

## **MINUTES OF KERSEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM IN KERSEY VILLAGE HALL**

### **PRESENT**

Chair –John Hume, 4 Parish Councillors, 14 members of public and Sarah Partridge - Clerk. Jenny Antill - Suffolk County Councillor and Alan Ferguson – Babergh District Councillor both attended for part of the meeting.

**APM 1/16 APOLOGIES** were received from Iqbal Alam, John Maltby and Linda Bowman. Jenny Antill sent her apologies that she would be arriving late for the meeting.

**APM 2/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH MEETING** held on 13 April 2015 were signed as correct.

**APM 3/16 CORRESPONDENCE** - None

### **APM 4/16 REPORTS**

**Full Reports are all appended to these minutes.**

**Police** – Due to changes following the recent police review there was no report from the police.

**Babergh District Council**, Alan Ferguson gave his report and also gave an update on planning application B/15/01196 Land to the rear of 1-6 The Street for the erection of 6 two storey dwellings. The latest update from the planning officer is that Officers are opposed to the current application for reasons of impact upon residential amenity, impact upon visual amenity and impact upon the setting of the listed buildings and the character and appearance of the Kersey conservation area. Officers have approached the applicant and informed them of these concerns. The applicant wishes to discuss a revised proposal. Babergh officers are considering whether there would be merit in engaging in such a discussion. On the advice of the Corporate Manager at the time, it was decided that if determined, the application will be a committee decision. The planning committee have had a site visit and cannot depart from this trajectory at this late stage unless the application is withdrawn by the applicant/their agent. Alan then answered questions, many of which related to council housing and the right to buy and sustainability of new homes.

*Alan Ferguson then gave his apologies and left the meeting.*

**Kersey Parish Council**, John Hume gave his report.

### **Kersey Parish Council Working Groups and Representatives:**

**Footpath Working Group**, a report from John Maltby was read.

**KCPC Working Group**, the Clerk gave a report from Jonathan Marsh.

**Vale Lane Footpath Link Working Group**, Giles Hollingworth gave his report.

There was a discussion about road safety around the corner from Vale Lane to the entrance to the Church and school. Residents are concerned about the speed vehicles drive around this corner and that there is only a narrow grass verge/bank for pedestrians to walk along. Questions were raised about 20 mph speed limits and other options. The Parish Council has had a meeting with SCC highways to highlight these concerns and to try to find a solution. Unfortunately, there is not a simple solution. The Parish Council is awaiting the results of a recent traffic survey; however, this was monitoring traffic on Cherry Hill rather than at the top of Mill Lane.

*Jenny Antill joined the meeting.*

**Suffolk County Council**, Jenny Antill gave her report and answered questions.

**Forget-Me-Nots**, Veronica Partridge gave her report.

**Franey, Rand and Pest House Charities**, Nora Ryde gave her report. The aim of this charity is to support anyone in a time of hardship, for example financial support for transport to hospital or extra costs related to health or medical issues. If anyone in the parish needs help they should contact Mrs Ryde.

**Friends of the Fabric & Bells of St Mary's Church**, Neville Whittell gave his report. The Chairman thanked the bell ringers, saying it is delightful to hear the bells ringing.

**Grays Trust**, Joan Hatrick gave her report.

**Kersey CEVCP School**, the Clerk gave a brief report from Linda Bowman, the full report is appended and will be read at the Parish Council meeting on 9 May 2016.

It was commented that the school letter head states that the school was founded in 1874. A resident has details about the founding of the school. The idea of founding Kersey School was first discussed by residents of the parish in 1872. The school was opened in September 1873 with 30 children attending.

**Kersey Playing Field Association**, Ian Hatrick gave his report.

There was a discussion about the exercise equipment and whether it is used by very many people. It was suggested that perhaps it should be promoted in the newsletter because there may be residents who are unaware of this free to use exercise equipment and the other recreational facilities available at the playing field.

**Kersey Society**, Ian Hatrick gave his report.

There was a discussion about the Kersey Society and the need to support their events. Fresh ideas for events would be welcomed. Contact details for the Kersey Society are in the newsletter and on the Kersey website. Everyone is welcome to attend or help with events.

**Lewis Mowles Trust**, Norah Orriss gave her report. The Lewis Mowles Trust aims to help support parish projects. Previous items supported are the water pump at the allotments and benches in the village.

**Millennium Book Fund**, a report was read from John Maltby.

**Neighbourhood Watch**, Giles Hollingworth gave a brief report.

It was mentioned that parishioners can sign up to the Police Connect service. This is a messaging service connecting you to the very latest policing news for your area via email, text or phone. You can register for this service by going to the Suffolk Police website [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk) More information on this and other police information services are on the Kersey website on the 'Useful Information' page.

**Nightingale Trust**, David Griffiths gave his report.

**St Mary's Church PCC**, Linda Newbigging gave her report.

A question was asked about offering groups the opportunity to climb the church tower. The PCC have held open tower events before and will consider it again but there are issues regarding safety.

**Table Tennis Club**, a report was read from Adrian Blyth.

**Tuesday Club**, Rachel Wells gave her report.

The Tuesday Club welcomes everyone to their events. There are very interesting speakers booked to give talks at their monthly meetings which are advertised in the newsletter.

**Village Hall**, a report was read from John Maltby.

It was commented that the village hall is a great facility managed and maintained by members of the parish who all work very hard to keep the hall in such good order. They were thanked for their commitment and hard work. It would be good if all parishioners tried to attend the fundraising events for the village hall.

**Village Produce Association**, Rachel Wells gave her report.

#### **APM 5/16 PARISH PLAN UPDATE**

A Parish Plan Review was completed in 2014 and the final report has been published. This gives a summary of the review process and consultation outcomes. A Parish Action Plan has been put together as a result of this Parish Plan Review. This will shortly be approved by the Parish Council and then published on the Kersey website. It was commented that the Parish Plan and the Parish Action Plan are community documents and not just for the Parish Council. They are based on consultation with residents to try to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing in the parish.

#### **APM 6/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

St Mary's PCC are delighted to have found new editors for the parish newsletter; Alan and Jill Line. It was requested that contributions are emailed promptly before the deadline and that the text is checked to ensure details are accurate.

There was a discussion about parking on Church Hill, particularly opposite the turning to the village hall. If vehicles are parked opposite this turning it would be almost impossible for emergency vehicles to drive to the village hall and other properties which is a concern.

A comment was made that when high speed broadband is finally brought to the village it may be possible to request that wires are laid underground rather than having more overhead cables.

It was agreed that in future years this meeting would be called the Annual Parish Assembly as this may help avoid confusion with the Parish Council Annual Meeting, which is held in May. The Annual Parish Assembly (formerly Annual Parish Meeting) is an open meeting to which all residents are welcomed and can voice any concerns and discuss any matters affecting the parish. It is not a Parish Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

There are 16 sheets appended to these minutes.

## **Report to Kersey Annual Parish Meeting. Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

### **The Budget**

The budget for 2016/17 was voted through in Full Council in February. Although general council tax will not be increased, the county's share of the bill will be increased by 2% to reflect the Government's Social Care Levy which is ring fenced for spending on Adult Social Care. 90% of councils in England will be raising this Levy and many will also be increasing council tax to the maximum allowed (without a referendum) of 3.9%.

### **Devolution**

In September Suffolk Leaders submitted a formal 'expression of interest' to Government supporting Suffolk's aspirations to participate in a Devolution bid at an early stage.

It rapidly became clear that Suffolk's ideas did not coincide with those of Whitehall. Initially it seemed that the Government wanted us to include Norfolk in our plans, and more recently has insisted that Cambridgeshire join in too. In his budget statement George Osborne confirmed that he was keen to conclude a deal with what has been called the Eastern Powerhouse headed by an elected Mayor. At present it is uncertain whether all of Cambridgeshire councils are willing to sign up. Large sums have been mentioned which are likely to be spent on infrastructure and other measures to stimulate economic growth in the region. It is uncertain as to whether this actually constitutes money that would otherwise not have been spent. In fact the whole process has been shrouded in mystery and has been described by a cross party Parliamentary Group as 'piecemeal and incoherent'

It would be a pity in my view if this results in four, or even five, layers of Government!

### **Children and Young People**

This has been a bright spot this year.

Suffolk County Council's Services for looked after children have been rated 'good' by OFSTED following a recent inspection. 78 Councils have been inspected under this framework, and only 17 have received 'good' ratings, so this is an achievement

Educational standards in the county have continued to improve, albeit at a slow rate.

A level, GCSE and SATs results for Suffolk schools have all shown improvements and we are slowly moving off the bottom of the league tables.

Suffolk County Council is continuing to take an active part in the Fairer funding campaign which aims to get a better level of central government funding for Suffolk schools. George Osborne recently committed the Government to looking again at funding levels with a view to making them more equitable. This should be good news for Suffolk schools.

### **The future of the Fire Service**

A consultation on reorganisation of the Fire Service concluded in February and a decision with regard to this will be made by the cabinet in May once the results of the consultation have been evaluated. The proposals which do involve closure of some fire stations and reduction in equipment should be seen against a background of reduced demand and a smaller number of emergency call outs over the past 10 years.

### **Kersey**

Earlier in the year I attended a meeting with the Parish Council and with Steve Merry, Highways Manager.

The purpose of the meeting was to look at a number of issues with regard to highways in the village.

I have dealt with a few queries and problems from Kersey residents over the year, most of which have been resolved one way or another.

It seems that High Speed Broadband should be available in much of Kersey by September. This is according to the map on the Better Broadband for Suffolk website. If you enter your postcode more information may be available. Properties at the edge of the village may not be included in the initial roll out.

I look forward to representing Kersey next year.

Jenny Antill, April 2016.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR KERSEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**

**THE KEY POINTS IN THE LAST YEAR OF BABERGH'S MANAGEMENT**

As we approach the end of the first year with a Conservative majority in Babergh I can report that the year has been challenging. In the year, Babergh and Mid Suffolk have had to address some key issues:

- A cut in support staff of about 50% following the decision to develop a Joint Strategic Plan that describes the way that Councillors and Officers will deliver the aspirations of the two independent Councils. The process is ongoing and a refresh of the Joint Strategic following the Babergh Conservative Group election success should be completed by the end of April 16.
- One of the greatest challenges for Babergh in the last year has been achieving a balanced budget for 2016/17. Central Government has fundamentally changed the ground rules for funding Councils with the reducing levels of Revenue Support Grants (RSG), meaning that we are required to consider fundamentally different funding arrangements from the past. The new arrangements for retention of Business Rates helps, but without the New Homes Bonus (contentious because it can be seen as a driver in planning) the budget would not balance and this is unacceptable.
- For the first time in 4 years, Council tax has had to rise to help meet the challenge of retaining a level of service currently provided to Babergh residents. Put simply, there are no easy options and in the next two years every avenue must be explored to close the funding gap that we expect to see in FY 2017/18 onwards.
- The issue of two separate (half empty) locations for Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils has yet to be resolved but work is in hand to recommend a way forward in June 16. Whatever the outcome, I would not expect to see any changes before the end of this calendar year.
- Housing, both private and public sectors is emotive and challenging. In the private context growth is essential but growth of the right sort of houses is a critical part of the equation. You may have seen the recent protests over developments on the outskirts of Ipswich, at East Bergholt, and closer to home at Bildeston. These are not easy matters to resolve but housing growth is a core part of our growth strategy and some hard decisions must be taken if we are to grow Babergh as a District where people want to live. In the context of public sector housing, we are building new Council Houses but again the challenge here should not be underestimated. Right to Buy is a good concept but it reduces our housing stock and we are only permitted to use 30% of receipts for building new homes. The other 70% has to be funded from other resources.
- Finally, I should record that Devolution has entered Phase 2 in that Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge County Council (not the city) and Peterborough have reached agreement in principle with the Government to take Devolution forward. This will give us much greater control over funding challenges and outcomes for the residents in Babergh.

Alan Ferguson

11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIR'S REPORT 2015-16**  
**Kersey Annual Parish Meeting 11 April 2016**

This is my third Annual Report as Chair. I again wish to record my thanks to my fellow Councillors, with particular tribute to Sarah Partridge for another year of valued contribution to our Parish Council. Sarah has ensured we complied with the Transparency Code, coordinated the new Parish Plan and has maintained high standards of governance and financial administration. Her calm, authoritative approach is highly regarded by Councillors. I also thank the many members of our Parish who give up their time to provide service to our community through their membership of formal groups, societies, social networks and providing neighbourly support. These activities, such as supporting our School, the Church, the Playing Fields, the Footpaths and the Village Hall, all maintain the physical and social fabric of our village and make Kersey such a special place in which to live and visit. Much of this work goes on behind the scenes but I can assure you it is highly valued and appreciated. I would like to encourage younger and newer Parish residents to take a more active part in our village life.

Kersey Parish Council is a body formed to represent local opinions to the District and County Council and is the first tier of government. The Parish Council is committed to represent the interests of the residents of Kersey, enhancing their well-being and security. All Parishioners are invited to raise matters which concern them, either with individual Councillors, the Parish Council as a whole or by attendance at Parish Council Meetings. The constructive, informative contribution of those who regularly attend these meetings is welcomed and adds useful insights into making decisions. My fellow Councillors and I would, however, like to see even more attendance and participation at these meetings.

During the year Iqbal Alam joined the Parish Council. The existing Councillors, whose contact details are attached and also appear on the Kersey Parish website, are Iqbal Alam, Ian Fidell, who was co-opted during the year, Giles Hollingworth, John Maltby, Yvonne Martin, Veronica Partridge and me.

We have no current Councillor vacancies but are always interested to hear from candidates who are interested in representing and serving our community.

Jenny Antill, our Suffolk County Councillor and Alan Ferguson, our Babergh District Councillor regularly attended Parish Council Meetings to report on relevant matters, give advice and take up issues on our behalf. PCSO Mandy Coleman also attended until the changes in Policing Policy. I thank each of them for their time and support.

During the year, the Parish Council received 18 Planning Applications. 14 were fully supported and of these Babergh approved 12 and are yet to decide on the other two. Of the remaining four, the Parish Council supported one change of use which was refused by Babergh, were in favour of repairs to Kersey Mill which were approved by Babergh, voted against one Application which was approved by Babergh and voted unanimously against an Application which the Applicant has reportedly withdrawn to reconsider. This last Application was the biggest and most contentious issue the Parish Council has had to decide upon for 20 years. The proposal is to build five terraced two bedroom houses and one two bedroom house at the rear and in the grounds of 1-6 The Cottages, The Street. Two of the houses would be designated as "affordable". At a meeting attended by 70 members of the public, the Parish Council voted unanimously against the proposal, mainly on the grounds that harm to heritage and environment outweighed any benefits.

To improve our performance in dealing with planning applications, the Parish Council has attended specific training on planning law and we have introduced the practice of visiting, wherever possible, the application site.

Plans to modify the path from the bottom of the Church Steps to the School were dropped but we continue to investigate ways of providing safer pedestrian access between the centre of the village and Vale Lane. A draft Emergency Plan will shortly be submitted to Babergh. The Parish Plan was reviewed and updated. The Clerk regularly liaises with Suffolk County Council Highways Department to request road repairs and Parishioners are encouraged to use the Suffolk County Council on-line reporting system to report pot holes and other road damage. General litter and fly tipping has worsened in lanes in the Parish over the last 12 months and it was disappointing that only four people turned up to the annual litter collection in early March.

There have been no significant crimes reported in the year and Kersey remains a safe place to live. The Parish Council are delighted with the success of our local school and will continue to support the growth of local enterprise and employment. We note the contribution made by the farming community, Kersey Mill and The Bell to the standard of life in Kersey.

Your Parish Council remains financially strong, with funds in the bank. Parish Council expenditure in the year was within budget. The Precept for the year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 was £6,700 plus a Council Tax Support Grant of £86.17 and a Transparency Fund Grant of £ 1091.01. The Precept for 2016/17 will be £6,786, plus a £43.08 Council Tax Support Grant. Council Tax for a Band D property in 2016/17 will increase by 0.74% from £37.16 in the previous year to £37.44.

John Hume, April 2016

#### **Parish Councillors:**

John Hume (Chair)	Ayres End, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 810098
John Maltby (Vice Chair)	Pax, 7 Church Hill, Kersey, IP7 6EE	01473 828383
Mrs Yvonne Martin	Row View, The Street, Kersey IP7 6DY	01473 828361
Mrs Veronica Partridge	Chestnuts, Kersey, Ipswich IP7 6EL	01473 823188
Giles Hollingworth	Chapel House, Church Hill, Kersey IP7 6DZ	01473 824663
Iqbal Alam	4 Ancient Houses, The Street, Kersey IP7 6EA	01473 827079
Ian Fidell	The Cottage, Church Hill, Kersey, IP7 6DZ	01473 828887

#### **Clerk & RFO:**

Mrs Sarah Partridge <a href="mailto:kerseypc@gmail.com">kerseypc@gmail.com</a>	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	01787 210859
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For more information about Kersey Parish Council, including contact information, ordinary meeting dates, agendas and minutes of previous meetings please see the Kersey website.

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

## Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept

	2015/16 Budget/ Precept 2015/2016	2016/17 Budget/ Precept 2016/2017
Post/Tel/Stationery/copier cartridge	£100.00	£135.00
Allow £70.00 for copier cartridge	£35.00	£0.00
Clerk's computer/working from home	£156.00	£208.00
Hall Hire: Parish Council 10 @ £5	£50.00	£50.00
Annual Parish Meeting @ £10	£10.00	£10.00
SALC subscription	£162.00	£166.00
Community Action Suffolk subs	£30.00	£30.00
Audit	£0.00	£100.00
ICO Data Protection registration	£35.00	£35.00
<b>Sub total for Admin</b>	<b>£578.00</b>	<b>£734.00</b>
Clerks Salary	£3,845.00	£3,920.00
Training/External Meetings	£250.00	£250.00
Street Lighting	£210.00	£210.00
CAS Suffolk Insurance	£480.00	£480.00
Glebe Insurance	£50.00	£50.00
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£83.00	£83.00
Playground Safety Inspection	£85.00	£85.00
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£43.00	£44.00
St Mary's Church	£400.00	£400.00
Chairman's Allowance	£0.00	£0.00
Election costs	£25.00	£25.00
Church Walk future maintenance	£130.00	£130.00
Footpath Map printing reserve	£75.00	£75.00
Contingencies: software for laptop	£300.00	£300.00
Tax base fluctuation allowance	£146.00	
	£6,700.00	£6,786.00
<i>Transparency Fund Grant</i>	<i>£1,091.01</i>	
	<b>£7,791.01</b>	<b>£6,786.00</b>

Precept for 2015/16 was £6,700 plus a Council Tax Support Grant from Babergh £86.17  
Council Tax for a band D property was £37.16.

Precept for 2016/17 will be £6,786 plus Council Tax Support Grant from Babergh £43.08  
Council Tax for a band D property will be £37.44.



## **Report on the Kersey Parish Council Footpath Working Group to the Annual Parish Meeting, 11 April 2016**

There have been no reports of overgrowth or obstructions on paths to date, but mowing will probably begin in the next month or two. Both mowers have been run for fifteen minutes and work well. A volunteer, or possibly two, would be welcomed to mow paths to the west, following the understandable retirement of Rob Wheeler and Diana Pembroke. Finances are in good order, based on the mowing of designated paths at a county provision of 5p/metre and now amounting to £1,365.83 in reserve. Insurance is included in the Council's cover.

John Maltby, 11 April 2016

## **Vale Lane Footpath Link Working Group Report April 2016**

Vale Lane footpath link plan is currently on hold.

The proposal to construct a series of steps down the slope adjacent to the Church has been abandoned due to local objections, and the plan to build a footpath along the edge of the field between Vale Lane and the Church being held in limbo, awaiting a decision from the landowner.

A meeting was held in March, at which three members of the Working Group were present, but was concluded with a general opinion that there was little that could be done without the full support of all concerned to improve access and safety within the village.

Giles Hollingworth, April 2016

## **KCPC Working Group REPORT for Kersey Annual Parish Meeting**

**11 April 2016**

The playground continues to be a popular resource for children in the village and locality. This report highlights last year's key events and some plans for this year.

The Quiz Night held in November was a very successful evening, with numbers considerably up from previous years and we raised £593.50. I'm grateful to Bryn Hurren for agreeing to be Quiz Master and preparing such an excellent selection of questions. We plan to hold the event again at a similar date later in the year (date TBC), and the cost will increase to £10 a ticket, as the cost of supper has risen.

The KCPC funds stand at £4479.47, and are sufficient to cover our expected expenditure.

As a result of the Quiz Night we have managed to recruit a new Secretary and I'm very grateful to Dominique Young for offering her help.

The exercise equipment is serviceable and available for use. Moles around the area are very industrious. Two successful maintenance days were held. The Cricket net repairs are successful though the matting continues to suffer in the wet from moss etc. It has been treated but needs to dry out before it can be used.

The bark area around the swings needs to be completely refurbished. It is the only major issue that is outstanding and I would hope that it is carried out this year.

The "new" mower has been serviced and is in good working order. It is back in the rabbit hutch for the new season

I thank Pascoe Gibbons for taking over the management of the Grass Cutting Rota and Inspection Schedule. We have managed to recruit a few new volunteers for grass cutting, but still need more to replace those who have retired from the list. I would make a request that if people are unable to mow the grass on their designated day, could they please organise a stand-in, and email Pasco when they complete the task.

I would like to thank Sarah Partridge for her hard work and support, and we would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with the maintenance day and the grass-cutting last year. We are still very grateful to the Whymarks for allowing us to use their garden for the mower storage. I would also like to add a personal thank you to the members of the working group for their hard work and support.

JPFM 11.4.16

## **THE FORGET ME NOTS**

The Forget Me Not's are very much 'alive and thriving'. We have celebrated two 90<sup>th</sup> Birthdays this last year, and all our members are very well, and have a big input into our activities. This last winter, when no one wished to drive too far we had "Bingo" lunches at 'Chestnuts' where we played a few games and then had a hot lunch.

We have at present 11 active members and several villagers who join us when they are able. We meet once a month, usually dates and venues are provided in the Newsletter if possible, and we have found several interesting venues for our lunches and coffee mornings, near and far. There is always room for more members, and if a lift is required to the venue, we will be happy to collect from and return you to your own home.

Veronica Partridge

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

This past year has been very quiet. I have had no requests for assistance this year, in my area.

Yours faithfully

Nora Ryde  
Wormwood Green  
Kersey  
Ipswich  
IP7 6EB

**Friends of the Fabric and Bells of St Mary's Church**  
**Report for Kersey Annual Parish Meeting April 2016**

The friends of the bells have had a quiet year; there is £6,212.49 in the account. New ringers would be welcomed. If you would like to find out more or have a trial then please contact any of the bell ringers.

Contact details are on the Kersey website.

GRAYS' TRUST, KERSEY

Report to the Parish Annual Meeting – April 2016

In July 2015 we gave gifts again to children leaving Kersey School. The 8 leavers received Scientific Calculators and Atlas's, chosen for them to use at secondary school. During the year we also gave a substantial donation to the School for educational equipment, and a donation to Kersey Church to assist with the cost of installing a security system.

In 2015 we gave financial assistance to 3 university students, 1 6<sup>th</sup> Form student and 1 Village organisation. Two of the university students have now completed their courses. We seem to be in a cyclical period where there are fewer students in the village attending 6<sup>th</sup> Form or applying for University places. If there are any new families who have teenagers considering further education and would like more information please contact the Chairman, John Robinson or any of the other Trustees. Telephone numbers are in the Newsletter. We are always glad to consider applications from mature students.

The object of the Grays Trust charity is to promote the education of persons who are resident in the parish and surrounding area of Kersey. Applications to the Trustees are invited, via the Newsletter, annually in September, and if funds are available, again in January.

Joan Hattrick, Trustee

11 April 2016

## Kersey CEVCP School Annual Report to Kersey Parish Council – April 2016

We pride ourselves on being a small, friendly school where individual needs are met and all involved in our school are listened to and respected. On a daily basis this ethos is seen through an active learning atmosphere that gives all children the opportunities to succeed.

The children are fundamental to our school and throughout the year the learning council continues to meet regularly, the children facilitate and clerk the meeting, with the help of a teacher, very effectively taking into account the views of the rest of the school. The School council lead an assembly each week where all pupils can contribute, ask questions and discuss important issues.

The children have also begun a Worship Council, supported by a member of staff and a Governor, to discuss our Spiritual ethos and development. We pride ourselves on our Christian values and work hard to embed respect, responsibility, resilience, resourcefulness, readiness and reflectiveness in everything we do.

We enjoy celebrating achievements, both in and out of school and weekly assemblies allow the children to share their skills and knowledge. The children have had opportunities this year, to share their learning with their parents and the community during Discovery cafes, class assemblies, two Eucharist services; a Christmas and Easter performance, which were very well received.

Our school roll is currently at 76. Our school continues to enjoy great popularity and we currently have a full quota of reception children registered to begin next September.

The pupils have enjoyed several educational visits this year including a trip to Hollow Trees; whole school visits to Pipers Vale Gymnastics Centre, Duxford; the rock and roll Panto, and a 'night at the museum' – Egyptian workshop and sleepover at school! There are several other visits planned for the summer term. All classes participated in a local area litter pick, supporting the community and our eco-status. The Eco-team are constantly developing the school grounds and gardens, and have almost completed the building of their bottle greenhouse. The Friends of Kersey continue to support the school purchasing educational equipment and providing transport to and from events. They organised a very enjoyable and successful Pumpkin event, provided refreshments at the Christmas Fayre, and presents for all pupils, and an Easter egg hunt on the last day of the Spring term.

As well as individual music and drama lessons, all Keystage two pupils have instrument lessons and the whole school will be participating in our first 'Celebration of Music' on May 20<sup>th</sup>, in St Mary's Church. We hope the whole community will join us to celebrate.

A number of children have represented our school this term in Able, Gifted and Talented events, a swimming gala, futsal tournament, handball event, multiskills festival, hockey tournament, a cross country tournament and a basketball event. We are very proud of their performances and achievements.

We continue to discuss with our families the parking situation in the morning and at afternoon collection and we thank the Bell Inn for their support and continued offer to use their car park allowing parents and pupils to walk up to school and help to reduce the congestion problems. We are still keen to develop our facilities by building a school hall. This would hugely improve and extend the learning environment for our pupils. The Hall committee are investigating all possible options, and have met with English Heritage and Babergh representatives.

The school continues to have a committed team of individual staff and other stakeholders working hard to do the very best for all pupils, so that we can all work together and learn to achieve our potential.

Thank you to all those regularly involved with the school. Please let us know if we can support the community further. Thank you all for your continued support, in making this another successful year for our school.

Linda Bowman (Headteacher)

## Kersey Playing Field Association Parish Meeting April 2016

As ever the school provides the most regular visitors to the Glebe time and weather regardless. At least one football match kicking off before 8.30am set a challenging example still to be taken up by most of the village community. The Playground is also used regularly unlike the adult exercise equipment which is used by precious few. The trustees issue their usual reminder – the Glebe is there exclusively for your recreation and they hope you will make use of it.

11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### **Kersey Society**

In part a frustrating year when two events had to be cancelled. One in particular – a visit to the National Arboretum- lacked the numbers to be viable on the day in question. We hope to rearrange this trip with more notice.

Andy Hulme of the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, accompanied by two live birds, spoke in the Village Hall in May. Thirty one of us, including five lively children, enjoyed hearing and asking questions about the habits and haunts of tawny and barn owls and the Sanctuary's work nationwide.

A Christmas wreath making class was well supported in December.

Preliminary work on the establishment of a Kersey archive has been undertaken and we hope to finalise an action plan which will be set out in the Newsletter in the next few weeks.

11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## **Lewis Mowles Trust Annual Report 2016**

Last year the trust donated £1,000 to St Mary's Church towards the payment for the alarm to be fitted on the roof. Our balance is now £10,211.75.

Norah Orriss

April 2016

## **Report on the Kersey Millennium Book Fund to the Annual Parish Meeting 11 April 2016**

The account in the Ipswich Building Society now stands at £2,841.91. Money from the fund can be made available for educational and similar projects in the village, at the discretion of the Parish Council.

John Maltby, 11 April 2016

## **Neighbourhood Watch Annual Report 2016**

As parishioners will be aware, the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Kersey has, for some years now, been an informal operation with no organised or regular meetings or input from the village.

We are, however, kept notified by the police of any criminal incident or activity which might have a detrimental effect on the village. When, or if, appropriate this information will be conveyed to those affected, or to the entire village, as required.

Insofar as I can establish there have been 4 incidents within the village which have been reported to the police within the last 12 months.

Giles Hollingworth, April 2016

## KERSEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### Report from the Nightingale Trust

The Nightingale Trust is a charity set up by the will of Robert Nightingale in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to provide help for the aged poor. We make a number of payments from the proceeds of letting the allotments and are happy to help anyone in the Parish who is in need. The allotments continue to be cultivated to a generally high standard by tenants from Kersey and surrounding parishes, priority being given to Kersey residents. We are very pleased to welcome Natalie Blyth as the Parish Council Representative, particularly as she is herself an allotment holder, and are grateful to Norah Orriss for continuing, as a co-opted Trustee, in her valuable role as Treasurer and letting agent. Many of the Trustees are becoming elderly, and we should be grateful for younger volunteers who would like to join our team. Further improvements are in hand for access at the Western end of the allotments.

#### CONTACTS

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## **Short report of St Mary's PCC for Kersey Annual Parish Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Revs Tim and Trish ffrench and our Elder, Julie Boast, continued to provide a regular pattern of services including Mini Messy Church, Communion, Morning Prayer and a Benefice service every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. We are grateful to the retired clergy and other elders who helped with services especially Rev Gerald Drew and Ian Hattrick who supported our worship during the Reverends' Sabbatical period.

We are delighted that the school continued to use the church on a daily basis and that there is a close and effective working relationship with the Head teacher.

The Revs ffrench would also like to thank the many local people who helped clean the church, provide beautiful flower arrangements, served during our services and helped with fundraising. We are particularly grateful to our two church wardens whose daily care of the church means the doors are always open; and to the rest of the PCC for their help with the the daily running of the church. 2015 saw the semi-retirement of Ian Hattrick as our organist and we are using recorded music and other organists where possible but we would like to record our gratitude for his many years of service.

As an important part of our Christian ethos we were once again able to make charitable donations to: British Legion, Suffolk Historic Churches, WaterAid, and Teenage Cancer Trust.

The PCC would like to thank Caroline Edwards and Carter Jonas for their continued support with the Gift Fayre and Linda would like to thank all those in the village who volunteer to help with this event and to everyone in the village who support our events such as the plant sale, cream teas and buffet supper. The PCC is aware of the need to increase the number of fund-raising events as St Mary's depends heavily on the profits of these events to help fund its day-to-day expenses, overheads and activities. The responsibility for organising events is falling on fewer people and as a result there were fewer events in 2015.

The PCC are considering other types of fund raising, including a 'Friends of St Mary's' in the hope of attracting a wider group of supporter

### **Finances**

A full financial report will be available at our own AGM of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April – to which you are all invited. However, it would be fair to say that we are finding it more and more challenging to find the resources to fund our annual expenses as easily as perhaps we once did.

## **Kersey Table Tennis Club. - Report for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.**

The Table Tennis Club has been well attended throughout the season.

The Club's finances are healthy and we are able to meet normal running costs without dipping into reserves.

Although the Club was founded on feedback from the Parish Plan, most attendees come from outside of the village.

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 at this level provided operating costs are unchanged. The season runs from September to June.

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

The accounts for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 will be audited by Natalie Blyth.

Adrian Blyth

01473 827805

[adrian.blyth1@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.blyth1@btinternet.com)

## **Tuesday Club**

The Club met 10 times in 2015. A varied programme included talks on Tanzania, Realm of the Polar Bear, Olympic Games, Elkie Wildart and Walking the Thames path. We continue to sponsor 'Rocky' at the Shelley riding Centre. The Club is grateful to the Grays Tryst for their donation to help with speakers' costs. This year our members have increased by 3 to 19.

## **Report on the Kersey Village Hall to the Annual Parish Meeting 11 April 2016**

Principal improvements to the Hall over the past year have included heat and sound insulation, better lighting in most areas, and redecorations, principally of the committee room, but where necessary, elsewhere. Un-used folding chairs may now be hired. Village use and other bookings remain at a comfortably high level. The AGM has been set for 18 April in the Hall, and the Autumn Buffet for 15 October. Finances are in good shape, with the balance in hand now £19,490.

John Maltby, 11 April 2016

## **Village Produce Association**

In July we had an enjoyable day at Knebworth House and gardens. A successful flower show was held in September. The marquees continue to be let on a regular basis and brought in an income of £1,330. As in previous years donations were given to help Nightingale Trust, churchyard, flood lights and newsletter. A donation was also given to help towards installation of the roof alarm at the church.