

## **Kersey Parish Council, Chair's Report 2023-24 – John Hume, Chair**

Our aim is to make Kersey a great place in which to live, work and visit. We are the first level of government and represent our residents in enhancing well-being and security in the Parish. Current Councillors are Liz Bostock, David Butcher, Penny Calnan, Esme Chapman, Andrew Rogers (Vice Chair), Richard Walker and me. I thank them and our Clerk Sarah Partridge, for their continuing service to our community. Contact details are below and on the Kersey Parish Council website, which also shows meeting minutes, financial reports and an events calendar. We are also grateful for the support and advice provided by Robert Lindsay and Leigh Jamieson, Councillors from Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council respectively.

Your Parish Council is financially strong. Our policy is to have cover in our general reserve for 3-12 months of expenditure. Details are examined at each meeting and there are regular audits and risk assessments. A financial summary for the year is shown below. In the last 15 years we have kept increases in the Parish Council element of Council Tax to a minimum. This year however, it will increase by 27.26% to provide for inflation and the unexpected contribution to the cost of installing the 40mph limit on the A1141. A band D property will be liable for an extra £1.35 per month as a result.

The Parish Council considered 16 Planning Applications. 13 were supported, two were withdrawn, three refused by Babergh. There were 2 notifications of discharge of conditions for the site to the West of 1-6, The Street.

A well attended picnic was held on The Glebe on 6 May 2023 to mark the King's Coronation. The stolen historic school sign on Church Hill and the gate to The Glebe were replaced. The autumn floods caused disruption and misery to those in the middle of village and Kersey is one of 40 sites on the list for an investigation by Suffolk County Council into prevention. A new defibrillator was installed at Kersey Upland last weekend. The Kersey Good Neighbour Scheme is being developed for introduction shortly. Work has continued on the Neighbourhood Priorities Statement. This is a simpler version of a Neighbourhood Plan and provides most of the benefits.

Finally, Yvonne Martin, a previous Chair, has left Kersey. We thank her for her contribution to village life and wish her well for the future.

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

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
Liz Bostock	Common Farm, Semer, IP7 6HR	01473 823850
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:**

Sarah Partridge	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	01787 210859
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[kerseypc@gmail.com](mailto:kerseypc@gmail.com)

# Kersey Parish Council, Chair's Report 2023-24 – John Hume, Chair

## Parish Council Finance

The Parish Council set a budget for 2024/25 and requested the precept received from Babergh. The approved precept amount is £14,322. The Parish Council element of the council tax bill for a Band D property is now £75.46 per year, an increase of £1.35 per month. The Parish Council recognised the financial pressures everyone is under and took the decision only after a lot of analysis and debate. Recent high inflation has inevitably pushed up operating costs and this is reflected in the numbers, but the increase has also been driven by two exceptional items. Firstly, the Parish Council owns a number of assets around the parish such as street furniture, playing field equipment, dog bins etc. These items have to be purchased and have various anticipated lives at the end of which they will need to be replaced. To ensure the Parish Council is not caught by surprise with a sudden large bill when something wears out, it is normal practice to put aside money each year into a separate reserve fund which prevents the need for sudden increases in the annual precept to meet the replacement cost. Having reviewed the level of reserves currently held and looked at best practice in other councils it was concluded the size of the reserves are too low and the budget increased for this. Secondly, the Parish Council is contributing towards new 40 mph speed limit signs on the A1141.

### Parish Council budget for the years ending March 2024 and March 2025

Payments	Budget yr ending 31/03/24	Budget yr ending 31/03/25
Administration	£ 962.00	£ 1,142.00
Staff costs	£ 7,200.00	£ 7,560.00
Training and external meetings	£ 250.00	£ 250.00
Street lighting	£ 540.00	£ 560.00
Highway safety signs		£ 1,500.00
Insurance (PC & Glebe)	£ 615.00	£ 500.00
Glebe hedgecut	£ 95.00	£ 110.00
Mowing the Glebe	£ 250.00	£ 250.00
RoSPA inspection	£ 100.00	£ 110.00
Bin emptying charges	£ 20.00	£ 20.00
St Mary's PCC	£ 500.00	£ 500.00
Defibrillator annual support	£ 215.00	£ 150.00
Village Emergency Telephone		£ 100.00
Section 137	£ -	
<b>General PC payments</b>	<b>£10,747.00</b>	<b>£ 12,752.00</b>
Election costs reserve	£ 165.00	£ 165.00
Church Walk future maint reserve	£ 130.00	£ 130.00
Footpath map printing reserve	£ 75.00	£ 75.00
Fixed asset reserve	£ -	£ 900.00
General Parish Council reserve	£ -	£ -
Contingencies	£ 303.00	£ 300.00
<b>Total Precept</b>	<b>£11,420.00</b>	<b>£ 14,322.00</b>
Defib/VET reserve spend	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Fixed asset reserve spend		
Filming donation reserve spend		£ 70.00
<b>General PC total budget</b>	<b>£11,520.00</b>	<b>£ 14,492.00</b>
Footpath working group	£ 2,086.36	£ 620.00
Jubilee working group	£ -	£ -
KCPC working group	£ 1,762.00	£ 1,325.00
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>£15,368.36</b>	<b>£ 16,437.00</b>

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/>