

KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIR' S REPORT 2014-15 for the Kersey Parish Meeting 13 April 2015

This is my second Annual Report since becoming Chair in May 2013. I wish again to record my thanks to my fellow Councillors and to our Parish Clerk, Sarah Partridge for another year of valued contribution to our Parish Council. I also thank the many members of our Parish for their service to our community through their membership of formal groups, societies and social networks and by providing neighbourly support. These activities maintain the physical and social fabric of our village life and make Kersey such a special place to live and visit. Much of this work goes unrecognised but is highly valued and appreciated.

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 well-being and security. All Parishioners are encouraged to raise matters which concern them, either with individual Councillors or 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 decisions made. My fellow Councillors and I would, however, like to see even more attendance and participation.

During the year, Ian Fidell rejoined the Parish Council. The existing Councillors, whose contact details are given later and also appear on the Kersey Parish website are Ian Fidell, Giles Hollingworth, John Maltby, Yvonne Martin, Veronica Partridge and me. I wish to thank John Maltby for chairing meetings in my absence in November and December. We currently have one Councillor vacancy and have been actively seeking candidates who are interested in representing and serving our community.

Jenny Antill, our Suffolk County Councillor and Robert Lindsay, our Babergh District Councillor and PCSO Mandy Coleman, Community Support Officer have all regularly attended Parish Council Meetings to report on relevant matters and to take up issues on behalf of the Parish Council and individuals. I thank them for their time and support.

During the year, the Parish Council has considered 16 Planning Applications of which 15 were supported. We have looked at a scheme to provide safer pedestrian access between the centre of the village and Vale Lane, with progress limited by lack of technical support from Suffolk County Council. Funding will have to be addressed when the technical specification is agreed and quotations obtained. An Emergency Plan has been prepared to mitigate the effect of a serious event. The Plan will shortly be submitted to Babergh District Council for approval. The Parish Plan was re-examined and the outcomes will be reviewed by the Parish Council and published by September 2015. The Clerk regularly liaises with Suffolk County Highways Department to request road repairs. Following much publicity in the Parish Magazine, I am pleased to report that complaints about dog-fouling are much reduced, although general litter, particularly on the approaches to the village is worsening.

Your Parish Council remains financially strong, with funds in the bank. Parish Council expenditure in the year ending 31 March was within budget.

The precept for the year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 was £6,604, making the Council Tax £ 37.16 for a Band D property, the same as for the previous year. I am pleased to confirm that your Parish Council has agreed that Council Tax will remain at that level for the year ending March 2016. Details of the financial status are attached to this report.

Councillor John Hume, Chair, Kersey Parish Council, April 2015.

Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept

	2014/15	2015/16
	Budget/ Precept 2014/2015	Budget/ Precept 2015/2016
Post/Tel/Stationery	£100.00	£100.00
Allow £100 for copier cartridge	£35.00	£35.00
Clerk's computer/working from home	£120.00	£156.00
Hall Hire:Parish Council 10 @ £5	£50.00	£50.00
Annual Parish Meeting @ £10	£10.00	£10.00
Footpath Group 3 @ £5	£15.00	£0.00
SALC subscription	£158.00	£162.00
Community Action Suffolk subs	£30.00	£30.00
Suffolk Preservation Society subs	£0.00	£0.00
Local Council Review Magazine	£0.00	£0.00
Audit	£100.00	£0.00
ICO Data Protection registration	£0.00	£35.00
Sub total for Admin	£618.00	£578.00
Clerks Salary	£3,551.00	£3,845.00
Training/Meetings	£200.00	£250.00
Street Lighting	£265.00	£210.00
Street Light ILS conversion repayment	£75.00	£0.00
CAS Suffolk Insurance	£590.00	£480.00
Glebe Insurance	£50.00	£50.00
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£80.00	£83.00
Playground Safety Inspection	£85.00	£85.00
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£43.00	£43.00
Kersey Guide booklet printing	£10.00	£0.00
St Mary's Church	£380.00	£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	£50.00	£75.00
Contingencies:	£300.00	£300.00
Tax base fluctuation fund	£152.00	£146.00
	£6,604.00	£6,700.00

The precept for 2014/15 was £6,604 plus a Council Tax support grant from Babergh of £129.25.
Council Tax for a Band D property was £37.16.

The precept for 2015/16 will be £6,700 plus a Council Tax Support Grant from Babergh of £86.17.
Council Tax for a Band D property will be £37.16.

KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

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, IP 6EL	01473 823188
Giles Hollingworth	Chapel House, Church Hill, Kersey IP7 6DZ	01473 824663
Ian Fidell	The Cottage, Church Hill, Kersey IP7 6DZ	01473 828887
Vacancy		

Clerk:

Mrs Sarah Partridge	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	01787 210859
	Email: kerseypc@gmail.com	

For more information about Kersey Parish Council, including contact information, ordinary meeting dates, agendas and minutes of previous meetings please see the Kersey website

www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk