

DRAFT Minutes of Kersey Parish Council meeting

held on Monday 7 September 2026 at Kersey Village Hall at 7.30pm

Before the meeting started the Chair welcomed Harrison Sharp, new tenant and landlord at the Bell Inn, who introduced himself and outlined their plans for the pub. They will be open 7 days a week for drinks and serve homemade food which will include lunch and dinner, Sunday lunch and breakfast Friday to Sunday. They want The Bell to continue to be part of the community. They will work hard to be good neighbours and welcome suggestions for changes and improvements.

Present: John Hume (Chair), Liz Bostock, David Butcher, Esme Chapman and Richard Walker.

In attendance: Leigh Jamieson (BDC), Simon Dowling and 7 members of the public for part of the meeting, and Sarah Partridge (Clerk)

95/26 Apologies – Apologies were received and approved with consent from Penny Calnan (personal). Andrew Rogers (work) sent his apologies after the meeting due to an unexpected delay at work.

96/26 Accept Members' Declarations of Interest and consider Dispensation requests for Pecuniary Interests - None

97/26 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2026 were confirmed as being correct and signed.

98/26 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 – Simon Dowling's report was taken as read. He highlighted the switch together support available for replacing oil heating with an air source heat pump and also loans for renewable energy home improvements.

b) Babergh District Councillor report – Leigh Jamieson's report was taken as read. He highlighted the loss of the 5-year housing land supply and the new NPPF. Leigh answered questions including one relating to the residential development of the old council offices at Corks Lane. This is going to make a loss. However, the decision to develop the site was made by a previous administration and has been severely affected by COVID and wars in Europe and the Middle East, which are outside their control. An external review is being carried out to learn lessons for the future.

c) Parish Time – Parishioners' opportunity to raise matters and ask questions.

Concern was raised about an increase in parking in The Street once 3-6 The Street are let. There seems to be no provision for parking on site. It was thought the landlord had made a commitment to this. *Simon Dowling and Leigh Jamieson gave their apologies and left the meeting.*

99/26 Planning applications

a) Progress

DC/26/01273 River House, The Street, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6DY

Proposal: Full Planning Application - Conversion and repair of agricultural barn to form studio for domestic use. And

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DC/26/01274 River House, The Street, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6DY

Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Conversion and repair of agricultural barn to form studio for domestic use.

The Parish Council had been re-consulted due to additional information received by Babergh. This related to heritage matters raised by the Babergh Heritage officer. The Parish Council noted the additional information and had no further comments to add to what had already been submitted.

DC/26/02474 Land South Of, Water Lane, Kersey, Suffolk

Proposal: Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/25/03819 dated 20.03.2026. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 1No. self-build dwelling (following demolition of existing building) and all ancillary works (Class Q fall back DC/23/04566) To vary Condition 2(Approved Plans/Documents), Condition 4(Access), Condition 6(Cycle Storage), Condition 7(Bin Storage and Presentation) and Condition 10(Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy)

This application has been withdrawn.

DC/26/02561 Leys House, Church Hill, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6DZ

Proposal: Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - G2 - Fruit Trees Fruit Trees (Apple and Pear) Reduce to previous pruning points Remove dead and crossing branches Remove water shoot T3 - Walnut Tree (Dead) Remove to ground level.

Babergh confirmed on 10 July 2026 it does not wish to object and the tree works may be carried out.

b) Consider planning applications received:

DC/26/03656 The Corner House, The Street, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6DY

Proposal: Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Plum tree that is dead and requires removal since it is unsafe. No leaves remaining on tree during August and no green within branches. Main trunk moves when pushed.

The applicant was not present. The Parish Council considered this application and was unanimous in fully supporting the proposals.

DC/26/03064 Land West of Lodge Farm, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey, IP7 6EY

Proposal: Full Planning Application - Erection of 1no. detached self-build dwelling with associated garage, landscaping and parking

The applicant was present and outlined their proposal to build a new modern, eco-friendly home to downsize into, releasing their present large home for a new family. They had consulted neighbours who all seemed supportive. The council considered the proposals. The proposed new dwelling will allow longtime residents of the parish to downsize and remain in Kersey releasing a family home for a new family to move into. The draft Kersey People and Place Plan and the evidence collected during extensive public consultation for this plan supports exactly this type of development. Small family homes and downsizing opportunities located in the hamlets and residential areas outside the historic core (Kersey Conservation Area). The P&PP evidence also supports high-quality sustainable homes sensitive to the parish character. The proposed dwelling will have a heat pump, solar pv, battery storage, be well insulated and have rainwater harvesting. The flintwork proposed will match an existing barn at Lodge Farm so the proposed house will be in keeping with the surroundings. This proposal accords with the P&PP evidence and draft plan and for these reasons the Parish Council resolved by a unanimous decision to fully support this application.

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DC/26/03724 Green Gables, The Green, Kersey, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 6EB

Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Replacement of 2no. windows to the south elevation; Installation of timber cladding to the south elevation; Replacement garage doors to the east elevation; Construction of cobbled verge to the road frontage; Removal of an internal wall and insertion of an oak beam; Construction of new internal stud partition; Installation of internal lining with 25 mm insulation and Oriented Strand Board; Replacement of the door to the north elevation.

The applicant was present and outlined their plans for restoring and improving the outbuilding to make it more in keeping with the setting. The Parish Council considered the proposals and resolved by a unanimous decision to fully support the application. The proposals are sensitive to the character of the Kersey Conservation Area and the listed buildings and will ensure the building is protected for the future whilst remaining functional and useable.

c) Note applications received after publishing the agenda: None

100/26 Clerk's Report

Following the concern raised at the last meeting the SCC website shows that Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service inspect fire hydrants every 36 to 48 months. If members of the public notice problems these can be reported online. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/fire-hydrants>

Church and School car park added gravel – the contractor involved with laying the unnecessary new gravel, without consent, had said it would be removed in July. The PCC remains dissatisfied with the surface and the access problems and potential damage to the existing surface that it represents. The contractor is dealing directly with the landowner. As nothing has happened the landowner has now said he is going to clear the gravel himself.

The police camera team visited Church Hill in July following concerns raised by the Parish Council of speeding in the area. The camera safety team found there to be no issues for them to enforce.

The P&PP steering group met and went through the Babergh Local Plan Scoping consultation and made a full response using the data collected during the P&PP consultation.

Following a query raised at the last meeting regarding Babergh public realm management of the verges near The Splash, Babergh confirmed that they used to manage these areas, but a resident has been cutting them, so they did not add it to their list this year. The area has now been included to check and if it has not been cut then their contractor will do so. Pavement spraying of weeds is carried out twice a year by SCC contractors to prevent weed growth damaging the footways and increasing maintenance costs. Fixed assets repairs and timber treatments should all be completed in the next couple of weeks. The defibrillators are regularly checked and reported to Webnos and the Circuit as active and ready in case of an emergency. The Bell defib battery is low and a replacement has been ordered. The website continues to be updated as necessary. The Clerk is still waiting to hear back from the district emergency planning team regarding advice on improving the flood resilience section and any other improvements to our community emergency plan. The Clerk will chase them up again.

101/26 Correspondence

All Parish Council correspondence had been circulated to Councillors. The following items were noted: James Cartlidge MP is hosting the **South Suffolk Seniors Fair, 18 September**, from 09:00-11:00, at Leavenheath Village Hall, CO6 4N. The event will provide information and advice about services and support available for older residents.

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Local Government Reorganisation, LGR plans are on hold after the government launched a review in light of new legal advice. SALC had been representing town and parish councils at a stakeholder group and will continue to engage on behalf of councils as necessary during the review.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

102/26 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) Actual against budgeted spending was reviewed, spending is in line with the budget. See appended budget receipts and payments sheets.

c) David Butcher confirmed he had verified the bank reconciliations and signed the bank statement.

d) The Clerk had circulated the insurance renewal documents for review by Councillors. The cover is the same as last year when the council signed a 3-year fixed rate agreement. The cover is appropriate for the Parish Council needs and the levels of asset cover in the various categories is more than required but is their standard cover amounts. Fidelity guarantee is £250,000, which is more than enough cover. The Parish Council cannot insure the table tennis tables as the Parish Council had no control over them or the property in which they are stored. The Table Tennis club will discuss insurance arrangements with the village hall. They also need to consider their public liability cover. The Parish Council agreed in principle to provide financial support towards the Table Tennis Club insurance subject to their policy cover and costs. *Power: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19*. The Clerk is not happy with the service provided by the insurance company; they had not updated their system regarding the FRA agreed last September or sent out renewal documents automatically. The Parish Council approved the renewal as it has committed to a 3 year fixed rate agreement.

The Parish Council approved the purchase of a replacement defibrillator battery for Bell Inn unit £250 plus delivery £15 plus VAT *Power: Public Health Act 1936 s234 (power to provide lifesaving appliances)*

At the last meeting, the Parish Council had approved the purchase of a replacement bench next to the pump. Following a site visit Bryn has had to slightly increase his quote because he will need to fit new anti-theft metal stakes and for the carving on the back rail. The Parish Council approved the new quote of £675. The Clerk had received an enquiry from a family member of the original bench donors who had kindly offered to contribute toward the new bench, he would like to take away the old bench. This was approved. Leigh Jamieson had also offered locality funding for benches, which was accepted.

103/26 Confirm date of internal audit

The Clerk has arranged for the internal auditor to complete the interim internal audit in late October.

104/26 Footpath Working Group report

A report was received from Kevin Pratt. Second cuts have commenced but a few footpaths remain uncut due to extensive overhang of hedgerows which is making it increasingly difficult and the paths too narrow. Some hedges are due to be cut shortly by a landowner but repeated requests to another landowner have been ignored and no action taken. This is now an urgent area requiring action. As a result, the affected footpaths including Priory and Spring Wood will only be cut back to a limited extent. The footbridge over Kersey Brook on 12C has been replaced by SCC. The Parish Council discussed the hedge cutting problem and it was agreed the Clerk and Chair would discuss this outside the meeting and agree the best way to forward.

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105/26 KCPC Working Group report

Jonathan Marsh had sent a report. The working group have a meeting on 7 September to plan the quiz night and maintenance day which will be held in the autumn. The RoSPA inspection will be completed this month. The annual fundraising quiz night will be held on Friday 20 November and will be advertised widely. The village hall has been booked.

106/26 Consider progress with the People and Place Plan

A draft of the People and Place Plan (P&PP) had been circulated to all Councillors for their review. This draft includes action points which have been revised to incorporate the feedback received at the public consultation events. All survey and consultation results and feedback are published on the Kersey website parish consultations webpage. The Chair was very pleased with the draft P&PP. This draft also includes the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan with a priority list of infrastructure wishes. This list had been drawn up from the consultation evidence. The Steering Group was asked to rank these based on the consultation evidence. The next steps are to receive feedback from Babergh District Council before finalising the draft and sharing this on the website for final public consultation before the Parish Council approve and publish the document.

107/26 Receive a report on flood risk management

David Butcher had reviewed the SCC flood investigation report and action points created by SCC.

The key points are:

- Drainage around the A1141 crossroads – it is not clear if the remedial works are planned or when they will be completed.
- Flood attenuation works - The wording is very vague talking about "exploring the potential" rather than actually doing anything. It is unclear how the potential will be explored and when!
- Ensure riparian landowner responsibilities are understood with regard to watercourse management in Kersey – SCC claim this action point has been completed by their publishing of "Flood Smart Living" online and hard copy guide about increasing flood resilience for residents, landowners and communities. This Parish Council does not believe publishing a document is sufficient. It is not clear why landowners would want to search for this document and how they would know the document even existed. (A link to the SCC flooding pages, which includes the 'Flood Smart living' document, is published on the Kersey website useful info page under flooding.) When the Clerk attended a flooding meeting in the summer SCC stated that they were working with the most affected communities first, Kersey would be very low on their priority list.

The Parish Council is not happy with the proposed actions, nothing has fundamentally changed and if an event like storm Babet were repeated properties would be flooded again. The Clerk is to raise these concerns with SCC, the Environment Agency (EA) and our MP. At the same time, the Clerk will try to get evidence from Kersey Mill about how closing the mill gates in Hadleigh does alleviate flooding in Kersey so this can also be supplied to the EA.

108/26 Consider highway safety at The Splash

There have been a number of accidents at The Splash this summer, including a cyclist requiring emergency medical support. The granite setts are loose and uneven which may be the cause of these accidents. The poor road surface has been reported to SCC. The road surface under the water is very slippery, possibly due to the reduced flow of water during the drought. There was discussion about whether additional signage would be helpful. The ford is on a straight section of road and clearly visible

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to road users from some distance and there is a pedestrian bridge adjacent to The Splash which can be used. The Highway Code states that road users should adapt their travel to the appropriate type and condition of road. It is also expected that everyone owes a common-law duty of care to themselves and others and should act reasonably to avoid foreseeable injury. This would include using common sense that any surface covered in water is likely to be slippery. Anecdotal evidence shows that even when there is signage erected by groups organising large cycling events warning of the potential danger this is often still ignored. Some residents have been verbally abused and then ignored when advising cyclists to take care or dismount and walk across the bridge. The SCC highways community engineer had already assessed the site and agreed with the above, and in their opinion, there is no suitable location for signage, if they were permitted in the Conservation Area. For these reasons, the Parish Council does not support the installation of signage.

The Parish Council agreed that SCC, as the highway authority with responsibility for The Splash, should carry out a risk assessment of The Splash to see what can be done to the road surface to reduce the risks to road users.

Three members of the public left the meeting.

109/26 Consider verge maintenance including Vale Lane grass triangle

Concerns were raised to SCC following the July Parish Council meeting regarding the lateness of verge cutting and the danger of overhanging grass and weed growth restricting visibility. SCC had responded setting out their reasoning for the verge cutting schedule. They state that grass cutting is undertaken primarily for highway safety purposes, ensuring that visibility for road users is maintained and that road and footway widths are not reduced by encroaching vegetation. The Parish Council does not believe this stated aim is being met with the current schedule which runs until the end of July. The Parish Council recommends that SCC look to change their operational plan, by having more contractors cutting during a shorter cutting timeline, to have all verges cut by the beginning of July to ensure highway safety requirements are met. The Clerk will write again to SCC, including the member for highways.

The Community Highways Engineer has provided an estimate for a scheme to install granite setts on the corners of Vale Lane grass triangle, as requested by the Parish Council. The estimate is £12,000 to £15,000. The Parish Council is expected to fund these works. The Parish Council was surprised by this extremely high cost and does not have funds available. The idea had been to help preserve the grass and prevent damage to the edge of the highway by cars parking on the edges of the triangle. Alternative ideas suggested at the meeting were low level posts, possibly with a chain fence.

110/26 Consider whether to explore options to create a safe walking and cycling route to Hadleigh

A safer, convenient cycling and walking route to Hadleigh is something the Parish Council has been concerned about for a while, along with cycling residents. The Parish Council had responded to consultations supporting this idea. Linking Kersey to Hadleigh is identified in the SCC LCWIP (Local cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) as a low priority. It is something identified by residents as a priority during the Kersey People and Place Plan consultations. There is no obvious convenient route to Hadleigh or a route which would also benefit other parishes along the A1141. It was agreed to pass this to Rights of Way to investigate further.

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111/26 Consider whether there are any ways to reduce fly tipping around the Parish

The Parish Council agreed that Babergh is good at responding to reports of fly tipping with quick response times. Residents would be reminded that any fly tipping noticed should be reported to Babergh which can be done quickly via their website.

112/26 Receive progress on the re-nomination of The Bell Inn as an Asset of Community Value

Penny will be contacting all community groups for their help to provide evidence of their continued use of The Bell over the past 5 years. Posters, fliers, notices/articles in the parish newsletter, and letters or emails from the organisers detailing their use including the period of time over which the activities operated, the frequency and an estimate of the number of people that normally took part. BDC are looking for recreational, cultural, sporting or wellbeing benefit. This is a large task which needs to be completed by the beginning of November ready for submission, so the Bell remains listed as an Asset of Community Value.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

113/26 Arrange the Clerk's job appraisal and salary review

The Chair and Clerk will meet in early November.

114/26 Receive report following review of website accessibility

The Clerk has checked the website. All uploaded documents are checked for accessibility before being published. The accessibility statement has been updated.

115/26 Agree content for the newsletter articles 'Pride in our Parish' and Community Organisation Spotlight

Pride in our Parish – an article highlighting the need for evidence to support the re-nomination of The Bell Inn as an Asset of Community Value and how to report fly tipping.

Community Organisation Spotlight – Andrew will be reminded to write a spotlight on the Footpath working group. John will try to meet with a KVG volunteer to draft an article.

116/26 Training

SALC continues to offer a variety of training as published on their website and circulated to Councillors. The Clerk attended a networking session with a focus on financial management in July.

117/26 Reports from other meetings

SALC AGM- Liz and Sarah had attended, notes circulated

Babergh Parish Liaison – notes circulated

118/26 Forthcoming meetings

Police and Parish Forum –7.30pm 16 Sept – information will be circulated to all Councillors

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119/26 Any other business – Councillors' opportunity to bring matters to the Council's attention

The Kersey Community WhatsApp group were discussed. They are not managed by the Parish Council. These groups for Kersey central, Uplands & Williams Green, Wickerstreet Green and Kersey Tye are used by residents to communicate matters relevant to those living in the immediate area. Events in Kersey are shared with all groups.

It is possible that the church clock will have to be stopped until repairs have been completed. The PCC has not been able to identify any external sources of funding for the repairs and modernisation, which would futureproof the clock so it can continue to provide a public time keeping service for many years to come. Community fundraising is an idea to be explored.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm.

Appended to these minutes are 8 pages:

Suffolk County Council report from Simon Dowling
Babergh District Council report from Leigh Jamieson
Kersey Parish Council finance sheet
Budget v actual comparison

Signed Date

September 2026

Parish Report

Cllr Simon Dowling

Hadleigh division, Suffolk County Council

simon.dowling@suffolk.gov.uk

Wildfires and firefighting capacity

Only a week after the Reform UK administration at the council made the decision to scrap its Climate Emergency Declaration, a wildfire broke out on Dunwich Heath which took several days to get under control and has caused an enormous amount of damage to rare heathland habitat in one of the most beautiful and much-loved parts of the county. Suffolk Fire and Rescue worked with firefighters from all over the country to get it under control: at the height of the fire there were 120 firefighters tackling the blaze. Displaced residents needed shelter and support, so the local community rallied to open up village halls to help, and local farmers brought in water by tractor to terrain that could not be reached by fire engines. This is only one of many climate change-related incidents attended by blue light services over the summer, where intense heat and lack of rain have made the Suffolk countryside a tinder box for fires. Whatever the cause of the fire, it is climate change that created the conditions for this fire and others to burn so quickly and for so long, and to be so difficult to get under control. There have been claims in the press and online that rewilding causes wildfires, but the evidence shows the opposite – rewilded areas retain water better and remain green during hot weather. In any case, Dunwich Heath is a traditionally managed nature reserve and is not a rewilding site.

Following the fire, the Suffolk Fire Brigade Union wrote to the Prime Minister to explain that fire services need more investment in equipment in order to fight wildfires: systems to collect water, clothing that is less heavy, and boots for outdoor terrain when crews are required to walk for miles. He also highlighted the need to increase firefighter capacity in the light of the number of fires, and that more 4x4 vehicles would be useful. Suffolk currently receives less than average funding from the government for its fire service, although it is one of the driest areas in the country and is therefore more likely to be hit by wildfires in our increasingly hot, dry summers.

Help to replace ageing heating systems

Suffolk public sector organisations (including all Suffolk councils) are partnering with Switch Together, a community group-buying scheme, to make it easier for Suffolk residents to replace ageing gas, oil or LPG boilers with heat pumps. Through the government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme, eligible homeowners

in England can receive a grant of £7,500 toward an air source heat pump, or £9,000 for households currently heating with oil or LPG. The grant is applied for upfront by the installer, so residents do not need to claim it back or repay it. The scheme is open to homeowners and small business owners in England who are replacing a fossil fuel heating system and hold a valid Energy Performance Certificate with no outstanding major insulation recommendations. It is not means-tested, so there is no income threshold to qualify, and the scheme is currently scheduled to run until 31 December 2027. Switch Together works by bringing residents together so that installers compete to win their business which secures better prices than homeowners could negotiate individually. Once registered, residents receive a free, no-obligation personal offer, and their installer then handles the grant application on their behalf. Switch Together's group-buying savings apply on top of the government grant. Every installation is carried out by a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accredited installer. For more information about the scheme, please visit the Sustainable Suffolk website:

<https://sustainablesuffolk.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/switch-together-suffolk/>

Energy efficiency loans

Homeowners across Suffolk can now apply for a loan to help fund energy efficiency improvements to their homes, thanks to a partnership between Suffolk County Council and Lendology. The Warm Homes Suffolk Loan scheme offers eligible homeowners access to loans from £2k to £15k at a fixed interest rate of 2.2% Annual Percentage Rate (APR), with repayment terms of up to seven years. Borrowers may also repay their loan early without penalty, subject to eligibility and loan terms. The funding is designed to support residents who want to improve the energy performance of their homes while spreading the cost of installation over a manageable period.

The loan can be used for a range of energy efficiency measures, including:

- Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems
- Solar battery storage
- Solar thermal systems
- Ground source heat pumps
- Air source heat pumps
- Double and triple glazed windows and doors
- Loft, wall and floor insulation
- Ventilation systems when installed alongside insulation measures

The scheme aims to help residents reduce their energy bills and make their homes better insulated. For more information about the Warm Homes Suffolk Loan Scheme, please visit the Lendology website:

<https://www.lendology.org.uk/partner/suffolk-council/>

High Streets Matter: support for market towns

Suffolk County Council is offering extra support to small independent and hospitality businesses across the county via its new High Street Matter programme. This will offer 75 businesses a package of one-to-one advice, funding opportunities and peer networking, with a view to help them become more resilient so high streets can thrive. Interested businesses can find out more and register here:

<https://www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk/suffolks-high-streets-matter/>

Public consultation on cuts to Healthy Child Service

Finally, Suffolk County Council's public consultation on proposed changes to its Healthy Child Service has been extended by a month. The proposed changes include cessation of the Young Person Pathway and Family Nurse Partnership, which provides specialist support to parents under the age of 21 after

they have a baby. The proposals also include removal of the Community Staff Nurse role from Health Visiting teams, and the School Nursing service becoming term-time only. The consultation now runs until 18 October, with a decision likely to be made at Cabinet in November.

You can read through the proposals and respond to the consultation here if you have not already done so: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/healthy-child-services-consultations>

Over 140km of Suffolk roads treated as 2026 surface dressing programme comes to an end

Suffolk Highways has completed its 2026 surface dressing programme, treating 141 km of roads across the county to help protect and extend the life of Suffolk's highway network. The programme saw more than 750,000 square metres of road treated – equivalent to over 100 full-sized football pitches – across 86 sites in all areas of Suffolk. Surface dressing is a fast, efficient and sustainable way to maintain roads. It seals the road surface, restores skid resistance and helps protect against water damage, extending the life of roads and reducing the need for more costly repairs. The 2026 programme also provided an opportunity to trial new approaches to surface dressing and communicating with road users. Variable Message Signs (VMS) were used at busier sites to provide advance warning and live information to road users. The trial was successful and will help inform how Suffolk Highways communicates about future works. A product called Lockchip was also successfully trialled at nine sites across Suffolk: it's designed to help seal down the newly applied surface and reduce loose chippings following treatment.

In other Highways news, the council is trialling a pothole repair machine supplied by JCB, the Pothole Pro. It's engineered to cut, crop and clean defects using dedicated attachments to a standard wheeled tractor unit, preparing each pothole for permanent filling by a road crew in as little as eight minutes. In previous years, the same machine was tested and rejected as uneconomic or inefficient by other county councils. However, since their administrations changed to Reform UK, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire CCs have adopted it after all. It was revealed earlier this year that JCB donated £200,000 each to Reform UK and to the Conservative Party in the run-up to the May 2026 local elections.

Social Media and Helpful Links

Follow us on:

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/scc.green/>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/suffolkgreens/>

Group Website - <https://suffolkgreens.org.uk/>

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue->

[safety-advice-in-the-community/what-to-do-in-a-flood](#)

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/risk-advice/flooding/>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

District Council Report

Council loses Five-year housing land supply.

As a result of National Planning Policy Framework changes, the Councils have had to apply a 20% buffer to their five-year housing land supply requirement rather than the 5% buffer previously applied.

The annual housing requirements set out in Policy SP01 of the adopted Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 are 416 homes for Babergh and 535 homes for Mid Suffolk. These figures are less than 80% of the most up to date local housing need figure calculated using the standard method as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, which are 790 homes for Babergh and 757 homes for Mid Suffolk.

Since the start of July this results in Babergh having a 4.68-year housing land supply figure and Mid Suffolk having a 6.73-year housing land supply figure.

What this means is that Babergh's local housing policies are treated as out-of-date under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), triggering the "tilted balance" and a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This means the default stance for new planning applications shifts heavily toward approval, weakening the council's control over where homes are built.

Community Investment

Community infrastructure payments have been used to upgrade play areas in Sudbury and Hadleigh.

In Sudbury money went to Belle Vue Park and the Aubrey Drive play area, while £76k was used for improving the play area at the Calais Street recreation ground in Hadleigh.

In each case, proposals include upgrading facilities to create more inclusive play equipment that is designed to support children with disabilities, incorporating sensory play features and ground level activities as well as features to ensure safe and accessible fun for all.

Meanwhile, Hadleigh Leisure Centre also received £101k towards a project to increase the capacity of the fitness suite and repurpose a ground-floor room into a community space.

Help to replace ageing heating systems with heat pumps.

Suffolk's public sector organisations are partnering with Switch Together to help residents in Suffolk move away from ageing and inefficient heating systems.

Through the government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme, eligible homeowners in England can receive a grant of £7,500 toward an air source heat pump, or £9,000 for households currently heating with oil or LPG. The grant is applied for upfront by the installer, so residents do not need to claim it back or repay it.

The Boiler Upgrade Scheme is open to homeowners and small business owners in England who are replacing a fossil fuel heating system and hold a valid Energy Performance Certificate with no outstanding major insulation recommendations. It is not means-tested, so there is no income threshold to qualify. The scheme is currently scheduled to run until 31 December 2027.

Silver award for Councils' armed forces commitment

This summer, the councils received their Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award, acknowledging their outstanding support of the armed forces community.

The award is given to organisations that have made tangible changes to their workplace policies and culture, helping to ensure that reservists, veterans, cadet force adult volunteers, and their families feel genuinely valued.

Council reiterates opposition to pylons.

Although negotiations with National Grid have secured some improvements to planned construction practice and ecological management, last month the councils said that there were still too many questions unanswered regarding the significant and devastating impacts of the scheme on the districts.

The councils repeated their objection to the proposal and the call they made during public hearings earlier this year for a delay to the project so other options – such as an undersea route or underground cabling – can be fully considered and costed.

In the event of the scheme being given the go-ahead despite their opposition, the councils have also requested a final opportunity to 'check and challenge' as required, with the addition of a compliance monitoring, reporting and enforcement strategy within the development consent order – meaning developers working more closely with local authorities and greater transparency for local communities.

Councils recognised as Menopause Friendly employers.

The accreditation certifies high standards and proven practices that embrace menopause in the workplace. It is assessed and awarded by an independent panel who described the councils' application as "excellent", demonstrating evidence of effectiveness in the five key areas of culture, policies and practices, training, engagement, and working environment.

Kersey Parish Council

Finance

Details for Parish Council Meeting on 7 September 2026

Transactions from 1 July 2026 up to 31 August 2026

Bank Balances at 31 August 2026

Current account	£626.63
Instant access savings account	£19,444.96
95 day notice account	£20,175.01
	£40,246.60

Internal transfers between accounts

28-Jul-26 Transfer from Instant Access to current	£1,000.00
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Income received

11-Aug-26 SCC Rights of Way footpath surface clearance	£472.53
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Payments made between meetings

Bank debit Monthly current account service fee @£7.00	£14.00
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Payments for approval at the meeting

WJ Green - KCPC expenses	£21.11
S Partridge - Clerk home working allowance	£78.00
S Partridge - Clerk's expenses	£25.38
ICO registration via Direct Debit	£47.00
The Tilian Partnership - parish contribution to Glebe mowing	£270.00
Kersey Village Hall hire	£33.00
Kevin Pratt - Footpath expenses & refuse sacks for dog bins	£91.45
Clear - PC insurance	£522.45
Community Heartbeat Trust - defib battery Bell Inn	£318.00
	£1,406.39

Expenditure Agreed

Prepared by the Clerk for Kersey Parish Council

Actual at 31/03/24	Actual at 31/03/25	Actual at 31/03/26	Receipts	Budget yr ending 31/03/27	Actual to 31 Aug 26	Estimate at 31 Mar 26	Budget yr ending 31/03/28	
£ 11,420.00	£ 14,322.00	£ 15,677.00	Precept	£ 16,230.00	£ 8,115.00	£ 16,230.00		
	£ 2,472.76	£ -	Babergh Neighbourhood CIL	£ -		£ -	£ -	
£ -	£ 100.00	£ 150.00	Filming donations	£ -		£ -	£ -	
£ 330.66	£ 493.33	£ 534.00	Bank interest	£ 300.00	£ 238.15	£ 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	£ -		£ -	£ -	
£ 1,056.74	£ 1,026.46	£ 957.18	Footpath working group	£ 956.00	£ 472.53	£ 956.00		
£ 3,345.81	£ 1,820.00	£ 1,835.85	KCPC working group	£ 1,200.00		£ 1,200.00		
£ 819.02	£ 814.46	£ 679.54	VAT repayment	£ 473.73		£ 473.73		
£ 19,370.18	£ 21,449.01	£ 19,833.57	Total receipts	£ 19,159.73	£ 8,825.68	£ 19,159.73	£ -	
Actual at 31/03/24	Actual at 31/03/25	Actual at 31/03/26	Reserves (Cash at bank)	Estimate Spent from reserve	Estimate Added to reserve	Estimate at 31/03/27		
£ 3,514.08	£ 3,624.25	£ 4,092.46	Footpath working group	£ 680.00	£ 956.00	£ 4,368.46		
£ 5,732.84	£ 5,346.34	£ 5,968.52	KCPC working group (ring fenced)	£ 2,025.00	£ 1,200.00	£ 5,143.52		
£ 210.00	£ 210.00	£ 210.00	Audit reserve			£ 210.00		
	£ -	£ 180.00	gov.uk website & emailboxes			£ -		
£ 800.17	£ 1,040.05	£ 1,040.05	Training reserve			£ 1,040.05		
£ 694.06	£ 1,344.06	£ 1,761.11	Defibrillator reserve			£ 1,761.11		
£ 681.08	£ 846.08	£ 1,011.08	Election expenses reserve		£ 165.00	£ 1,176.08		
£ 2,340.00	£ 2,470.00	£ 2,600.00	Church Walk future maint reserve		£ 130.00	£ 2,730.00		
£ 583.50	£ 658.50	£ 733.50	Footpath map printing reserve		£ 75.00	£ 808.50		
£ 2,128.41	£ 3,587.08	£ 4,841.42	Fixed asset reserve	£ -	£ 1,600.00	£ 6,441.42		
£ 1,524.95	£ 1,481.67	£ 1,331.67	Filming donations reserve		£ -	£ 1,331.67		
	£ 2,472.76	£ 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	£ -	£ -	£ -		For one off contribution towards safety signs on A1141
£ 5,061.75	£ 5,690.00	£ 6,752.38	Unmarked General PC reserve	£ -	£ 773.73	£ 6,463.73		(Less VAT spent. Plus VAT repayment and bank interest)
£ 23,270.84	£ 30,270.79	£ 32,994.95	Reserves			£ 33,947.30		
			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.					
			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 7.66% increase (note tax base decreased)					
			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 (note tax base decreased)					
			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					

Actual to 31/03/24	Actual to 31/03/25	Actual to 31/03/26	Payments	Budget yr ending 31/03/27	Actual to 31 Aug 26	Estimate at 31 Mar 27	Budget yr end 31/03/28	Notes (Estimated Increase in CPI 2025 3.2%, 2026 2.1%)	
£ 222.17	£ 106.92	£ 155.75	Post/stationery/printing/MS365	£ 220.00		£ 220.00		MS365 £85	
£ 312.00	£ 312.00	£ 312.00	Clerk's homeworking allowance	£ 312.00	£ 78.00	£ 312.00		£6/week	
£ 68.00	£ 68.00	£ 68.00	Hall hire for meetings	£ 120.00		£ 120.00		Village hall cttee room £7 main hall £12	
£ 203.94	£ 205.20	£ 208.69	SALC/NALC subscription	£ 230.00	£ 211.03	£ 211.03		Dec 25 286 electors	
		£ 5.00	Bank charges	£ 100.00	£ 35.00	£ 100.00		Bank current a/c charges £7/month. Paying in cash 70p/£100 & chqs 40p	
£ -		£ -	External audit	£ -		£ -		Fees to year ending 2027 £210 unless exempt (£210 in reserve)	
£ 35.00	£ 35.00	£ 47.00	Data protection - ICO reg	£ 52.00		£ 52.00		ICO reg currently £5 discount for DD payment	
£ 120.00	£ 120.00	£ 120.00	Website hosting	£ 130.00	£ 120.00	£ 120.00		PearSpace (was suffolk.cloud)	
	£ 230.00	£ -	gov.uk website & emailboxes	£ 180.00	£ 130.00	£ 130.00		Ensures regs & data protection compliance	
£ 961.11	£ 1,077.12	£ 916.44	Administration sub total	£ 1,344.00	£ 574.03	£ 1,265.03	£ -		
£ 7,034.74	£ 7,854.84	£ 9,104.63	Staff costs	£ 9,150.00		£ 9,150.00		SCP24 inc Employers NI and overtime	
£ 232.67	£ 10.12	£ 22.05	Training and external meetings	£ 250.00		£ 250.00		Whole Council 2hrs £250, Cllr £70, others approx £50 mileage £100	
£ 165.17	£ 121.14	£ 121.44	Street lighting	£ 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	
						£ 560.00			
£ 441.99	£ 476.58	£ 548.02	Insurance (PC & Glebe)	£ 675.00		£ 675.00		PC Ita ends Sept 28 - £600 (Glebe approx £75)	
£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	Glebe hedgecut	£ 120.00		£ 120.00			
£ 250.00	£ 250.00	£ 260.00	Mowing the Glebe	£ 270.00		£ 270.00		Parish contribution	
£ 96.00	£ 102.00	£ 104.00	RoSPA inspection	£ 110.00		£ 110.00			
£ -	£ 11.65	£ 11.65	Bin emptying charges	£ 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)	
						£ 20.00			
£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ 1,000.00	St Mary's PCC	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00		Split:Churchyd £500 Nletter £450 Clock £50 (last increased Nov 2024)	
£ 135.00	£ -	£ 142.95	Defibrillators	£ 460.00		£ 460.00		Consumable supplies £150/yr plus build reserve for replacement unit	
£ -	£ -	£ 117.64	People & Place Plan			£ -			
£ -	£ -	£ -	Section 137	£ -		£ -			
£ 9,916.68	£ 10,503.45	£ 12,448.82	General PC payments	£ 13,959.00	£ 1,574.03	£ 13,880.03			
£ 133.63	£ -	£ -	Election costs reserve	£ 165.00	£ -	£ 165.00		4 year cycle (May 27) est 2023 full £1,080, combined £920, uncontested £135	
	£ -	£ -	Church Walk future maint reserv	£ 130.00	£ -	£ 130.00		Build up reserve for future maint costs	
	£ -	£ -	Footpath map printing reserve	£ 75.00	£ -	£ 75.00		Build up reserve for reprint £75/year, approx 1,000 maps/yr 1500 in stock Nov 25	
	£ -	£ -	Fixed asset reserve	£ 1,600.00	£ -	£ 1,600.00		Build up reserve for replacements and repairs	
	£ -	£ -	General Parish Council reserve	£ -	£ -	£ -			
	£ -	£ -	Contingencies	£ 301.00	£ -	£ 301.00			
£ 10,050.31	£ 10,503.45	£ 12,448.82	Total Precept	£ 16,230.00	£ 1,574.03	£ 16,151.03	£ -	Divide total precept £16,230 by tax base of 199.79 to calculate band D council tax. £81.24 = 7.66% increase (Mar 2025 £75.46)	
£ 1,805.00	£ -	£ -	Defib reserve spend	£ -	£ -	£ -			
£ 1,628.67	£ -	£ 684.22	Fixed asset reserve spend	£ -		£ -			
£ 730.00	£ 143.28	£ 300.00	Filming donation reserve spend	£ -		£ -			
		£ 1,500.00	Highway safety sign reserve spe	£ -		£ -			
			General PC total budget	£ 16,230.00			£ -		
£ 1,678.49	£ 916.29	£ 488.97	Footpath working group	£ 680.00		£ 680.00			
£ 1,348.35	£ 2,206.50	£ 1,213.67	KCPC working group	£ 2,025.00		£ 2,025.00			
£ 17,240.82	£ 13,769.52	£ 16,635.68	Total Budget	£ 18,935.00	£ 1,574.03	£ 18,856.03	£ -		
£ 814.46	£ 679.54	£ 473.73	VAT on payments						
£ 18,055.28	£ 14,449.06	£ 17,109.41	Total PC & WG payments plus VAT		£ 1,574.03				