

Kersey Parish Council, Chair's Report 2024-25 – 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 seek to enhance well-being and safety within the Parish by representing the interests of all residents.

Other Councillors are Liz Bostock, David Butcher, Penny Calnan, Esme Chapman, Andrew Rogers (Vice Chair) and Richard Walker. I thank them and our Clerk, Sarah Partridge for their continuing service to our community. We are grateful for the support and advice of Robert Lindsay and Leigh Jamieson, Councillors from Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council respectively.

Kersey Parish Council remains financially strong. Details are examined at each meeting with regular audits and risk assessments. Our budget for 2024/5 is £18,882, an increase of 1.12% over last year. I am pleased to confirm that the Parish Council element of your council tax will remain unchanged at £75.46 for a band D property.

There were 15 planning applications this year. All were supported and subsequently approved by Babergh District Council. When applications are being considered by the Parish Council it is helpful if the applicant attends the Parish Council meeting.

We started consultation on the People and Place Plan with the aim of providing a collective voice for opinions of parishioners on the future of Kersey. The results can also be used as the basis for a Neighbourhood Plan. Plans for an information Good Neighbour network is being progressed and the newsletter survey carried out.

The Council supported the introduction of the 40mph speed limit on Union Hill and the street lighting has been amended, saving money and helping dark sky initiatives. Richard Walker has been active in representing Kersey in a series of local transport infrastructure initiatives against a backdrop of reduced subsidies.

These are uncertain times for local government structures and there will be significant changes in the near future. It is vital that localism is not lost and that there is involvement and accountability for residents. This will not happen without participation of a younger generation in the Parish Council and other village organisations. To serve our community in the future, we need succession of management and leadership.

Kersey Website: www.kerseyparish.gov.uk

The Kersey website moved to a .gov.uk domain name this year, which is much more secure. Kersey Parish Council publishes on the Kersey website agendas, 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	07827 928093
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

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Clerk & RFO:

Sarah Partridge Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB
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Parish Council Finance

The Parish Council finances are secure and well managed. The Council set a budget for 2025/26 of £18,882 and requested the precept received from Babergh. The approved precept amount is £15,677. There has been no increase in the Parish Council element of the council tax bill for a Band D property which remains at £75.46 per year.

Parish Council budget for the years ending March 2025 and March 2026

Payments	Budget yr ending 31/03/25	Budget yr ending 31/03/26
Administration	£ 1,142.00	£ 1,137.00
Staff costs	£ 7,560.00	£ 7,950.00
Training and external meetings	£ 250.00	£ 250.00
Street lighting	£ 560.00	£ 560.00
Highway safety signs	£ 1,500.00	£ -
Insurance (PC & Glebe)	£ 500.00	£ 500.00
Glebe hedgecut	£ 110.00	£ 115.00
Mowing the Glebe	£ 250.00	£ 260.00
RoSPA inspection	£ 110.00	£ 110.00
Bin emptying charges	£ 20.00	£ 20.00
St Mary's PCC	£ 500.00	£ 1,000.00
Defibrillators	£ 150.00	£ 460.00
Village Emergency Telephone	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
People & Place Plan	£ -	£ 500.00
Section 137	£ -	
General PC payments	£12,752.00	£12,962.00
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	£ 1,500.00
General Parish Council reserve	£ -	£ 545.00
Contingencies	£ 300.00	£ 300.00
Total Precept	£14,322.00	£15,677.00
Defib reserve spend	£ 100.00	£ -
Fixed asset reserve spend		£ 700.00
Filming donation reserve spend	£ 70.00	
General PC total budget	£14,492.00	£16,377.00
Footpath working group	£ 1,260.00	£ 680.00
Jubilee working group	£ -	£ -
KCPC working group	£ 2,925.00	£ 1,825.00
Total Budget	£18,677.00	£18,882.00

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://kerseyparish.gov.uk/parish-council/parish-council-finance/>