

## **Kersey Parish Council - Chair's Annual Report 2022-23**

The Parish Council is the first tier of government. We represent the interests of Kersey's parishioners, enhancing well-being and security throughout the Parish. Our aim is to make Kersey a great place in which to live, work and visit. Residents are encouraged to raise matters of concern either with individual Councillors or by attendance at Parish Council meetings.

Existing Councillors are David Butcher, Penny Calnan, Esme Chapman, Andrew Rogers (Vice-Chair), Richard Walker and me. All are confirmed in their posts for the next electoral period. Contact details are shown below and are on the Kersey Parish Council website. I thank them and our Clerk, Sarah Partridge for their continuing service to our community. We have one vacancy and applicants for co-option are welcomed. The website contains minutes of meetings and financial details. New Councillors have attended Councillor training with guidance from the Clerk where needed. Further planning training will be organised for Councillors after the May election.

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

Your Parish Council is financially strong. Reserves are well within the percentage range of annual expenditure. Finances are monitored at every meeting and details included in the minutes. This includes comparisons of income and expenditure against budget, bank reconciliations, noting of balances, expenditure approval and signing of cheques by approved signatories. Finances are also audited regularly.

Seven planning applications were made during the year, of which six were approved by the Parish Council and Babergh District Council. One was withdrawn.

There is still a vacancy for a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

The late Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee was marked with a very successful Kersey Street Party on 5 June 2022. There were over 300 guests, who enjoyed Indian snacks, a hog roast, salads and strawberries and cream. Entertainment was provided by the Suffolk Concert Band and a troupe of Morris Dancers. I thank everyone who organised and took part in such a memorable event. It was a great example of what our community can achieve. The King's Coronation will be marked by a Kersey Village Picnic at The Glebe on 7 May 2023.

I wish to thank the many members of our Parish who provide service to others by supporting neighbours, through individual initiatives, membership of formal and informal groups, societies, networks and local charities. This work goes on behind the scenes but is highly valued and appreciated. Although we are a small parish, there are over 25 businesses, groups, societies and local charities. Kersey is a vibrant, flourishing, safe and generous community but for this to continue into the future, we need more engagement and contribution from younger residents.

Finally, a brief comment on planning applications. We have many listed buildings in the Parish and most of the centre of the village is in a Conservation Area. Planning laws and regulations are there to avoid harm to our heritage, ensure safe living and working conditions and preserve individual property rights. Obviously, changes will be needed to enhance, modernise or repair properties. It is recommended that advice is sought from Babergh District Council's planning department before starting any work.

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 and the Kersey google calendar which you can subscribe to should you wish.

## 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
David Butcher	Kedges End, Kedges Lane, IP7 6RY	07710 105341
Penny Calnan	Wickerstreet House, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 210459
Esme Chapman	Carlton House, The Street, Kersey IP7 6DY	07910 170606
Richard Walker	Sunlit Cottage, 2 The Tye, Kersey IP7 6HB	01787 211277

### Clerk & RFO:

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

## Parish Council budget, precept and actual finance figures year ending March 2023

Payments	Budget yr ending 31/03/23	Actual to 1 March 23	Added to reserves in year	Budget yr ending 31/03/24
Admin	£ 815.00	£ 812.73		£ 962.00
Staff costs	£ 6,330.00	£ 6,351.68		£ 7,200.00
Training and external meetings	£ 250.00	£ 166.35		£ 250.00
Street lighting	£ 540.00	£ 2,621.40		£ 540.00
Insurance (PC & Glebe)	£ 355.00	£ 358.83		£ 615.00
Glebe hedgecut	£ 85.00	£ 100.00		£ 95.00
Mowing the Glebe	£ 100.00	£ 200.00		£ 250.00
RoSPA inspection	£ 93.00	£ 91.00		£ 100.00
Bin emptying charges	£ -	£ 9.98		£ 20.00
St Mary's PCC	£ 460.00	£ 460.00		£ 500.00
Defibrillator annual support	£ 215.00	£ 126.00		£ 215.00
<b>General PC payments</b>	<b>£ 9,243.00</b>	<b>£ 11,297.97</b>		<b>£ 10,747.00</b>
Training reserve			£ 83.65	£ -
Defib and VETS reserve			£ 89.00	£ -
Election costs reserve	£ 165.00		£ 165.00	£ 165.00
Church Walk future maint reserve	£ 130.00		£ 130.00	£ 130.00
Footpath map printing reserve	£ 75.00		£ 75.00	£ 75.00
Fixed asset reserve	£ -			£ -
General Parish Council reserve	£ -			£ -
Contingencies	£ 467.00			£ 303.00
<b>Total Precept</b>	<b>£ 10,080.00</b>	<b>£ 11,297.97</b>		<b>£ 11,420.00</b>
Footpath working group	£ 455.00	£ 481.47		
Jubilee working group	£ 3,667.00	£ 3,318.98		£ -
KCPC working group	£ 1,847.00	£ 245.83		
Agreed spending from reserves	£ 100.00			£ 100.00
Other payments sub total	£ 6,069.00	£ 4,046.28		
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>£ 16,149.00</b>	<b>£ 15,344.25</b>		<b>£ 11,520.00</b>

Street lighting spending includes £2450.20 for conversion to LED lighting. This overspend on the street lighting budget will be funded from the fixed asset reserve and will be paid back by street lighting energy cost savings over a number of years.

The Parish Council set a budget for 2023/24 and agreed the precept received from Babergh. The approved precept amount is £11,420. This means that the Kersey Parish element of the council tax for a band D property for 2023/24 has increase to £59.30 for band D property, an 11.2% increase.

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/>