

# **Minutes of Kersey Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 12 April 2021 via Zoom videoconference at 6pm**

## **Present**

John Hume (Chair), 5 Parish Councillors, 9 members of the public, Robert Lindsay - Suffolk County Councillor (for part of the meeting), Leigh Jamieson Babergh District Councillor and Sarah Partridge (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending the remote meeting. The Chair explained that all attendees would be muted to avoid background noise and speakers would need to unmute when their time came to speak.

## **APA 1/21 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Natalie Blyth, Penny Calnan, Jess Damant, Jonathan Marsh, Norah Orriss, Veronica Partridge and Neville Whittell. Rachael Rogers apologised that she would arrive late.

## **APA 2/21 Minutes of the previous Parish Assembly**

The minutes of the previous Parish Assembly, held on 8 April 2019, were confirmed as being correct and will be signed later. There was no Parish Assembly held in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## **APA 3/21 Reports**

Full reports are all appended to these minutes and will be published on the Kersey website.

### **Suffolk County Council**

A report was received from Robert Lindsay. There was one question regarding how Suffolk County Council could support much needed improvements to Hadleigh High School facilities. The school should be benefitting from the additional funding received by local government from new housing construction in the area. Robert asked to be emailed more details by the member of the public. He said he would see what he could do to influence spending but since the High School is now an academy this was not easy. He suggested also writing to James Cartlidge, our local MP.

### **Babergh District Council**

Leigh Jamieson gave his report.

### **Kersey Parish Council**

John Hume gave his report.

### **Kersey Parish Council working groups:**

#### **Footpath Working Group**

Kevin Pratt gave his report and answered questions about overhanging branches on a footpath. The new footpath walking group was a welcome initiative and will help people to become familiar with paths. This walking group is independent of the Parish Council, walk details are published in the newsletter and once COVID-19 restrictions are completely lifted information will also be published on the Kersey website.

#### **KCPC Working Group**

A report was received from Jonathan Marsh.

#### **KVG Working Group**

John Hume gave his report.

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## **Art Group**

It was reported that sadly, the art group has had to fold due to personal commitments of the tutor. It was agreed the Chair would discuss the situation with the tutor and group members to see if there were any options for the group continuing as this was a popular group which would be missed.

## **Forget-Me-Nots**

A report was received from Veronica Partridge.

## **Franey, Rand and Pest House Charities**

Rachael Rogers gave her report.

## **Friends of The Bells of St Mary's Church**

A report was received from Neville Whittell. It was commented that the Church bells had been missed during the past year. Parishioners were looking forward to hearing them ringing out over the village again soon.

## **Friends of St Mary's Church – FOSM**

Mark Rigby gave his report.

*Robert Lindsay gave his apologies and left the meeting.*

## **Grays' Trust**

Philippa Harris gave her report.

## **Kersey CEVCP School**

A report was received from Jess Damant.

## **Kersey Playing Field Association**

Mark Pertwee gave his report.

## **Kersey Projects**

A report was received from Suzie Rudkin.

## **Lewis Mowles Trust**

A report was received from Norah Orriss.

## **Millennium Book Fund**

Sarah Partridge gave the report.

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

There continues to be a vacancy for a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, anyone interested should contact the Parish Council.

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## Nightingale Trust

Mark Rigby gave his report. The Chair thanked the Trust for setting up the new Kersey Community Taxi Service for transport to medical appointments, this is an excellent new support service for those in need living in Kersey. Details of this service are published in the newsletter and will also be added to the Kersey website.

## St Mary's Church PCC

Linda Newbigging gave her report. It was suggested that Neville Whittell should be thanked by the Parish Council for his long service over the years keeping the Church clock wound.

## Table Tennis Club

A report was received from Adrian Blyth.

## Tuesday Club

Rachel Wells gave her report. It is hoped the Tuesday Club would start to meet again once restrictions allow.

## Village Hall

A report was received from Veronica Partridge.

## Village Produce Association

Rachel Wells gave her report.

## APA 4/21 Parish Action Plan update

A copy of the updated Parish Action Plan is appended. Some action points have been completed and progress has been made with others. It was noted the Parish Council needs to carry out a review of the current action plan and write a new action plan setting out the priorities for Kersey for the next few years.

## APA 5/21 Any other business

**CPRE has launched a petition** asking the government to provide a reliable and regular bus service for every community in the country. See their website: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/we-tell-government-we-need-a-reliable-bus-service-for-every-community/>

With better public transport between towns and villages, everyone will benefit. It would bring:

- Less traffic and air pollution

- Better access to local green spaces for all

- More spending on local high streets at a time when they sorely need it

- Access to training and jobs for every younger person

- And a ticket out of loneliness and isolation for older people.

Below is the link to their petition page where individuals can sign the petition.

[https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/74256/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=cpre-web&gl=1\\*jltfnk\\*\\_gcl\\_aw\\*RONMLjE2MTc4MDg2NTkuQ2owSONRandzTFdEQmhDbUFSSXNBUNMM18xdldOM25McDhkYzI2YjFGRjRNNC1pVVJ5aWdQenBmeWILZ2RxMW1zeDcwTmtSQnM2d3RTc2FBc2d3RUFMd193Y0I](https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/74256/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=cpre-web&gl=1*jltfnk*_gcl_aw*RONMLjE2MTc4MDg2NTkuQ2owSONRandzTFdEQmhDbUFSSXNBUNMM18xdldOM25McDhkYzI2YjFGRjRNNC1pVVJ5aWdQenBmeWILZ2RxMW1zeDcwTmtSQnM2d3RTc2FBc2d3RUFMd193Y0I).

# Minutes of Kersey Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 12 April 2021 via Zoom videoconference at 6pm

**Kersey events calendar on the Kersey website.** Just a reminder that this is a community calendar where you can keep up to date with all the events planned in Kersey by the many community organisations. If you already use a google calendar you can add this so you get automatic reminders of events. If you are planning an event, please check this first to avoid clashes. If you would like your event listed, please contact Sarah Partridge kerseypc@gmail.com.

<https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/events/>

The Chair commented that the last year had been frustrating for the many community organisations in the Parish who had had to cancel events. However, Kersey is served well by more than 20 voluntary and charitable groups, which for a small parish is something to be proud of and everyone should be encouraged to support these organisations as we come out of lockdown. They are an important part of the life of Kersey. Information about all the community organisations and more can be found on the Kersey website.

[www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/](http://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

There are 30 pages appended to these minutes.

Signed .....

Date .....

## **Kersey PC 12.4.21**

### **Annual report from Suffolk County Councillor Robert Lindsay**

During this most challenging of years, it was pleasing to be able to continue to work and to represent people and hold the administration at the county council to account, helped enormously by being part of a cross party-political group Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group (LDGI) with two fellow Greens as well as LibDems and independents.

Being a group allowed us to put together a series of budget amendments and several motions over the year which although they were voted down by the Conservative administration, will have flagged up areas that need attention and some of which were later adopted by the administration.

#### **LDGI Group Budget Amendment – floods**

One of many amendments we proposed in February was to fund an extra officer for the flooding team to help bid for funding and manage projects. At the end of March the flood risk scrutiny committee recommended to cabinet that the council hire extra staff to the floods team to help tackle the flooding backlog.

#### **Motions from the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group in the year**

My Group proposed four motions to Council in 2020-21:

- A call for the Council to publicly oppose EDF Energy's proposed Sizewell C development and retract any 'in principle' support for nuclear power. This was rejected but two months later the council said it could not support Sizewell C construction plan in its current form.
- A 20mph scheme to reduce speed limits in all suitable residential areas from 30mph to 20mph, for a price of £4m. Communities would have been able to opt out. This was rejected with the administration saying that 20mph could not be enforced without expensive measures. However since then they have bought 10 number plate recognition cameras to help identify speeders in 20 and 30mph zones.
- A biodiversity motion that would implement a new biodiversity strategy. This was passed unanimously.
- A carer's motion that will create a database of both paid and unpaid carers and offer increased support. This was passed unanimously.

Some motions my group had proposed in previous years also came to fruition this year despite being rejected at first.

#### **Increase in social worker pay**

This policy was first proposed by the LDGI Group as part of our budget amendment in February 2020. Both the Conservatives and Labour voted against this motion at the time. In April 2020 Suffolk County Council agreed to increase the pay of children's social workers to match the remuneration offered by neighbouring councils. It is estimated that the pay increase will cost £1.4m and will be funded from council reserves.

#### **Cabinet approves 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk**

In June 2020 the Cabinet approved a 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk, which identified 148 potential routes to be prioritised. This is as a result of a motion proposed by me in July 2018, which called on the council to produce a strategic costed 5-year cycling plan. Funding has not yet been secured for these routes, but the cycling plan will provide a strong basis to bid for funding as and when it becomes available.

### **Climate emergency recommendations published**

In July 2020, the Cabinet approved the recommendations of a cross-party policy development panel outlining how the council should respond to the climate emergency and reduce emissions. This followed a motion from myself and my Green colleague in March 2019, which declared a climate emergency and committed the council to be carbon neutral by 2030.

### **Bildeston Foodbank**

In March I contributed £1k from my Babergh awards budget to the foodbank which now supports 18 families.

### **Suffolk moves school bus contracts from Norse to Vertas**

The county's school buses have been run since 2013 by Suffolk Norse, a joint venture in which Suffolk has a 20% stake. However, Suffolk Norse went into losses in the last two years and has handed notice in on the contract. Suffolk cabinet decided on 23 February to move the contract in-house by handing it to its wholly owned company Vertas. The 40 home-to-school transport routes and a school swimming service will be delivered by Vertas from September onwards. The move does mean the county can look at replacing diesel with electric vehicles as the technology becomes viable, to help meet its zero carbon by 2030 commitment.

### **Number plate recognition cameras to catch speeders**

The county council has just announced this scheme which will involve them buying ten number plate recognition cameras and installing them in villages where there is a speeding issue for up to a week at a time. Spots will be "identified by parish councils, with support from county councillors, where there are known issues with speeding or rat running in a 20mph or 30mph zone."

**Robert Lindsay**

**Suffolk County Councillor**

Cosford division (Green)

Babergh District Councillor

01449 741959

07738 264087

## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT April 2021

The last year has been a very different one for all of us, defined by the Covid pandemic. For many, it has been a difficult year and the insecurity and fear will be with us as we move forward into the year ahead and, hopefully, start to return to a more normal day-to-day life.

#### COVID

During the last year Babergh District Council have been working with partners and other local authorities across the county to ensure that the communities have received the support that they need.

Local community groups that sprang up in our towns and parishes were offered support and a support line 'Home but not alone' was set up for anyone that may need it. There was also financial support for residents facing hardship due to self-isolation.

As businesses across the country were forced to close, they were contacted by councillors and officers to ensure that they received the grants they were entitled to.

Measures were put in place to ensure that council housing tenants were not evicted should they suddenly find that they were unable to pay their rent.

Unfortunately, many services had to be suspended during the lockdowns including our leisure facilities, face to face access points and some waste services. As we now exit the 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown these services will slowly return.

One of the main changes this year has been the move to virtual meetings. We all now know what Zoom is and, "your still on mute" has been the statement of the year. Following a short suspension of all council meetings and a change in the way planning applications were decided for a while, we settled into a routine of attending all meetings from the comfort of our own home. One change that has come about from this is the ability for councillors to vote electronically. While this means the public cannot see the vote as it happens it is available online within 24hours.

As we go into the next council year the legality of these virtual meetings, for public events, is in doubt. At the moment the legislation ends in May and we will then need to return to physical meetings. This is currently being challenged in court.

#### PLANNING

The controversial application for 7 properties behind 1-6 The Street was decided in the summer by committee. Despite the planning officer strongly recommending refusal on heritage grounds, a majority of the planning committee felt that the benefits to the wider community of additional housing in the village outweighed the heritage damage.

#### JOINT LOCAL PLAN

The Council finalised the Joint Local Plan, which details how and where development should take place – ensuring suitable homes are built to meet Government housing targets, whilst also protecting and enhancing the districts' natural environment and heritage. Sustainable development and transport options have been promoted in the plan to meet the councils' continued commitment to addressing climate change.

Following a final consultation that was completed just before Christmas the plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

#### 5 YEAR HOUSING SUPPLY

A report into the current 5-year Housing Land supply in Babergh has demonstrated that the Council currently has enough approved developments for 6.75 years. The Council is required to have 2184 properties, but actually has 2943 agreed – 35% more.

## OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

The council submitted its thoughts on two consultation papers outlining major changes in planning. One government proposal was for a completely new national planning system – the ‘Planning for the Future’ white paper. The other suggested shorter-term amendments to the current system, which would take effect more quickly. The council submitted a strong rebuttal to the proposals.

## CIL FUNDING

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have approved over £4.39 million in CIL funding from housing growth in the last 12 months.

During the past twelve months over £3.26 million has been awarded to 35 projects across both districts, with Babergh receiving £1,019,397. In addition, town, and parish councils across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received much-needed CIL funding totalling £1,138,909 during the year – with 21 of Babergh’s town and parish councils receiving a share of £314,206.

## ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

Both the Environmental & Biodiversity task forces submitted proposals. The environmental proposals will form the councils’ first Carbon Reduction Management Plan, setting out how they aim to fulfil their ambitions of becoming carbon neutral within the next ten years.

The biodiversity proposals will form the Councils’ first Biodiversity Action Plan, sets out how they aim to protect and strengthen biodiversity in the districts.

One of the main carbon emitters is the diesel used by the council’s fleet of vehicles. It was agreed that the fuel used will be changed to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) which will substantially reduce the councils carbon footprint.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are set to make further significant CO2 savings, thanks to a £1.4m Government grant for carbon-saving measures at their leisure centres and other buildings that are expected to see solar PV panels and air source heat pumps installed on the council-owned sites so they can begin to move away from fossil-fuelled heating systems.

The council received an injection of up to £800,000 in matched funding from the “Getting Building Fund”, with the money going towards a pilot scheme to introduce electricity micro-generation and storage solar carports in Sudbury and Stowmarket. The Cabinet at Babergh also approved additional funding for pilot solar carport schemes at Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury.

The council also approved a Cycle motion that I submitted last summer. The 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown saw a significant increase in the number of people that had either taken up cycling or returned to it. The motion was designed to help Babergh act on this.

Babergh’s also agreed to take their public realm work in-house. This will allow the Council to manage verges and some open space more for biodiversity and meadow type habitat.

## BUDGET

### GENERAL FUND BUDGET

The budget outlined earlier this year approved Babergh’s share of council tax would increase by 2.96%, the equivalent of less than 10p a week (£5 a year) for an average Band D property.

### HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET

This HRA report included a CPI + 1% increase of 1.5% in Council House rents, equivalent to an average rent increase of £1.35 a week and that Sheltered Housing Service charges be increased by £0.69 per week to ensure recovery of the actual cost of service.



## CAR PARKING

The council's controversial decision to begin charging for parking in Hadleigh and Sudbury was approved earlier this year. The charges, which were opposed strongly by residents, will begin after the first hour of parking and will come into force no earlier than October. At the moment the car parks are heavily subsidised by taxpayers.

## ANGEL COURT, HADLEIGH

The Angel Court development is now on, with completion of the homes expected by June.

## BELLE VUE, SUDBURY

Whitbread pulled out of the deal to take on a hotel, for their Premier Inn chain, in Belle Vue park, following the financial downturn caused by the coronavirus crisis.

The sale of the council-owned land comprising of Belle Vue House, the car park and the northern part of the old swimming pool site, was openly marketed between December 2020 and February 2021. A proposal to create a new retirement living development plus a conversion of the existing Belle Vue house back into private living accommodation was accepted.

## **Leigh Jamieson (Cllr)**

Green Party  
Babergh District Councillor – South East Cosford  
Member, Planning Committee

## **Kersey Parish Council - Chair's Annual Report 2020 - 2021**

This is my eighth annual report. COVID-19 presented many challenges over the year but I am pleased to say that our community has responded well. Your Parish Council created many initiatives to overcome the threat to health, well-being, morale, communications and our environment.

The Parish Council is the first tier of government. We aim to represent the best interests of our 360 residents as set out in the Kersey Parish Council pages of the Kersey website.

Your Councillors, all elected in 2019, are Penny Calnan, David Finch, Pascoe Gibbons, Philippa Harris, Kevin Pratt, Andrew Rogers (Vice-Chair) and me. Our contact details are on the website and at the end of this report. I thank them all for their contributions and support during the year.

Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor and Leigh Jamieson, Babergh District Councillor, attend our meetings regularly. I thank them for their advice and for taking up matters on our behalf.

Our finances remain strong with adequate reserves. They are reviewed and minuted in detail at ordinary meetings and audited regularly. Our annual budget remains small at £9,633. However, despite successful efforts to maintain or reduce the effect on Council Tax rates, we have raised the Parish Council element by 11.36%. This is a large percentage, but for a Band D property, this means an increase from £47.88 to £53.32pa or £0.45 per month. The budget against actual figures are shown at the end of this report.

The Kersey website now complies with accessibility regulations so those using assistive technology may access information there. New Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity policies were also adopted. The financial year end accounts to 31 March will be subject to approval at the May Parish Council Meeting. Further information is available on the Kersey website.

The Parish Council have responded to many local and national consultations, including Planning Policy, Suffolk County Council Boundary Reviews and Standards in Public Life.

The Kersey Circular walks footpath map has been updated and republished.

During the year, the Parish Council considered 13 planning applications of which 11 were supported. An earlier application for River House Barns was withdrawn. The application for land to the south-west of Vale Lane was refused by Babergh. I regret that application B/15/0096, for land to the rear of 1-6 The Street, was approved in July by Babergh District Council's Planning Committee. Unfortunately, this decision, not supported by your Parish Council, has caused lack of confidence and distrust in the planning and legal process.

The Kersey Parish Action Plan was updated and is reported on separately.

The Kersey Emergency Plan was finalised, shared with the Suffolk Emergency Planning Team and is ready if needed. Regular 'Pride in Our Parish' articles have been published in the Kersey Newsletter on topics such as litter, footpaths and speeding.

Following complaints, the Police surveyed speeding in Wickerstreet Green. They decided the numbers involved did not justify further action but Councillors are considering the 'Quiet Lanes' initiative as a way of improving safety. Suffolk County Council have been reluctant, despite several accidents, near misses and complaints from other Parish Councils, to take action on the safety of the A1141 junction, although a landowner has improved visibility to the south.

## Kersey Parish Council - Chair's Annual Report 2020 - 2021

The playground was closed briefly but following a risk assessment and new signs it has been open to enjoy. I am delighted to confirm work to gain funding for the refurbishment of the playground has been achieved after securing donations from a number of sources, including Leigh Jamieson's Locality Fund, Suffolk Community Foundation, Suffolk Giving Fund and Babergh District Council.

The following actions were taken in response to the pandemic:

1. Since April 2020, Parish Council Meetings have been conducted by Zoom. Although these have worked efficiently, attendance by parishioners has been low. Visitors are always welcome!
2. To counter the negative aspects of lockdown, a system of 24 volunteers from all areas of the Parish was created to help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and other practical support, not least, a friendly contact. A letter explaining this service was delivered to every household in the Parish, followed by a later reminder. We should be proud that we were one of the first communities in the country to respond in this way.
3. Responsibilities of The Kersey Volunteer Group were reallocated.
4. The Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) was deferred until safe to implement.

It was with sadness the Parish Council noted the deaths of John Maltby, Martyn Rudkin, Nora Ryde and Jack Stiff, local residents long associated with the Parish Council, either by membership or attendance. We will miss their advice.

It has been a difficult year but also a year of achievements. I thank everyone who has contributed to the well-being of our community and, as in previous years, urge the next generation to take an active role in community affairs.

Finally, on behalf of the Parish Council, I again thank our Clerk, Sarah Partridge for her hard work, knowledge, guidance and willingness to work beyond her contractual hours.

John W Hume  
Chair, Kersey Parish Council, 12 April 2021

### Kersey Parish Council Contacts

#### Parish Councillors:

John Hume (Chair)	Ayres End, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 810098
Andrew Rogers (Vice Chair)	The Gables, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 212242
Mrs Penny Calnan	Wickerstreet House, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 210459
David Finch	1 Row Cottage, Priory Hill, Kersey IP7 6DX	07769 612933
Pascoe Gibbons	Kedges End, Kedges Lane, Kersey IP7 6RY	01473 822815
Mrs Philippa Harris	4 Ancient Houses, The Street, Kersey IP7 6EA	01473 827079
Kevin Pratt	Green Gables, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 823028

#### Clerk & RFO:

Mrs Sarah Partridge kerseypc@gmail.com	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	01787 210859
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Kersey Parish Council publishes on the Kersey website past minutes, financial information, ordinary meetings dates for the year and contact information. There is also a wealth of other useful information on the Kersey website including a calendar of Kersey community organisation events.

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

# Kersey Parish Council - Chair's Annual Report 2020 - 2021

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

VAT not included in budget figures

Parish Council	Budget/ Precept 2019/2020	Actual 2019/2020	Added to reserves 2019/20	Budget/ Precept 2020/2021	Budget/ Precept 2021/2022
Administration	£828.00	£709.16	£100.00	£748.00	£788.00
Clerk's salary & staff costs	£4,905.00	£4,905.00		£5,400.00	£6,230.00
Training/external meetings	£250.00	£250.00		£250.00	£250.00
Street lighting	£240.00	£225.87		£275.00	£300.00
Parish Council insurance	£340.00	£346.73		£370.00	£300.00
Glebe insurance	£50.00	£39.90		£50.00	£50.00
Hedge cut - The Glebe	£80.00	£145.00		£80.00	£80.00
Playground safety inspection	£87.00	£86.00		£90.00	£90.00
Dog litter bin emptying charge	£45.00	£41.00		£48.00	£0.00
St Mary's PCC	£420.00	£420.00		£420.00	£460.00
Defibrillator & Village Emergency Tel	£215.00	£126.00	£89.00	£215.00	£215.00
Chairman's allowance	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Election costs	£25.00	£25.00		£165.00	£165.00
Church Walk future maintenance	£130.00	£0.00	£130.00	£130.00	£130.00
Footpath map printing reserve	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00	£75.00	£75.00
Mowing The Glebe	£0.00	£0.00		£100.00	£100.00
Contingencies	£300.00	£298.04		£300.00	£300.00
<b>Precept</b>	<b>£7,990.00</b>	£7,617.70	£394.00	<b>£8,716.00</b>	<b>£9,533.00</b>
<i>Other PC income</i>	£64.54				
	£0.00				
<b>PC Income</b>	<b>£8,054.54</b>			<b>£8,716.00</b>	
Agreed spending from PC reserves:					
Defibrillator and VETS	£100.00	£0.00		£100.00	£100.00
Parish election costs		£707.79			
Training/external meetings		£110.00			
Fixed asset reserve		£133.00			
Clerk's salary		£729.50			
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>£8,154.54</b>	£9,297.99	£394.00	<b>£8,816.00</b>	<b>£9,633.00</b>
<b>KCPC</b>	£4,017.00	£2,109.54		£1,197.00	£1,697.00
<b>Footpath</b>	£382.00	£334.00		£406.00	£447.50
<b>Millennium Book Fund</b>	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
<b>Total actual spend</b>		<b>£11,741.53</b>			

The precept for 2019/20 was £7,990, for a band D property the council tax was £44.83.  
 The precept for 2020/21 was £8,716, for a band D property the council tax was £47.88.  
 The precept for 2021/22 is £9,533, for a band D property the council tax is £53.32.

The Parish Council financial year ends on 31 March, the Parish Council usually approves the year end accounts at the Parish Council meeting in May. See the Parish Council Finance page on the website for more information. <https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/parish-council/parish-council-finance/>

# Annual Parish Assembly Reports April 2021

## **Kersey Parish Council working groups:**

### **Footpath Working Group (FWG)**

It has been an exceptional year for the Kersey Footpath Working Group. I wish to extend thanks to all the volunteers and landowner representatives for all the help and co-operation given throughout the course of the year. The challenges that were placed in front of the FWG were many. In the first instance the lock down as a consequence of Covid 19 and then some truly exceptional wet weather which resulted in some of the footpaths being heavily worn. Despite these challenges the members of the FWG found a way to continue to cut, trim and maintain the footpaths and bridleways to allow all walkers to continue to enjoy the beautiful Kersey countryside.

Throughout the year a number of posts and signs were repaired or replaced. We continue to seek the support of everyone in the Parish to keep the FWG advised of any areas they find require attention on our footpaths and bridleways. The annual budget for the FWG was recently approved by the Parish Council and there are sufficient funds currently available in the accounts to enable the work of cutting and maintaining the footpaths in the season ahead.

As the local communities begin to be released from lock down, we fully expect an increase in foot traffic in the Parish. It will also provide the catalyst for the FWG to begin the first cutting of the year. I trust you will all enjoy walking in the beautiful Kersey countryside in the year ahead.

Kevin R Pratt  
Chair, Footpath Working Group

### **KCPC Working Group**

As a result of Covid activity for the KCPC and the playground has been restricted. Due to Covid rules the normal grass cutting rota had to be abandoned and the playground was maintained by the committee on an ad hoc basis. No quiz night was possible and no fundraising events took place. A staggered Covid friendly maintenance day was managed at the beginning and end of the year.

The most significant activity was the planning of a new disabled basket swing and the applications for grants from several bodies. Confirmation of all the funding came into place earlier this year, for which I am very grateful to the parish clerk for all her help. The three quotes were obtained and the successful bidder was awarded the contract earlier this year. It is hoped that work will start in the next month or so. In addition, a program of works to repair some of the rotten posts on the climbing wall was agreed. Also, the gate into the playground will be replaced as it has come under repeated criticism in the inspection reports.

The cricket net has seen more use this year than the whole of last and continues to be popular for some dedicated individuals.

After various repairs the mower continues to work well but is expected we may have to replace it if it breaks again as the model is no longer supported by the manufacturer. As always, I would like to thank Gerald and Francis for allowing us to house the mower in their garden. In addition, I'd like to thank my fellow committee members and the parish clerk for all their support.

Jonathan Marsh  
Chair, KCPC Working Group

# Annual Parish Assembly Reports April 2021

## **KVG Working Group**

The Kersey Volunteer Group (KVG) was formally launched in March 2020. The aim is to improve the safety and physical environment of Kersey.

The 18 volunteers have been allocated specific areas in which to collect litter, report potholes and other hazards to the relevant authorities. Training, advice and equipment is provided. This initiative has worked well and has had the extra benefit of contributing to community spirit and well-being during a difficult year.

I thank all the KVG for their contributions.

John Hume  
Chair, KVG Working Group

## **Art Group**

Sadly, the Art Group has folded due to the personal commitments of the tutor.

## **Forget-Me-Nots**

Unfortunately, the group has been unable to meet up for a very long time. But up to date most of the members belonging to our group have had continuing good health. We are looking forward to greeting our friends over a cup of coffee very soon.

Veronica Partridge

## **Franey, Rand and Pest House Charities**

The Trustees have been unable to meet during 2020/21 due to the pandemic. However, several grants were made, over the year, to individuals and groups such as The Hadleigh Elderly People's Welfare, Shelley Riding for the Disabled and Surviving Winter in Hadleigh, which could also benefit people from Kersey.

The Charity has been proposed to have a road named after it, within a development of 16 new properties, in Hadleigh. The trustees are currently waiting to hear whether this will take place.

The trustees are hoping to be able to meet again in July.

Rachael Rogers  
Trustee

## **Friends of The Bells of St Mary's Church**

A very quiet year our last practice was on 17th March 2020. We did manage to ring 4 bells for 3 services maintaining social distancing. The funds remain the same as last as we have received no income or had any expenditure. Ringing should resume at the end of June.

Neville Whittell  
Tower Captain

# Annual Parish Assembly Reports April 2021

## Friends of St Mary's Church - FOSM

This year has been the second year since the Trust was founded in January 2019. Due to Covid-19 there have been no events put on by the Trustees over the last year but a number of new initiatives have been established. The first of which was to set up a membership process for 'friends' to formally join the Trust for a modest membership fee, granting access to benefits once events are re-established. In addition, a 500 Club members lottery was also established and prize monies divided between three lucky winners each month. The draws are independently witnessed and take place in the Church with winner's names published in the Kersey newsletter as well as on the Church website. Details of membership and the 500 Club are available at the Friends of St Mary's Trust website [www.kind.church/fosm](http://www.kind.church/fosm)

The Trust has already been able to contribute to works on the Great West door and also under the Bell Tower and is currently fundraising for roof repairs and maintenance.

Total funds income in 2020 was £1,207.50 with £3,100 outgoings leaving a current balance of £1,736.18.

All welcome to join as members or indeed have a flutter in the 500 Club lottery.

Mark Rigby  
Chair, FOSM

## Grays' Trust

The Grays' Trust was set up in 1910 by the Reverend William Gray and his wife, Harriet; its principal assets being Market House (sold during the 1940s) and the Reading Room (sold in 2000). It is that, invested, capital from which the Trust derives its income.

The purpose of the Trust is to promote the education of residents of the Parish of Kersey.

Last year our income of £9,245 was distributed between eleven university students, two apprentices, two sixth formers and one mature student. We also made a donation to Kersey Primary School and gave each of the five school leavers a leaving present. Another donation was made to a resident of the Parish who will be a volunteer teacher in Africa this year. We did not make our usual donation to the Tuesday Club since it had been unable to meet because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

On the subject of COVID-19, the Trustees recognise that the pandemic may have left some Parishioners in need of re-training or further training and would like to remind them that the Grays' Trust may be able to help with fees, travels costs or other associated expenses.

Philippa Harris  
Secretary, Grays' Trust

## Kersey CEVCP School

My report to you this year comes at the end of yet another national lockdown for Covid-19. We were very fortunate to have set up such high-quality online provision during the first lockdown, so we were able to begin the Spring term with confidence and strength in our remote learning. It has been a real joy to have all of the pupils back in school, albeit for a few days and not the whole term. We are very much looking forward to the return of some sort of normality in the Summer term, still following the national guidance.

## Annual Parish Assembly Reports April 2021

Even during the lockdowns, the staff continued to focus on key areas for improvement raised in our Ofsted report in February 2019, most notably, the inconsistencies in the quality of teaching and learning across the school and a lack of challenge for the more able pupils. We were able to evidence this successfully in our remote learning offer too.

We have said good bye to two of teaching staff members at the end of the Spring term; Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Keedle had been with us to cover maternity leave, and due to the new mother's return, we had to say a thank you and good bye to both teachers. They have been positive and enthusiastic members of our small teaching team and will be sorely missed. We welcome Mrs Biltcliffe back to Kersey in the Summer term.

Due to the nature of the global pandemic, we have been unable to undertake any trips outside of school. We started the new school year with a very well-received Sports Week, which enabled the children to take part in new activities, such as climbing, archery, fencing and yoga; we are grateful to still have the use of the Glebe and the village hall to enable us to offer a variety of learning opportunities for our pupils. Sports Week eased us into the new term, especially when we had not seen some pupils since March 2020. In September we started a whole school topic on Space - a spaceship landed on the playground! Every pupil's learning was centred around the theme of Space for the first half of the Autumn term. In December, we watched a live streamed performance of the Jack and The Beanstalk pantomime from the New Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich; the children loved being able to watch the panto, but it was not the same as really being in the theatre! Although we were not able to perform our Nativity to a live audience, our highly skilled staff recorded the show, complete with carols and other musical interludes, so that all families could still experience the joys of their child's Nativity.

In order to accelerate the pace of change at Kersey, we now have a new Interim Executive Board of Governors, who came in to place at the end of March 2021. We hope they will continue to move forward with plans to join the Tilian Partnership of schools ready for the new academic year. Much of our usual work with the pupils has continued this year, despite Covid-19 restrictions. The Learning Council met via Zoom during the last lockdown, to discuss their plans for fundraising for the summer term; the Junior Road Safety Officers have also met via Zoom to move forward with their road safety ideas for the remainder of the school year. Our daily Collective Worship has been greatly supplemented by Rev. Jackson.

The Friends of Kersey continue to support the school and have been thinking of new ways to raise money, due to Covid, including a festive-themed Emoji quiz! We have been lucky to have had one of their popular film nights already since our return to school; we hope to have a few more of these before the end of the school year, as well as some other socially distanced events too. Their support helps to keep our resources up to date, as well as providing children with opportunities to meet new visitors or go on trips.

As well as individual music lessons, all Key stage two pupils have instrument lessons which some of them are continuing to do, even at home. Due to Covid, we were unable to continue with learning the clarinet, and this year, the children have been learning violin! They have picked up the basics incredibly quickly and even played as part of our Christmas Nativity recording.

As ever, we are very aware of the vital involvement the community has facilitated through shared venues and facilities, without which the school would struggle to fully function; the village hall, the church, the Glebe, Partridges Farm and The Bell Inn. We thank them all for their cooperation and



## Annual Parish Assembly Reports April 2021

continued support. Thank you to all of you involved with the school. We have thoroughly enjoyed having local residents in to read with the children!

Please feel free to come and visit the school, just make an appointment so that we can welcome you.

Jess Damant  
Acting Head Teacher

### **Kersey Playing Field Association**

In this last extraordinary year, we count ourselves very lucky to live in such a beautiful spot. We also have had the benefit of The Glebe as a bit of large outdoor space that we have been able to utilise despite all the rules.

We have recently been able to secure funding for the repairs of the pedestrian gate posts and fence into the field, which will be done shortly. Thank you to Leigh Jamieson and to the Parish Council for their contribution to this.

We are grateful to KCPC for their ongoing maintenance of the facilities they have installed in the areas that they lease. We are also grateful for the ongoing grass cutting arranged by Suffolk County Council as their contribution for the school's usage.

Mark Pertwee  
Secretary, Kersey Playing Field Association

### **Kersey Projects**

As with all organisations, Kersey Projects have had a very frustrating year with any planned functions curtailed in light of the pandemic and consequential legislation.

We were able to still supply, erect and decorate the Kersey Christmas tree which, according to feedback, did give much cheer in what has been a very challenging time for all.

We will meet together and make tentative plans for possible functions, including Kersey Open Gardens, just as soon as we are legally able.

Suzie Rudkin

### **Lewis Mowles Trust**

The Lewis Mowles Trust has had no expenses over the past year the only income was some interest on the savings bank account. We now have a balance of £9,300-00.

Norah Orriss

### **Millennium Book Fund**

The Parish Council has agreed to spend the majority of the funds in the Millennium Book Fund account on the playground improvement project which includes installing a basket swing for less able users. This money helped significantly to secure match funding from Babergh District Council and the Suffolk Giving Fund at Suffolk Community Foundation. The playground improvement project should be completed this spring.

# Annual Parish Assembly Reports April 2021

## Neighbourhood Watch

There is a vacancy for the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, anyone interested in the role should contact the Parish Council.

## Nightingale Trust

The Trustees of this worthy village Trust, dating back to 1875, welcomed a new Trustee in October - Pam Brown, an allotment tenant. Trustees are, Mark Rigby (Chair), Natalie Blyth (Secretary), Matt Smith (Treasurer), Rachel Wells, David Woollard and Viv Marsh. All have fulfilled their duties in ensuring the smooth running of the Allotments and Charitable work throughout the village during this difficult year.

We have 26 allotments, all taken, with a healthy waiting list.

£185 was donated to supporting those that needed help over the year with an equal contribution to the local food bank, coordinated through Roger Jones. A new initiative, Kersey Community Taxi Service was started this year, in conjunction with the Boxford and Hadleigh Community Car Scheme service, providing safe and reliable transport to and from medical appointments in Hadleigh, Boxford and Bildeston. The Trust subsidised taxi fares as well as organised transport.

Annual income amounted to £1,173.19 and expenditure £360.00 leaving the Trust balance of £11,627.07.

Mark Rigby  
Chair, Nightingale Trust

## St Mary's Church PCC

The year 2020 began full of energy as the PCC, with the help of many others, continued in earnest to prepare the church for the installation of the Shrine scheduled for March. A great deal of tidying, repairing and redecoration was undertaken by many willing volunteers to make St Mary's look special: beautiful bespoke cupboards surrounding the boiler and the meter were installed; new paving laid outside the West door; repairs to the West door, the Chancel door and the rood screen door were carried out by specialists; Lead over the north aisle was repaired; and some electrical repairs to the north aisle were completed.

The installation of the Shrine was held on a beautiful, crisp sunny morning. The service was very well attended and was a moving experience beginning with singing and blessing at The Splash, a procession and then a service filled with wonderful choral singing and community hymns. However, the plans to make this a changing space for the arts and local artists was quickly thwarted by the onset of the pandemic and lockdown a week later.

A worship committee began meeting in February to discuss services and to develop a 'special' Parish service on the 2nd Sunday in the afternoon. However, these plans were short lived as the impact of the pandemic meant closure of all churches with no further services. Rev Jackson quickly took up the challenge and began online services. They were popular and soon reached a larger audience than our expected congregation as more and more people engaged with them and took part by reading and leading prayers from their own homes. It proved a great way to keep in touch and Jackson and Philippa brought a smile to our faces each week with their 'chat show'.

## Annual Parish Assembly Reports April 2021

The financial and social impact of the pandemic and the lockdown that followed was soon felt by us as the fundraising events planned by FOSMs and St Mary's were cancelled. However, there was a wonderful Gift Fayre held in December which lifted all our spirits just before Christmas – and raised much needed funds.

During 2020, the role of the volunteers at St Mary's could not have been more vital as some who have served the church for many years had to stay away for their own safety. We would particularly like to thank Neville Whittell who retired from clock winding duties after many, many years. However, we have managed to keep St Mary's open for visitors thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of our volunteers. We have kept the newsletter published thanks to Viv and the team of editors, the doors open nearly all the year thanks to volunteers on the church lock-up rota, the clock wound (most of the time!) thanks to our clock winding team, and the church looking clean and beautiful thanks to our volunteers who clean and prepare flower arrangements and the bell ringers have managed to ring or chime for our services whenever the rules allowed.

Your efforts have been more than worth it as the Shrine has continued to be a focus of support and comfort to visitors during the rest of 2020 – with over 1500 cards being laid in the shrine seeking comfort or solace or simply offering thanks for the opportunity to sit in such a beautiful space. A beautiful art installation of ceramic doves, one for each member of Kersey who served in the World Wars, was installed for the Remembrance Day service.

We have had a wonderful letter of thanks from a member of the public who needed a place of sanctuary and found our doors open; and praise from the fire-extinguisher service engineer who noticed all the improvements and loved them!

We do have spaces on the PCC if you feel able to step forward to help us secure a long and loving future for our worship and our building. If that is not for you but you have other practical skills, please think about helping behind the scenes – in particular if you have accounting or book-keeping experience.

Linda Newbigging  
Secretary, St Mary's PCC

### **Table Tennis Club**

Separate pdf report appended lower down from Adrian Blyth.

### **Tuesday Club**

Members were only able to meet once in 2020 when we enjoyed a very interesting talk by John Robinson on a "Holiday in Central Asia". The club continues to support Tilly at the Shelley Riding school.

Rachel Wells

### **Village Hall**

The Village Hall has experienced a very quiet year. The School has used the Hall but with limitations and there has not been much use due to Covid restrictions.

The exterior of the Village Hall was painted last year and a barge board was replaced and another repaired. The flat roof over the toilet block was re-felted and some tiles on the main roof were repositioned and a few ridge tiles cemented back in position.

## **Annual Parish Assembly Reports April 2021**

Grateful thanks to Natalie Blyth who researched the conditions for use of the Hall and put these into place.

We have taken a booking for the use of the Hall at the end of April by a filming crew who are working in the Village, and also the Hall will be open as a Polling Station in May for the elections.

We all look forward to being able to return to all the activities which have been halted due to Covid-19.

Veronica Partridge  
Chair, Kersey Village Hall Committee

### **Village Produce Association**

Due to the pandemic marquee bookings were low with only three lets during 2020. This meant we were unable to donate to anything in the parish. The outing to Bressingham gardens was cancelled as was the September flower show. We hope to hold the show this year on the 11th September using last year's schedule.

Rachel Wells  
Secretary, VPA

## **Kersey Table Tennis Club. - Report for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.**

Play during this season was predominantly affected by Corona Virus restrictions and confined to just a six week period commencing 1st October 2020. We followed the guidelines for small clubs set out by Table Tennis England, produced our own risk assessment and introduced appropriate risk mitigation activities. As a consequence we were restricted to singles play from two groups of 4 players and while this did not suit every player's style of play it was considered better than nothing at all. .

The Clubs finances remain healthy and self supporting via the fees structure. The accounts for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 will be audited in the next few weeks.

If there is sufficient interest, we will start our new season post May 17th and will continue to follow Table Tennis England's guidance.

The club operates from Kersey Village Hall on Thursday evenings between 7:30 and 9:00pm. Players may elect to play either one hour or the full session at a cost of £1.50 or £2.00 respectively. Juniors are charged £1.00 irrespective of the duration. Fees will remain as stated and will be reviewed if hire charges are changed.

The purpose of the club is social and recreational and all abilities are welcome.



Adrian Blyth

01473 827805

[amblyth1@gmail.com](mailto:amblyth1@gmail.com)

## Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2021

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Affordable Housing	<p><b>PP 2008.</b> Wish for carefully planned expansion identified (18 households stated that someone would want affordable in the next 5 years)</p> <p><b>R2014.</b> As 2008</p>	Monitor need for affordable housing and carry out further survey as necessary	Parish Council	Medium	<p><b><u>October 2011</u></b> Scheme abandoned as no residents attended the information event to express an interest in affordable homes in Kersey.</p> <p><b><u>October 2014</u></b> There may be a need for affordable housing but PC still not aware of current need in Kersey.</p> <p><b><u>November 2015</u></b> Parish Council to investigate idea of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Kersey.</p> <p><b><u>December 2015</u></b> During discussions about a planning application for new housing, which included an element of affordable homes, the PC acknowledged there was support from residents for affordable housing in Kersey which the Parish Council would need to address.</p> <p><b><u>January 2017</u></b> The Parish Council decided not to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan, it is too big a project compared to the possible benefit to the Parish. Alternative community led planning options are being considered by the Parish Council.</p> <p><b><u>April 2017</u></b> The PC agreed not to work on any formal community led planning policies. The PC will investigate carrying out a housing needs survey.</p>

## Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2021

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
					<p><b><u>November 2017</u></b> The PC decided not to carry out a housing needs survey because the benefit did not outweigh the considerable cost of £3,000 for a survey which would be valid for only 5 years. Professional advice was that a survey would identify a small need for affordable housing.</p> <p><b><u>January 2019</u></b> The Parish Council are considering whether Kersey should complete a Neighbourhood Plan. This will be an enormous task with a separate steering group and community consultation.</p> <p><b><u>September 2019</u></b> The Parish Council resolved there was not enough support to complete a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><b><u>February 2020</u></b> The Parish Council resolved not to carry out a Housing Needs Survey – the community benefit did not outweigh the significant cost and it would only be valid for 5 years.</p>
Market Housing	<p><b>PP 2008.</b> Wish for carefully planned expansion</p> <p><b>R2014.</b> To survey all residents about their wishes relating to planning</p>	To carry out a further survey of residents specifically asking about building and	Parish Council	Medium	<p><b><u>November 2015</u></b> Parish Council to investigate idea of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Kersey.</p>

## Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2021

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
	and development in the parish	development in the parish			<p><b><u>January 2017</u></b> The Parish Council decided not to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan, it is too big a project compared to the possible benefit to the Parish. Alternative community led planning options are being considered by the Parish Council.</p> <p><b><u>April 2017</u></b> The PC agreed not to work on any formal community led planning policies. The PC will investigate carrying out a housing needs survey.</p> <p><b><u>November 2017</u></b> The PC decided not to carry out a housing needs survey because the benefit did not outweigh the considerable cost of £3,000 for a survey which would be valid for only 5 years.</p> <p><b><u>January 2019</u></b> The Parish Council are considering whether Kersey should complete a Neighbourhood Plan. This will be an enormous task with a separate steering group and community consultation.</p> <p><b><u>September 2019</u></b> The Parish Council resolved there was not enough support to complete a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><b><u>February 2020</u></b> The Parish Council resolved not to carry out a Housing Needs Survey – the community benefit did not outweigh the significant cost and it would only be valid for 5 years.</p>



## Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2021

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Planning and Development	<p><b>R 2014.</b> Improve the knowledge of residents about the planning system, powers of the Parish Council and the responsibilities of property owners.</p>	<p>Produce information for residents about the planning process, conservation areas and listed buildings</p>	<p>Parish Council and Babergh DC</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p><b><u>March 2017</u></b> A new web page (Planning and Development Management), a sub-page under the Parish Council tab, on the Kersey website has been created giving information and links to Babergh District Council website which covers planning applications, planning policy, heritage, Conservation Areas and listed buildings. ACTION POINT COMPLETED no further action.</p>
Cultural, Sporting and Recreational Facilities	<p><b>PP 2008.</b> Desire for more planned social and sporting activities, including activities for young people to be achieved by creating a Kersey Sports and Social Club</p> <p><b>R2014.</b> Clubs and groups enjoyed by members of the community but tend to be run by same few generally older volunteers. Younger people need to be encouraged to join in and volunteer to help</p>	<p>Monitor.</p> <p>Ensure website is up to date with contact info for all the various clubs.</p> <p>Encourage new volunteers to get involved in running clubs and societies.</p>	<p>Community members and Parish Council</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p><b><u>October 2014</u></b> No committee established for a Kersey Sports and Social Club; a variety of social and sporting activities take place in Kersey. See the Kersey newsletter and Kersey website for information on all the clubs, societies, events and activities in the parish.</p> <p><b><u>September 2016</u></b> A drop in event was held to showcase all the village organisations to the whole community.</p> <p><b><u>December 2016</u></b> Members of the community are organising one-off community social events such as a Christmas Party and erected a Christmas Tree in the centre of the village.</p> <p><b><u>March 2020</u></b> Welcome pack put together to be given to new residents which highlights events and gives details of the Kersey website to find more info.</p>

## Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2021

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Voluntary and Community Activity	<p><b>PP 2008.</b> Desire for a Good Neighbour Scheme and a Volunteer Driving Scheme</p> <p><b>R2014.</b> Support is offered on an informal basis. The community may support a formal scheme in future if the need arises</p>	Monitor possible future desire for schemes	Community members, Church and Parish Council	Low	<p><b><u>April 2011</u></b> Following further investigation Good Neighbour Scheme not pursued because residents did not wish for a formal scheme. Informal community help and support is evident in the parish.</p> <p><b><u>March 2018</u></b> Investigations are being made into the idea of setting up a volunteer driver scheme. May 18 agreed not to pursue as no appetite for scheme.</p> <p><b><u>March 2020</u></b> It is planned to set up a Village Emergency Telephone System which can support lone rescuers in the event of a medical emergency. A new volunteer group was set up to support residents during the Covid-19 pandemic. A flyer with contact details was hand delivered to every house in the Parish.</p> <p><b><u>February 2021</u></b> Kersey residents are now included in the Hadleigh and Boxford Community Car Scheme for lifts to medical appointments. The Nightingale Trust will provide financial help to those in need.</p>
Public Transport	<p><b>PP 2008.</b> 80 people would use public transport</p> <p><b>R 2014.</b> There is still a need for some public transport from and to Kersey</p>	Monitor provision	Parish Council and public transport users	Low	<p><b><u>March 2020</u></b> Hadleigh Community Transport Group operates a pre-bookable service covering Kersey and the Babergh area.</p> <p>There are no timetabled public transport services for Kersey.</p>

## Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2021

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Traffic Management	<p><b>PP 2008</b> Wish for 20mph speed limit in Kersey village and 30 mph speed limit in the rest of the parish</p> <p><b>R 2014.</b> There are still concerns about the speed vehicles travel through centre of the village</p>	Monitor and investigate 20 mph limit for the centre of the village	Parish Council and SCC highways	High	<p><b><u>November 2015</u></b> Parish consultation in Sept 15 showed residents wished for 20 mph limit in existing 30 mph area in centre of village.</p> <p><b><u>January 2016</u></b> Parish Council met with SCC highways to discuss road safety and 20 mph limits. SCC agreed to carry out speed monitoring.</p> <p><b><u>May 2016</u></b> Speed monitoring data showed traffic speeds on Church Hill were quite low and indicated speeding was not an issue. A change in speed limit is therefore deemed not necessary.</p> <p><b><u>March 2019</u></b> Concerns raised with the Parish Council about speeding in the parish. SCC have been contacted to request speed monitoring in the Parish.</p> <p><b><u>Summer 2019</u></b> Continued concerns raised about poor visibility at the A1141 crossroads as you leave Kersey. The new landowner carried out some work to improve visibility. The PC is in communication with SCC to press for improvements.</p>

## Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2021

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
					<p><b><u>November 2019</u></b> Speed data from a number of locations in the parish were reviewed. This data indicated speeding was not excessive and the areas would not meet the SCC criteria for reduced speed limits. Any reduced speed limits would require additional signage and infrastructure such as speed humps or bollards paid for by the Parish Council. The PC agreed not to pursue a change to speed limits.</p> <p><b><u>March 2020</u></b> The police had carried out speed monitoring in Wickerstreet Green. This identified low levels of traffic with a few high speeds but not enough to trigger further action. Average speed 25.9 mph.</p> <p><b><u>November 2020</u></b> Interest registered for Quiet Lanes initiative.</p>
Parking	<p><b>PP 2008.</b> Concern about too many cars parked in the centre of the village and inconsiderate parking.</p> <p><b>R 2014.</b> Lack of car parking and inconsiderate parking is still a problem</p>	Monitor and ask Police for support, liaise with school, explore car park options	Parish Council, police and school	High	<p><b><u>November 2015</u></b> Police carried out regular visits to Kersey at school drop off and collection times to remind parents of the need to park safely. School sent letter to parents.</p> <p><b><u>May 2016</u></b> The Parish Council has worked with the police and school to encourage more considerate parking by parents. Residents are encouraged to use off road parking as much as possible.</p>

## Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2021

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
					<p><b><u>March 2019 &amp; 2020</u></b>                      The school contacted. School parents are regularly reminded to park considerately. Parents are able to park in The Bell carpark and walk up to the school.</p>
Road Safety	<p><b>R 2014.</b> To improve the footpath links between Vale Lane and the centre of the village</p>	<p>Progress Jubilee Steps and Vale Lane Footpath Link Project</p>	<p>Parish Council and SCC Rights of Way</p>	<p>High</p>	<p><b><u>January 2014</u></b>                      Stage 1 Jubilee Steps –proposal put to SCC                      Stage 2 Vale Lane Footpath Link – arrange to meet with landowner to discuss options</p> <p><b><u>November 2015</u></b>                      Parish consultation in Sept 15 showed residents wished to keep the grass path up beside the Church from the village sign to the Church lych gate. PC agreed to abandon plans for Jubilee Steps but continue working on finding a safe pedestrian route around the corner from Vale Lane to Church Walk. Working Group set up.</p> <p><b><u>May 2016</u></b>                      The working group met a couple of times after discussions with the landowner no progress could be made on a safe pedestrian route around the corner from Vale Lane to Church Walk. Working Group dissolved.</p>
Natural Environment	<p><b>PP 2008.</b> Requirement for Dog litter bins</p>	<p>Monitor and publicise the issue.</p>	<p>Footpath Working Group</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Dog litter bin installed in Kedges Lane in 2009</p>

## Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2021

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
	<p><b>R 2014.</b> Dog fouling still a problem</p>	<p>Put note in newsletter reminding owners of their responsibilities. Investigate need for more dog bins.</p>	<p>and Parish Council</p>		<p><b><u>March 2012 update</u></b> Installation of a dog bin in Water Lane not possible as Babergh would not be able to empty the bin in this location. New ‘no dog fouling’ signs put up in Water Lane and around the parish.</p> <p><b><u>April 2016</u></b> Note put in newsletter reminding owners to clear up after their dogs and to keep dogs under control or on a lead.</p> <p><b><u>March 2017</u></b> Dog fouling still a problem in some parts of the village, particularly Bell Fields footpath near the allotments. Noted at PC meeting &amp; newsletter.</p> <p><b><u>April 2017</u></b> New signs to be put up and another note in the newsletter.</p> <p><b><u>March 2019</u></b> 3 new dog poo bins erected in the Parish. Kindly sponsored by The Bell, Kersey Mill and The Miller’s Kitchen café at Kersey Mill. Regular items put in the newsletter and signs on problem footpaths to encourage dog owners to clear up after their dogs.</p>
<p>Natural Environment</p>	<p><b>PP 2008.</b> An appetite for working groups to tidy village.</p> <p><b>R 2014.</b> As 2008</p>	<p>Invite residents to take on areas they would like to keep tidy</p>	<p>Parish Council, Footpath Working Group and community members</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p><b><u>January 2014</u></b> There is a group of volunteers who have tidied areas of the parish, in particular the area of Cherry Hill next to the footpath.</p>

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		<p>throughout the year. Encourage residents to join the Footpath Working Group to help keep paths walkable.</p>			<p>PC to continue organising annual spring litter collection, promote widely to encourage participation. The Footpath Working Group maintains the footpath network in the Parish.</p> <p><b><u>March 2017</u></b> Appeal in newsletter for more Footpath Working Group volunteers.</p> <p><b><u>March 2018</u></b> The Footpath Working Group has several new members helping to keep footpaths well maintained. The Annual litter collection was well supported and the PC is to discuss an idea to organise regular litter collections throughout the year.</p> <p><b><u>March 2019</u></b> Successfully annual litter collection again. Footpath Working Group continue to maintain footpath network.</p> <p><b><u>March 2020</u></b> Successful annual spring litter collection. Kersey school joined in again. Kersey Volunteer Group launched. Members will collect litter on a regular basis as well as reporting other problems such as potholes. Footpath Working Group continues to maintain footpath network. More volunteers would be welcomed.</p>

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Access to Information	<p><b>PP 2008.</b> Creation of Website</p> <p><b>R 2014.</b> Existing website is good but needs promoting</p>	Promote the website and continue to improve content	Parish Council	Medium	<p>Website created and launched Feb 2010. <a href="http://www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk">www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>March 2018</b> Website promoted in the newsletter and updated regularly. A new Local History page has been created.</p> <p><b>March 2020</b> Website continues to be developed. New events calendar added. Kersey Newsletter published on the website.</p> <p><b>November 2020</b> Website regularly promoted via the newsletter.</p>
Access to Information	<b>R 2014.</b> Improve Broadband speed and provision in the parish	To continue to highlight the issue with SCC	Parish Council and SCC Councillor	High	<p><b>March 2014</b> BB speeds variable but very slow in some areas. No fibre technology available in Kersey yet which would enable high speed BB.</p> <p><b>January 2017</b> Most homes in the parish can access fibre. Residents need to contact their service provider or seek an alternative provider who offers the high speed fibre service. ACTION POINT COMPLETED no further action.</p>
Access to Information	<b>R 2014.</b> Improve mobile phone reception in the parish	To investigate ways to boost the signals	Parish Council and SCC Councillor	High	<p><b>March 2014</b> Some areas, particularly near the Splash have very poor mobile reception.</p>



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Local Democracy	<b>PP 2008.</b> Keeping the Parish Plan alive in the community <b>R 2014.</b> As 2008	Monitor	Parish Council	High	
Local Democracy	<b>R 2014.</b> Vacancies for Parish Councillors.  Low public attendance at Parish Council meetings.	Encourage residents to engage with the Parish Council and review 'Parish Time' engagement at meetings.	Parish Council	Medium	<p><b><u>June 2015</u></b> Both vacancies for Parish Councillors now filled</p> <p><b><u>April 2016</u></b> PC considered ways to improve engagement with parishioners at PC meetings. It was agreed to keep 'Parish Time' at the end of meetings to give residents the opportunity to raise matters with the PC. The PC welcomes residents to all meetings and the Chair ensures the public present have the opportunity to comment during meetings, particular before discussion about planning applications.</p> <p><b><u>March 2019</u></b> A small number of residents regularly attend Council meetings. Their attendance and relevant contributions are appreciated by the Parish Council. 'Parish Time' moved to near the start of Parish Council meetings to enable engagement earlier in the meeting. Public participation guidance published on the website.</p> <p><b><u>May 2019</u></b> Contested Parish Council election with 9 candidates standing for 7 seats.</p> <p><b><u>March 2020</u></b> A very small number of residents continue to attend PC meetings regularly.</p>

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					<p><b><u>November 2020</u></b>                      Due to the COVID-19 pandemic remote Parish Council meetings held via Zoom. Residents have joined and participated in PC meetings.</p>

### **March 2021**

This document now needs to be reviewed by the Parish Council and a new action plan written setting out the priorities for Kersey for the next few years.