

# **Minutes of Kersey Parish Council meeting**

## **held on Monday 26 January 2026 at Kersey Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** John Hume (Chair), Liz Bostock, Andrew Rogers and Richard Walker.

**In attendance:** Leigh Jamieson (BDC) for part of the meeting and no members of the public –and Sarah Partridge (Clerk)

**1/26 Apologies** – Apologies were received and approved with consent from David Butcher (personal), Penny Calnan (personal) and Esme Chapman (personal). Robert Lindsay (SCC) sent his apologies.

**2/26 Accept Members’ Declarations of Interest and consider Dispensation requests for Pecuniary Interests** – none.

### **3/26 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2025 were confirmed as being correct and signed.

### **4/26 Public forum and reports**

Reports had been circulated to all Councillors and published on the website before the meeting. Both reports are appended to these minutes.

**a) Suffolk County Councillor report** – Robert Lindsay’s report was read. It was asked whether the new Hadleigh to Stowmarket bus service will stop in Kersey and whether Active Travel funding could cover improvements to Water Lane? There was also concern about the number of quangos/non-government bodies managing funding whose administration may take funding away from where it is needed. The Clerk will forward these questions to Robert.

**b) Babergh District Councillor report** – Leigh Jamieson gave his report and answered questions about the electric charging parking in Hadleigh which is limiting available parking for other vehicles cars. Officers are monitoring usage to see whether, until demand rises, some electric charging spaces could be made available to any vehicles.

#### **c) Parish Time – Parishioners’ opportunity to raise matters and ask questions**

A member of the public has raised serious concerns about road safety due to large potholes on blind bends in Kersey. They have reported these to SCC Highways, but the online system notes them as reported but not inspected. To avoid the potholes drivers are forced to drive on the wrong side of the road with no visibility of approaching vehicles. There is concern that repairs are not effective, one section of road has been repaired three times during 2025 and already requires repair again this year. The Clerk will raise this concern with Robert Lindsay.

The Chair was sad to confirm that Ian Hattrick, former Parish Councillor and Chair of the Parish Council, has passed away. His leadership and work on parish matters over the years has been much appreciated. The Parish Council pass on their condolences to Ian’s family.

### **5/26 Planning applications**

#### **a) Progress**

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 **Appeal Reference: 6002809 DC/25/03701 Cherrywood, The Tye**, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6HB

Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of a single storey side and rear extension

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of Babergh District Council to refuse permission. Appeal Start Date: 13/01/2026.

## **Minutes of Kersey Parish Council meeting**

**held on Monday 26 January 2026 at Kersey Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**DC/25/04505 The Haven, Church Hill, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6EG**

Proposal: Householder Application - Construction of a single storey annex to provide supplementary residential accommodation. Babergh granted permission 9 December 2025.

**DC/25/04448 Unit F The Brick Barn, Kersey Maltings, Hadleigh Road, Kersey Ipswich Suffolk**

Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Internal renovation of the ground floor and first floor. Babergh granted listed building consent on 9 December 2025.

**DC/25/04547 Leys House, Church Hill, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6DZ**

Proposal: Householder Application - Retention of red brick rear retaining wall, and air source heat pump on concrete base slab. Babergh granted planning permission 31 December 2025

**b) Consider planning applications received: None**

**c) Note applications received after publishing the agenda: None**

### **6/26 Clerk's Report**

Mayoral elections for Norfolk and Suffolk new strategic authority - the Government is minded to move the election from May 2026 to May 2028. This is to ensure strong unitary structures are in place before areas take on mayoral devolution. The government still intends to provide the new authority with a proportion of their investment funds to ensure they can start delivering on key local priorities and deliver the benefits of devolution ahead of the mayors taking office. Norfolk and Suffolk will receive a third of their annual investment funds in both 2026-27 and 2027-28.

Local Government Reform – The Parish Council responded to the government consultation of LGR. There are two proposals submitted for Suffolk. One unitary council or three unitary councils. A Government decision is awaited. Possible timeline for shadow unitary authorities is for elections in May 27 and new unitary authorities to start functioning in April 28. SCC elections which were due in May 2026 have been postponed again by the Government to allow councils to focus on local government reorganisation. Robert Lindsay raised the Parish Council concerns about highway repairs in the Conservation Area of Kersey just using normal black tarmac and not the conservation grade material which is natural/brown coloured. The road is becoming a patchwork of black repairs not in keeping with the Conservation Area, which is an important heritage asset. The SCC highways response states that it is unfeasible to use conservation grade patching materials for reactive highway repairs. They will remind utility companies, that where possible, they should be using the correct materials, although the same feasibility restraints also apply for emergency repairs. A letter has been sent to Babergh planning policy regarding the ever-increasing bureaucratic burden of environmental studies required to support planning applications. The Nightingale Trust has put a note in the newsletter reminding residents the allotments are not open to the public. The Parish Council was thanked for their comments.

### **7/26 Correspondence**

All Parish Council correspondence has been circulated to Councillors. The following items were noted: Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner annual survey to gauge public views on draft proposal for the policing element of the council tax precept for the next financial year. The survey closes 29 January. Transport Made Simple Group, who operate Konectbuses (which includes Chambers) and Simonds buses across Suffolk and the rest of East Anglia, have raised attention of SCC's new Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding. Richard Walker has been attending meetings with the Enhanced Bus Partnership Passenger Group where this funding is being considered and applied for across Suffolk.

## **Minutes of Kersey Parish Council meeting**

**held on Monday 26 January 2026 at Kersey Village Hall at 7.30pm**

### **8/26 Finance**

- a) The financial statement showing current bank balances, receipts and payments had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting; A copy is appended to the minutes. This statement was approved.
- b) The Parish Council considered moving to an alternative banking provider and to move to online banking. Barclays our existing bank are implementing current account charges from mid-February; their customer service and interest rates are poor. The Clerk has researched alternative providers. The Parish Council resolved to move from Barclays to Unity Trust Bank and to use online and telephone banking services. To open a current account, instant access savings account and a 95-day notice savings account. The Parish Council approved a new bank mandate which is the same as now with the addition of online banking. Three Councillors will be authorised signatories with two out of the three needing to authorise payments. All signatories would have access to online banking to view the account, set up and authorise payments. The Clerk will be the internet banking administrator, set up payments and make internal transfers between the current and savings accounts. The Parish Council will make use of the current account switch process to ensure a smooth transition to Unity Trust Bank. To help facilitate an efficient switch it was resolved to move all existing Barclays business premium deposit account funds to the Barclays current account before the switch. A letter was signed by signatories to confirm this and the closure of the Barclays accounts. Various banking forms were signed.
- c) Updated Financial Regulations, as circulated to all Councillors, were adopted to facilitate the move to online banking.
- d) The new bank requires various supporting documents including a business plan. However, as the Parish Council is a small local authority and not a business, a Parish Council Aims and Strategic Plan has been written, copy circulated to all Councillors. It was resolved to adopt this document, copy appended. Once the P&PP is complete the Parish Council will also have an action plan to guide their work.

### **9/26 Footpath Working Group report and budget for approval**

A report was received from Kevin Pratt. Kevin wished everyone a very Happy New and hoped everyone has enjoyed walking the many amazing footpaths and by ways in Kersey. All cuts as required under the contract and more have been completed and payments received from SCC. We have been fortunate to receive support from landowners and SCC in repairs to stiles/gates and cutting back hedgerows to maintain and improve the quality of our footpaths, but there remains more to be done in some areas. The main lawn mower has been fully serviced. The strimmer is now being serviced. Kevin thanked the FWG members for all the help and support through the past year. The next Footpath working group meeting is Wednesday 25 March 7.30pm at The Bell. The Footpath working group budget was approved, copy appended.

### **10/26 KCPC Working Group report and budget for approval**

Jonathan Marsh had sent a report. At this time of year there is little to report, the mower has been sent off for servicing. The KCPC budget was approved, copy appended.

### **11/26 Consider concerns raised about speeding vehicles travelling through the Parish**

The Chair received a number of complaints from residents about speeding during 2025. There are a small number of residents and visitors to Kersey who drive dangerously fast through the centre of the village and The Splash. Richard Walker had completed some research into traffic calming options. SCC support lower speed limits and traffic calming measures in residential areas which meet specific criteria such as residential density, low existing speeds, accident history. Eligible locations are prioritised using a

## **Minutes of Kersey Parish Council meeting**

**held on Monday 26 January 2026 at Kersey Village Hall at 7.30pm**

weighted matrix. Community speed watch schemes can be set up with trained volunteers. Any infrastructure is funded by the Parish Council. Speeding is a common concern for many villages across Suffolk and the country. If signs were installed, it was felt unlikely that any enforcement would take place and the drivers that already speed would probably ignore signs anyway. Some drivers are residents so some form of education via the newsletter may help. It was agreed to talk to PC Johnson, our local police officer, to raise these concerns see what support he can offer. Richard was thanked for his research.

### **12/26 Consider progress on how to improve mobile phone reception in Kersey**

After chasing Mobiles UK for months, the Clerk has finally received a response. Mobiles UK, which represents network providers, suggests the Parish Council use the mobile coverage checker to see what coverage level are. This shows EE good chance of outdoor connection, limited indoor. O2 and Three mixed coverage some variable, some good outdoor, limited indoor. Vodafone variable chance outdoor and no coverage indoor. The data the Parish Council has collected show similar or worse results. Mobiles UK suggests the Parish Council contact the network providers directly. They also suggest contacting SCC/Babergh and the Chamber of Commerce who may be interested in the information we have gathered about actual coverage. It was agreed the Clerk would contact network providers and the Chamber of Commerce, as well as copying in Leigh (BDC) and Robert (SCC).

### **13/26 Consider a response to the SCC Flood Investigation Report**

The Parish Council is very disappointed with this report and the communication from SCC. The Parish Council was not contacted for information before their report was published, nor sent a copy of the report published in September. The Parish Council found it on the SCC website. Due to this omission, there are inaccuracies in the report. It was agreed the Clerk would contact SCC to make a complaint and ask that they consider the data the Parish Council had collated about the Storm Babet flooding and update their report. One of the recommendations from the report is for the Parish Council to make an emergency plan, this already exists and could be viewed if SCC had bothered to ask or looked at the Kersey website. Shortly after Storm Babet the Parish Council noted that once SCC had completed their investigation the Parish Council would review what happened with the local Emergency Planning Officer, SCC and the Environment Agency to mitigate the risks of flooding and make sure residents are advised on how to protect their homes. The emergency plan would then be updated to reflect this advice. Another point was the provision of sandbags. SCC have updated their flooding page which now states that sandbags are ineffective and local authorities in Suffolk do not provide them. It was noted the report shows that Kersey Brook is listed as a statutory main river and the Environment Agency has permissive powers to maintain it, although there has been no known work by the Environment Agency on Kersey Brook for many years. Ordinary water courses are ditches and drains which flow into Kersey Brook, their maintenance rests with the riparian (adjacent) landowner. There is some advice for residents regarding flooding and links to further advice on the Kersey website useful information page. *Leigh Jamieson gave his apologies and left the meeting.*

### **14/26 Consider progress with the People and Place Plan (P&PP)**

The consultation responses are being incorporated into the draft P&PP document. Limited progress has been made due to time constraints. The steering group will meet to work on the draft P&PP document. It is hoped to bring the draft plan to the March Parish Council meeting.

## Minutes of Kersey Parish Council meeting

held on Monday 26 January 2026 at Kersey Village Hall at 7.30pm

### 15/26 Set date and time for the spring litter collection during March

It was agreed it was not necessary to hold a spring litter collection as KVG volunteers carry out routine litter collections during the year. They are allocated a short route each and have litter pickers and are given advice and a risk assessment. The Clerk will contact all KVG volunteers to thank them for their work and check they are happy to continue. Kersey School will be asked if they would like to carry out a spring litter collection of areas near the school.

### 16/26 Confirm precept amount for 2026/2027 and sign the precept request form

Councillors all had a copy of the draft budget approved at the November meeting. This had been updated to reflect the new bank charges. Total budget now £18,935 with a precept of £16,230. Babergh has confirmed the tax base at 199.79. The tax base has decreased which increased the amount of council tax each household has to pay without even increasing the precept. The Parish Council has no control over the tax base which is calculated by properties paying council tax. On our small numbers this can swing the precept either way significantly in terms of percentage. To calculate the council tax for a band D property, divide the total precept amount by the tax base. Band D council tax will be £81.24 (last year £75.46) which is a 7.65% increase. To put this in perspective this is just under 49 pence per month extra for a band D property. If the tax base had not changed the band D council tax would have been £78.12 which is a 3.52% increase. The Parish Council resolved to request a precept of £16,230 and signed the precept request form. The full budget and precept sheet is appended to these minutes. A note will be put in the March newsletter and on the website to explain the precept.

Administration	£ 1,344.00
Staff costs	£ 9,150.00
Training and external meetings	£ 250.00
Street lighting	£ 560.00
Insurance (PC & Glebe)	£ 675.00
Glebe hedgecut	£ 120.00
Mowing the Glebe	£ 270.00
RoSPA inspection	£ 110.00
Bin emptying charges	£ 20.00
St Mary's PCC	£ 1,000.00
Defibrillators	£ 460.00
People & Place Plan	£ -
Section 137	£ -
<b>General PC payments</b>	<b>£ 13,959.00</b>
Election costs reserve	£ 165.00
Church Walk future maint reserve	£ 130.00
Footpath map printing reserve	£ 75.00
Fixed asset reserve	£ 1,600.00
General Parish Council reserve	£ -
Contingencies	£ 301.00
<b>Total Precept</b>	<b>£ 16,230.00</b>
Footpath working group	£ 680.00
KCPC working group	£ 2,025.00
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>£ 18,935.00</b>

## **Minutes of Kersey Parish Council meeting**

**held on Monday 26 January 2026 at Kersey Village Hall at 7.30pm**

### **17/26 Agree content for the newsletter articles 'Pride in our Parish' and Community Organisation Spotlight**

Pride in our Parish – precept explanation. Community Organisation Spotlight – John is trying to meet with FoSM and a KVG volunteer to draft articles for Community Organisations Spotlights. Andrew will try to find time to talk to Kevin for a Footpath working group Spotlight.

### **18/26 Training**

SALC continues to offer a variety of training as published on their website and circulated to Councillors. The Clerk attended an asset register management webinar and a Clerk networking session in January.

### **19/26 Reports from other meetings**

Police and Parish Forum – notes to be circulated once available.

Richard Walker has attended Enhanced Bus Partnership Passenger Group meetings. The last meeting focussed on trains across Suffolk and community collaboration. The Demand Responsive Transport investigatory project headed up by Monks Eleigh for the Brett Vale is part of the BSIP funding. As mentioned in Robert Lindsay's report, a new bus service from Hadleigh to Stowmarket is due to start running in April 2026. There are also additions to services, due to extra Government funding, for Sudbury to Ipswich via Boxford and Hadleigh and Bury to Colchester via Leavenheath and Stoke by Nayland.

### **20/26 Forthcoming meetings - none**

### **21/26 Any other business – Councillors' opportunity to bring matters to the Council's attention – none.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.21pm.

Appended to these minutes are 10 pages:

- Suffolk County Council report from Robert Lindsay
- Babergh District Council report from Leigh Jamieson
- Kersey Parish Council finance sheet
- Kersey Parish Council Aims and Strategic Plan
- Footpath working group budget
- KCPC working group budget
- Budget and approved precept for year to 31 March 2027

Signed .....

Date .....

## **Kersey Parish Council report by Robert Lindsay county cllr 26.1.26**

### **Daily bus route Hadleigh to Stowmarket to launch this spring**

Thanks to earlier funding bid for by Bildeston, Hitcham and Finborough Parish councils a daily bus service will operate from mid April between the two towns at peak morning and late afternoon allowing students to get to and from college and others to and from work.

### **Parish councils asked to bid for share of £27m bus investment in Suffolk**

Suffolk has now been awarded £27m of funding for bus services from the government's Local Authority Bus Grant (LABG), and parish councils are again being asked to bid for extra services/new routes/infrastructure.

Predecessor bids in the previous year from Lavenham PC won extra services on the 753 (now 43 I believe) between Bury and Sudbury.

<https://www.suffolkonboard.com/>

### **Sustainable Travel**

The council has also been awarded just over £12m from Active Travel England to promote sustainable travel in the county. This can be used to invest in footpaths, cycle lanes and other infrastructure. Examples of this could include new pavements, road crossings, or better surfacing of off-road footpaths/bridleways.

### **20mph limits**

The county's cabinet on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan approved a new set of rules over 20mph limits, which should make it easier for communities to get approval for them. The only criterion which must now be met is the level of average speed. Average speeds below **28mph** – signs only scheme allowed. Average **speed 28 – 32mph** – gateway signing and "traffic calming throughout the area" though this may not mean anything expensive, just more signs and lines. **Above 32mph** road humps, cushions, buildouts, chicanes required.

However communities must still fund the schemes once they are approved. And the rules have not been simplified for speed limit reductions to anything higher than 20mph (eg 60mph down to 40mph). There is also an added requirement for parish councils to show that communities want the scheme.

### **County Conservatives seek to cancel elections this May**

On 12 January, the county council held an egm to debate whether to delay county council elections, due this May, for the second year running. I and my political group (Green, LibDem, independent) spoke against delaying the election. The Conservatives claimed they were not making a decision but they voted to write to the minister to say they had capacity issues. The minister has responded to say that Suffolk County Council elections would be "postponed". In reality this means

cancelled for good since the Government will legislate to cancel the county council elections altogether since the county will be dissolved in May 2028.

The new election timetable (subject to no more last minute Government decisions) will be:

**May 2027** "shadow" unitary council elections

**May 2028** Norfolk/Suffolk Mayor elections – Suffolk County and Babergh District dissolved, unitary councils start.

### **More Warm Homes Grants funding**

Residents and landlords are urged to apply quickly for £1.38million in Warm Homes Local Grant funding secured at the end of November last year as the funding must be allocated by the end of March 2026.

It is only available to those with household income at or below £36k pa. and homes with an EPC below C. (you can find this out when you apply).

You can find out more and apply using this link:

<https://www.warmhomessuffolk.org/>

### **Winter Warmth Packs**

In addition, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk council have teamed up to provide Winter Warmth Packs to help vulnerable residents stay warm and healthy at home even if they are struggling with rising living costs. Referrals are via community groups, food banks, GP surgeries or hospitals and each pack includes items such as thermal hats, gloves, blankets and gilets, tailored as necessary – for example, children's winter coats can be included. Although the Warm Homes Healthy People programme is delivered by East Suffolk Council, it is a county-wide programme.

## District Council Report - January 2026

### **Car Parking Charges**

Cabinet recently agreed an increase of in parking charges across the district. The increase which is proposed to be 20% in Hadleigh and Sudbury also initially included Sunday and Bank Holiday Charging. However, after a protracted debate it was agreed that Sunday's and Bank Holidays should remain free.

The proposed charges will be –

#### **Short Stay**

Tariff	Existing	Proposed
Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.20
Up to 2 hours	£1.50	£1.80
Up to 3 hours	£2.00	£2.40
Up to 4 hours	£2.50	£3.00

#### **Long Stay**

Tariff	Existing	Proposed
Up to 2 hours	£1.00	£1.20
Up to 3 hours	£1.50	£1.80
Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.40
All Day	£2.50	£3.00

#### **Season Ticket changes.**

Season Ticket type	Current fee	2026/27 Proposed fee	Fee Increase	Average Discount
1 Month	£25.00	£30.00	20%	48%
3 Months	£70.00	£84.00	20%	51%
12 Months	£250.00	£300.00	20%	57%

An independent report was commissioned by the council to review the effects of the car park charges implemented last year. The report, completed by the University of Suffolk, identified that while car park usage had declined, footfall and dwell time had remained fairly consistent, while spend had increased.

With the data showing that charges have had little to no effect on visiting numbers the cabinet have agreed to raise charges to ensure that full costs are recovered in the ongoing battle to shore up the council's financial position.

### **Sewage Sludge Regulations**

At last weeks council meeting it was agreed that the council would formally recognise the risks posed by unregulated contaminants in sewage sludge and to write to the Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), urging stronger regulation to guarantee public safety.

Independent testing in late 2025 found water at a sewage sludge processing site near Wattisham air base, operated by contractors handling sludge from Thames Water, contained more than 170 times the recommended safe levels of ammonia, posing a serious threat to aquatic life in the area.

The councils want the government to prevent chemical producers and companies from offloading commercial effluent into sewage sludge and to increase research into sustainable and safe agricultural alternatives, with Defra warning farmers of the risks of accepting sludge from water company contractors in the meantime.

Councillors heard fears over evidence that sewage sludge contains a mixture of harmful contaminants, including so-called “forever chemicals” (PFAS), microplastics, pharmaceuticals and hormone-disrupting substances – many of which are not regulated or routinely tested for under current legislation dating back to 1989.

### **Locality Funding**

I have been pleased to be able to help out a number of groups across my parishes with some funding from my locality budget. So far, I have helped Chelsworth Village Hall buy a new cooker; Kersey Table Tennis club invest in some new tables; Whatfield buy a cabinet for their defibrillator; Semer parish council with some money towards bridge repairs and hopefully the Roundabout magazine.

### **Funding/Grants**

There are a number of grants available that may be useful to the village.

Via Babergh -

**The Sustainable Communities Food Fund** has been established to support small scale, community led, food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges, and food pop-ups. Between £250 and £5,000 can be applied for, towards capital costs such as the purchase of equipment, or revenue costs such as workshops and delivering activities to clients or volunteers. Funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications being accepted until **31 March 2026**, though the Fund may close for applications prior to that point should funding be fully allocated.

Via Rural Services Network –

**Small grants for village halls** – Defra and ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural Areas)

Grants up to £5,000 are available to help make modest improvements to rural community buildings in England such as boiler replacements, insulation, toilet upgrades, and new kitchens.

Awards can be made to cover 20% of eligible project costs, up to a maximum amount of £5,000. The balance of funding for the works proposed must be in place or at least confirmed within 6 weeks of making an application to the small grants fund. Project expenditure must take place before 31 March 2026.

[Village halls small grants fund - ACRE](#)

### **Five Dinners**

Babergh is part of Feel-Good Suffolk, which is a collaboration between all Suffolk’s local authorities, and NHS partners. The service has now teamed up with FiveDinners.com.

It is offering households across the county free premium access for this year to the platform which would otherwise cost them £86 a year.

Residents simply have to visit <https://FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity> select the district council area that they live in and then put in their postcode – they won’t be asked for any bank details and they won’t be charged for using the service.

Once registered, they will receive a meal plan every week, tailored to their needs and preferences. This can be personalised for low calories, child friendly, low cost, vegetarian, gluten-free, quick, and easy, menopause friendly and more. Alongside the meal plan, members receive a shopping list for the week ahead.

# Kersey Parish Council Finance

## Details for Parish Council Meeting on 26 January 2026

### Bank Balances at 31 December 2026

Business Premium Account	£41,780.11
Current Account	<u>£1,742.27</u>
	<b>£43,522.38</b>

### Transfers between Business Premium and Current account since the last report

None

### Income received since the last report

11-Nov-25	Screen Suffolk - Filiming donation	£150.00
17-Nov-25	KCPC- Quiz donation	£95.00
19-Nov-25	KCPC - Quiz donations	£1,740.85
05-Dec-25	Footpath working group - SCC Rights of Way	£478.59
08-Dec-25	Bank interest	£122.15

### Payments made since the last report

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chq no.</u>		
01-Dec-25	101448	WJ Green - Footpath mower service	£282.60

### Payments Due

<u>Chq no.</u>		
101449	S Partridge - Clerk's expenses	£171.54
101450	S Partridge - Home working Expenses	<u>£78.00</u>
		<b>£249.54</b>

Expenditure Agreed .....

Prepared by the Clerk for Kersey Parish Council

# KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL

clerk@kerseyparish.gov.uk  
www.kerseyparish.gov.uk  
Tel: 07765 916162

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Partridge  
Bridges Farm  
The Tye  
Kersey  
Ipswich IP7 6HB

## Kersey Parish Council Aims and Strategic Plan

Kersey Parish Council is committed to working together with the residents of Kersey for the benefit of the whole parish and aims to be as accessible as possible. The Kersey website provides access to all Parish Council policies, procedures and information to inform and support residents.

Kersey Parish Council aims to:

- act in the best interests of all residents in the whole parish
- make Kersey a great place in which to live, work and visit
- provide a safe, secure and modern environment
- preserve Kersey's unique heritage
- have a well-run, financially secure and involving Parish Council
- represent local views to the next levels of government at Babergh District Council, Suffolk County Council and Westminster

All parishioners of Kersey are encouraged to raise matters of concern and proposals with the Parish Council and are welcomed to attend meetings. The Parish Council is an elected body which reflects local views and functions as the first tier of government for the parish of Kersey. It is embedded in the community with a broad responsibility for the well-being of the local neighbourhood.

The work of the Parish Council includes:

- representing the local community
- improving local quality of life
- delivering services to meet local needs
- managing a budget to support their work

The Parish Council regularly consults residents. The Parish Council is currently working on a People and Place Plan, also known as a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement, which will provide a collective voice to record what is important now and in the future for Kersey Residents. An action plan is being created as part of this plan which will guide the work of the Parish Council over the next few years. The Kersey People and Place Plan will be shared with residents and with Babergh District Council who will have a legal duty to have regard to the approved People and Place Plan when making decisions affecting Kersey.

The Parish Council initiates and supports, with the help of volunteers, a variety of projects in Kersey to improve the quality of life for residents. Projects include the installation of defibrillators, managing the playground, the footpath network and keeping Kersey litter free. The Parish Council can also influence other bodies and tiers of local government, including through planning recommendations, raising matters of local concern and partnership working.

The residents of Kersey, through the 'precept' fund the Parish Council. The precept is the local tax levied by the Parish Council that Babergh District Council collects on our behalf as part of the Council Tax bill. The Parish Council sets a budget in November each year and carefully monitors expenditure during the year, financial statements form part of meeting minutes and are published on the Kersey website.

January 2026

## Kersey Parish Council Footpath Working Group Account and Budget Year ending 31 March 2026

Actual at 31 March 2023	Actual at 31 March 2024	Actual at 31 March 2025		Budget year ending 31 March 2026	Actual at 31 Dec 2025	Budget year ending 31 March 2027
£3,864.82	£4,135.83	£3,514.08	Reserve as at 1 April	£3,624.25	£3,624.25	£4,222.75
			<b>Income</b>			
£752.48	£956.74	£1,026.46	Public Rights of Way surface clearance under contract from SCC	£956.42	£957.18	£956.00
			Footpaths 6518m @6p/m x 2 cuts			
			Bridleways 722m @7.25p/m x 2 cuts			
			Water Lane 485 @ 7.25p/m x 2 cuts			
	£100.00		Sale of old DR strimmer			
<b>£752.48</b>	<b>£1,056.74</b>	<b>£1,026.46</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£956.42</b>	<b>£957.18</b>	<b>£956.00</b>
			<b>Expenditure</b>			
£68.86	£99.74	£166.69	Fuel - Est petrol 50 L + oil	£180.00	£87.53	£180.00
£412.61	£49.79	£108.77	Mower parts, repairs, service	£450.00	£271.15	£450.00
£0.00	£32.60		Safety equipment	£50.00		£50.00
<b>£481.47</b>	<b>£182.13</b>	<b>£275.46</b>		<b>£680.00</b>	<b>£358.68</b>	<b>£680.00</b>
	£1,496.36	£640.83	New mower & strimmer (less trade in)			
	<b>£1,678.49</b>	<b>£916.29</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>£680.00</b>	<b>£358.68</b>	
			Less estimated spending to year end			
<b>£4,135.83</b>	<b>£3,514.08</b>	<b>£3,624.25</b>	<b>Reserve at 31 March</b>	<b>£3,900.67</b>	<b>£4,222.75</b>	<b>£4,498.75</b>

SCC pays the Parish Council as a contractor, reserves are built up to pay for replacement equipment as necessary.

Insurance for volunteers is included in the PC insurance package.

**Budget for 2025/26 approved 27 January 2025 minute ref 17/25**

**Kersey Parish Council  
KCPC (Playground) Working Group Account and Budget  
Year ending 31 March 2026**

Actual at 31 March 2023	Actual at 31 March 2024	Actual at 31 March 2025		Budget year ending 31 March 2026	Actual at 31 Dec 2025	Budget year ending 31 March 2027
<b>£2,886.70</b>	<b>£3,735.38</b>	<b>£5,732.84</b>		<b>Reserve as at 1 April</b>	<b>£5,346.34</b>	<b>£5,346.34</b>
			<b>Income</b>			
£894.51	£1,430.81	£1,620.00	Quiz donations	£1,000.00	£1,755.85	£1,200.00
£200.00	£200.00	£200.00	Quiz raffle donations		£80.00	
			Grants received			
	£1,000.00		Donation from Lewis Mowles Trust			
	£715.00		Babergh Locality budget grant			
<b>£1,094.51</b>	<b>£3,345.81</b>	<b>£1,820.00</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£1,000.00</b>	<b>£1,835.85</b>	<b>£1,200.00</b>
			<b>Expenses</b>			
			<b>General KCPC running expenses</b>			
£0.00			General maint & safety equip	£200.00		£200.00
£245.83	£154.17		Mower maint/service	£200.00		£200.00
£0.00			Mower fuel	£50.00		£50.00
£0.00			Rubbish sacks	£5.00		£5.00
			<b>Quiz</b>			
£0.00	£60.00	£60.00	Hall hire	£65.00	£60.00	£65.00
£0.00	£617.18	£645.90	food	£700.00	£736.67	£900.00
£0.00			prizes	£35.00		£35.00
			Other quiz expenses	£20.00		£20.00
<b>£245.83</b>	<b>£831.35</b>	<b>£705.90</b>	<i>sub total of general KCPC running expenses</i>	<b>£1,275.00</b>	<b>£796.67</b>	<b>£1,475.00</b>
			<b>One off additional expenses</b>			
			Cricket net replacement net	£300.00		£300.00
			Mower hutch repairs/replacement	£250.00		£250.00
	£517.00		Top up safety surface rubber chips 2x500kg			
			<b>Budget</b>	<b>£1,825.00</b>		<b>£2,025.00</b>
			Maintenance parts - toddler swing seat, assoc parts, signs, fence posts and timber	£300.00		
			Swing frame repairs approved Nov 23 delayed and completed in May 24			
		£1,500.60				
<b>£245.83</b>	<b>£1,348.35</b>	<b>£2,206.50</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>£2,125.00</b>	<b>£796.67</b>	<b>£2,025.00</b>
			Less estimated spending to year end			
<b>£3,735.38</b>	<b>£5,732.84</b>	<b>£5,346.34</b>	<b>Reserve at 31 March</b>	<b>£4,221.34</b>	<b>£6,385.52</b>	<b>£5,560.52</b>

**Budget for 2025/26 approved 27 January 2025 minute ref 18/25**

Maintenance materials £400 approved 7 July 25 min 87/25

£1,630.81	£1,820.00	Quiz night receipts	£1,835.85
£677.18	£705.90	Quiz night expenses	£796.67
<b>£953.63</b>	<b>£1,114.10</b>	<b>Quiz night profit</b>	<b>£1,039.18</b>

Actual at 31/03/2023	Actual at 31/03/24	Actual at 31/03/25	Receipts	Budget yr ending 31/03/26	Actual to 31 Dec 25	Estimate at 31 Mar 26	Budget yr ending 31/03/27	
£ 10,080.00	£ 11,420.00	£ 14,322.00	Precept	£ 15,677.00	£ 15,677.00	£ 15,677.00	£ 16,230.00	
		£ 2,472.76	Babergh Neighbourhood CIL	£ -		£ -	£ -	
	£ -	£ 100.00	Filming donations	£ -	£ 150.00	£ 150.00	£ -	
£ 57.49	£ 330.66	£ 493.33	Bank interest	£ 100.00	£ 361.47	£ 370.00	£ 300.00	
	£ 354.95	£ -	Insurance claim -street sign	£ -		£ -	£ -	
	£ 150.00	£ -	Donations for historic street sign	£ -		£ -	£ -	
	£ 1,405.00	£ 400.00	Donations for defibrillator	£ -		£ -	£ -	
	£ 488.00	£ -	Donation from LM Trust for bench	£ -		£ -	£ -	
£ 752.48	£ 1,056.74	£ 1,026.46	Footpath working group	£ 956.42	£ 957.18	£ 957.18	£ 956.00	
£ 3,600.00	£ -	£ -	Jubilee working group	£ -		£ -	£ -	
£ 1,094.51	£ 3,345.81	£ 1,820.00	KCPC working group	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,835.85	£ 1,835.85	£ 1,200.00	
£ 1,477.11	£ 819.02	£ 814.46	VAT repayment	£ 679.54	£ 679.54	£ 679.54	£ 500.00	
<b>£ 17,061.59</b>	<b>£ 19,370.18</b>	<b>£ 21,449.01</b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£ 18,412.96</b>	<b>£ 19,661.04</b>	<b>£ 19,669.57</b>	<b>£ 19,186.00</b>	
Actual at 31/03/23	Actual at 31/03/24	Actual at 31/03/25	Reserves (Cash at bank)	Estimate Spent from reserve	Estimate Added to reserve	Estimate at 31/03/26		
£ 4,135.83	£ 3,514.08	£ 3,624.25	Footpath working group	£ 680.00	£ 957.18	£ 3,901.43		
£ 3,735.38	£ 5,732.84	£ 5,346.34	KCPC working group (ring fenced)	£ 1,825.00	£ 1,835.85	£ 5,357.19		
£ 200.00	£ 210.00	£ 210.00	Audit reserve			£ 210.00		
		£ -	.gov website and mailboxes		£ 180.00	£ 180.00		
£ 782.84	£ 800.17	£ 1,040.05	Training reserve			£ 1,040.05		
£ 1,014.06	£ 694.06	£ 1,344.06	Defibrillator reserve			£ 1,344.06		
£ 649.71	£ 681.08	£ 846.08	Election expenses reserve		£ 165.00	£ 1,011.08		
£ 2,210.00	£ 2,340.00	£ 2,470.00	Church Walk future maint reserve		£ 130.00	£ 2,600.00		
£ 508.50	£ 583.50	£ 658.50	Footpath map printing reserve		£ 75.00	£ 733.50		
£ 2,243.09	£ 2,128.41	£ 3,587.08	Fixed asset reserve	£ 700.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 4,387.08		
£ 1,750.00	£ 1,524.95	£ 1,481.67	Filming donations reserve	£ 370.00	£ 150.00	£ 1,261.67		
£ 164.00	£ -	£ -	BDC Council Tax Support grant res			£ -		Moved into General Reserve Nov 23
		£ 2,472.76	Neighbourhood CIL			£ 2,472.76		£2472.76 Received April 24 must be spent before April 2029
		£ 1,500.00	Highway safety sign reserve	£ 1,500.00	£ -	£ -		For one off contribution towards safety signs on A1141
£ 4,562.53	£ 5,061.75	£ 5,690.00	Unmarked General PC reserve	£ 360.31	£ 1,041.01	£ 6,370.70		(Less VAT spent. Plus VAT repayment and bank interest)
<b>£ 21,955.94</b>	<b>£ 23,270.84</b>	<b>£ 30,270.79</b>	<b>Reserves</b>			<b>£ 30,869.52</b>		
			General PC reserve policy - hold 3-12 months gross expenditure (£3,580 - £14,322 (5 yr average))					
			General PC reserves vary from year to year partly due to VAT being reclaimed the following year.					
			<b>Yr end 31/03/2027 precept £16,230 approved 26 Jan 26 Min ref 16/26 tax base 199.79 = £81.24/yr for a band D property 7.65% increase (note tax base decreased)</b>					
			Yr end 31/03/2026 precept £15,677 approved 27 Jan 25 Min ref 22/25 tax base 207.75 = £75.46/yr for a band D property 0% increase					
			Yr end 31/03/2025 Precept £14,322 approved 29 Jan 24 Min ref 19/24 Tax Base 189.79 = £75.46/yr for a band D property 27.26% increase					
			Yr end 31/03/2024 Precept £11,420 approved 30 Jan 23 Min ref 25/23 Tax base 192.58 = £59.30/yr for band D property 11.2 % increase					
			Yr end 31/03/2023 Precept £10,080 approved 31 Jan 22 Min ref 20/22 Tax base 189.02 = £53.32 for band D property 0 % increase					

Actual at 31/03/2023	Actual to 31/03/24	Actual to 31/03/25	Payments	Budget yr ending 31/03/26	Actual to 31 Dec 25	Estimate at 31 Mar 26	Budget yr end 31/03/27	Notes (Estimated Increase in CPI 2025 3.2%, 2026 2.1%)
£ 92.85	£ 222.17	£ 106.92	Post/stationery/printing/MS365	£ 135.00	£ 143.34	£ 151.00	£ 220.00	Add MS365 £85
£ 260.00	£ 312.00	£ 312.00	Clerk's homeworking allowance	£ 312.00	£ 156.00	£ 312.00	£ 312.00	£6/week
£ 115.00	£ 68.00	£ 68.00	Hall hire for meetings	£ 120.00	£ 40.00	£ 87.00	£ 120.00	Village hall cttee room £7 main hall £12
£ 189.88	£ 203.94	£ 205.20	SALC/NALC subscription	£ 220.00	£ 208.69	£ 208.69	£ 230.00	Feb 25 294 electors
			Bank charges			£ 25.00	£ 100.00	Bank introducing current a/c charges from Feb 26
£ -	£ -		External audit	£ -		£ -	£ -	Fees to year ending 2027 £210 unless exempt (£210 in reserve)
£ 35.00	£ 35.00	£ 35.00	Data protection - ICO reg	£ 40.00	£ 47.00	£ 47.00	£ 52.00	ICO reg currently £5 discount for DD payment
£ 120.00	£ 120.00	£ 120.00	Website hosting	£ 130.00	£ 120.00	£ 120.00	£ 130.00	suffolk.cloud
		£ 230.00	.gov website & email mailboxes	£ 180.00		£ 180.00	£ 180.00	biannual payment, add to reserve. Ensures regs & data protection compliance
<b>£ 812.73</b>	<b>£ 961.11</b>	<b>£ 1,077.12</b>	<b>Administration sub total</b>	<b>£ 1,137.00</b>	<b>£ 715.03</b>	<b>£ 1,130.69</b>	<b>£ 1,344.00</b>	
£ 6,351.68	£ 7,034.74	£ 7,854.84	Staff costs	£ 7,950.00		£ 8,950.00	£ 9,150.00	SCP23 (SCP24 from 1 Apr 26) inc Employers NI and overtime
£ 166.35	£ 232.67	£ 10.12	Training and external meetings	£ 250.00	£ 22.05	£ 250.00	£ 250.00	Whole Council 2hrs £250, Cllr £70, others approx £50 mileage £100
£ 171.20	£ 165.17	£ 121.14	Street lighting	£ 560.00		£ 560.00	£ 560.00	LED conversion Sept 22 (£2450 from fixed asset reserve) energy usage reduced, budget remains at pre LED level allowing for actual increased energy costs to recoup conversion cost to fixed asset reserve
£ 358.83	£ 441.99	£ 476.58	Insurance (PC & Glebe)	£ 500.00	£ 480.82	£ 555.00	£ 675.00	PC Ita ends Sept 28 - £600 (Glebe approx £75)
£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	Glebe hedgecut	£ 115.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 120.00	
£ 200.00	£ 250.00	£ 250.00	Mowing the Glebe	£ 260.00	£ 260.00	£ 260.00	£ 270.00	
£ 91.00	£ 96.00	£ 102.00	RoSPA inspection	£ 110.00	£ 104.00	£ 104.00	£ 110.00	
£ 9.98	£ -	£ 11.65	Bin emptying charges	£ 20.00	£ 11.65	£ 20.00	£ 20.00	Volunteer empties foc. Bin bags £20. BDC subsidised service £47/dog £40/litter. PC has 3 dog & 2 litter bins (2023 BDC quote £221)
£ 460.00	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	St Mary's PCC	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	Split:Churchyd £500 Nletter £450 Clock £50 (last increased Nov 2024)
£ 126.00	£ 135.00	£ -	Defibrillators	£ 460.00		£ 460.00	£ 460.00	Consumable supplies £150/yr plus build reserve for replacement unit
		£ -	Village Emergency Telephone	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	
£ -	£ -	£ -	People & Place Plan	£ 500.00	£ 117.64	£ 130.00	£ -	
£ -	£ -	£ -	Section 137	£ -		£ -	£ -	
<b>£ 8,847.77</b>	<b>£ 9,916.68</b>	<b>£ 10,503.45</b>	<b>General PC payments</b>	<b>£ 12,962.00</b>	<b>£ 2,811.19</b>	<b>£ 13,619.69</b>	<b>£ 13,959.00</b>	
	£ 133.63	£ -	Election costs reserve	£ 165.00	£ -	£ 165.00	£ 165.00	4 year cycle (May 27) est 2023 full £1,080, combined £920, uncontested £135
		£ -	Church Walk future maint reser	£ 130.00	£ -	£ 130.00	£ 130.00	Build up reserve for future maint costs
		£ -	Footpath map printing reserve	£ 75.00	£ -	£ 75.00	£ 75.00	Build up reserve for reprint £75/year, approx 1,000 maps/yr 1500 in stock Nov 25
		£ -	Fixed asset reserve	£ 1,500.00	£ -	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,600.00	Build up reserve for replacements and repairs
		£ -	General Parish Council reserve	£ 545.00	£ -	£ 545.00	£ -	
		£ -	Contingencies	£ 300.00	£ -	£ -	£ 301.00	Divide total DRAFT precept £16,230 by tax base of 199.79 to calculate band D council tax. DRAFT £81.24 = 7.65% increase (Mar2025 £75.46)
<b>£ 8,847.77</b>	<b>£ 10,050.31</b>	<b>£ 10,503.45</b>	<b>Total Precept</b>	<b>£ 15,677.00</b>	<b>£ 2,811.19</b>	<b>£ 16,034.69</b>	<b>£ 16,230.00</b>	
£ 2,450.20	£ 1,805.00	£ -	Defib reserve spend	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	
	£ 1,628.67	£ -	Fixed asset reserve spend	£ 700.00	£ 684.22	£ 700.00	£ -	Replacement PC laptop £349.17. Fixed asset repairs £335.05
	£ 730.00	£ 143.28	Filming donation reserve spend	£ -	£ 300.00	£ 370.00	£ -	Highway safety signs £300, Good Neighbours flyer £70
			Highway safety sign reserve spend		£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00	£ -	
			<b>General PC total budget</b>	<b>£ 16,377.00</b>			<b>£ 16,230.00</b>	
£ 481.47	£ 1,678.49	£ 916.29	Footpath working group	£ 680.00	£ 358.68	£ 680.00	£ 680.00	Provisional budget Nov 25
£ 3,318.98	£ -	£ -	Jubilee working group	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	
£ 245.83	£ 1,348.35	£ 2,206.50	KCPC working group	£ 1,825.00	£ 796.67	£ 1,825.00	£ 2,025.00	Provisional budget Nov 25
<b>£ 15,344.25</b>	<b>£ 17,240.82</b>	<b>£ 13,769.52</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>£ 18,882.00</b>	<b>£ 6,450.76</b>	<b>£ 21,109.69</b>	<b>£ 18,935.00</b>	
£ 819.02	£ 814.46	£ 679.54	VAT on payments		£ 360.31			
<b>£ 16,163.27</b>	<b>£ 18,055.28</b>	<b>£ 14,449.06</b>	<b>Total PC &amp; WG payments plus VAT</b>		<b>£ 6,811.07</b>			
						£ 357.69		Precept overspend, mainly due to Employers NI - use filming reserve to fund overspend