to the consultation. Of course, the Parish Council will be a consultee, but the consultation is also open to all members of the public. Public drop-in events are being held to promote the plan.

There is a website at babergh.gov.uk/jointlocalplan, where you can see the local plan as well as data used as evidence supporting policies proposed in the local plan. The plan is wide-ranging and covers four priority areas: housing; the economy; the environment; and healthy communities and infrastructure.

For the Babergh region, the total requirement for new homes from 2014 to 2036 remains at 7,820, or an average 355 per year. The current level of conservation protection will remain. A key challenge for Babergh will be to translate planning approvals into actual development projects.

The consultation questionnaire can be filled in online, or a PDF version downloaded and completed. Written comments will also be accepted, although there is a risk these will be lost in the move to new premises.

The draft local plan establishes settlement boundaries for each parish, some of which didn't have one before. For Kersey, the proposed boundary remains the same as the old permitted building envelope, with the only additions the area around the bungalow in Kedges Lane and the new property in Water Lane. At present, there are no proposed sites for development in Kersey following the recent 'call for sites' exercise. All five that were suggested were dismissed for a variety of reasons.

The settlement hierarchy, which characterises Kersey as a 'hinterland village', has been revised following review. Much of the data used for this review is out of date and this needs to be amended. There may be scope to have Kersey downgraded to the 'hamlets and countryside' category, which could be beneficial if we want to discourage too much development (hinterland villages are to accommodate 15% of new housing, hamlets only 5%).

Questions at the briefing underlined a basic weakness, which is the inability to include major infrastructure projects, particularly road construction, in housing planning at district level. For example, the overloading of the A1170 and the lack of a Hadleigh ring road.

It will take at least two years to finalise the local plan, which may also be influenced by changes in housing policy as a result of proposed reforms contained in the 2017 housing white paper.

Yvonne Martin