

Kersey Parish Council, Chair's Report 2025-26 – John Hume, Chair

Our aim is to make Kersey a great place in which to live, work and visit. I thank the six other Councillors and the Clerk for their valued contribution to our community. Their details are below. I also thank Robert Lindsay, County Councillor and Leigh Jameson, District Councillor for their regular attendance and support. The Council supported 14 of 15 planning applications, involving 12 properties. The Council responded to the proposed local government changes and supported the new speed limits on the A1141, repairs to The Splash footbridge and local signage. The Council criticised and sent suggested additions to the Suffolk County Council report on the Babet Storm. It was confirmed that the Kersey Brook is a statutory main river and the Environment Agency has permissive powers to maintain it. The Council wrote to Babergh District Council to request simplification of the onerous environmental reports needed to progress planning applications. Babergh responded by saying these were legal requirements. Babergh have introduced welcomed new rules concerning the use of thermally effective glazing in listed buildings. The Council approved new policies on Privacy, Data Protection and IT. Progress on the People and Place Plan has been slow. Following a successful consultation event, the next stage is to incorporate resulting feedback into the draft plan, ready for final consultation and then submission. This will give Kersey residents more influence over planning and related matters. All meetings are minuted and appear on the website. Financial matters are reviewed at each meeting. Figures for the year are shown below.

Kersey Website: www.kerseyparish.gov.uk

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
Clerk & RFO:		
Sarah Partridge	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	07765 916162
clerk@kerseyparish.gov.uk		

Parish Council Finance

The Parish Council finances are secure and well managed. The Parish Council has set a budget for the year ending 31 March 2027 and agreed the precept received from Babergh of £16,230. The budget will be balanced with the agreed use of reserves. The Kersey Parish element of council tax for a band D property will increase to £81.24, which is a rise of just under 49 pence per month.

The Parish Council considered the budget carefully before making the decision to increase the precept, mostly due to inflationary pressures. Unfortunately, this year the tax base, which is used to calculate council tax, has decreased which has increased the council tax by more than inflation. The Parish Council has no control over the tax base; it is calculated by the number of properties paying council tax. When there are so few properties in the parish, small changes can make a significant difference to the tax base.

Kersey PC Budget and Precept

Receipts	Budget yr ending 31/03/26	Budget yr ending 31/03/27
Precept	£ 15,677.00	£ 16,230.00
Babergh Neighbourhood CIL	£ -	£ -
Filming donations	£ -	£ -
Bank interest	£ 100.00	£ 300.00
Donations for defibrillator	£ -	£ -
Footpath working group	£ 956.42	£ 956.00
KCPC working group	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,200.00
VAT repayment	£ 679.54	£ 500.00
Total receipts	£ 18,412.96	£ 19,186.00

Payments	Budget yr ending 31/03/26	Budget yr end 31/03/27
Admin	£ 1,137.00	£ 1,344.00
Staff costs	£ 7,950.00	£ 9,150.00
Training and external meetings	£ 250.00	£ 250.00
Street lighting	£ 560.00	£ 560.00
Insurance (PC & Glebe)	£ 500.00	£ 675.00
Glebe hedgecut	£ 115.00	£ 120.00
Mowing the Glebe	£ 260.00	£ 270.00
RoSPA inspection	£ 110.00	£ 110.00
Bin emptying charges	£ 20.00	£ 20.00
St Mary's PCC	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00
Defibrillators	£ 460.00	£ 460.00
Village Emergency Telephone	£ 100.00	£ -
People & Place Plan	£ 500.00	£ -
Section 137	£ -	£ -
General PC payments	£ 12,962.00	£ 13,959.00
Election costs reserve	£ 165.00	£ 165.00
Church Walk future maint reser	£ 130.00	£ 130.00
Footpath map printing reserve	£ 75.00	£ 75.00
Fixed asset reserve	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,600.00
General Parish Council reserve	£ 545.00	£ -
Contingencies	£ 300.00	£ 301.00
Total Precept	£ 15,677.00	£ 16,230.00
Defib reserve spend	£ -	£ -
Fixed asset reserve spend	£ 700.00	£ -
Filming donation reserve spend	£ -	£ -
Highway safety sign reserve spend	£ -	£ -
General PC total budget	£ 16,377.00	£ 16,230.00
Footpath working group	£ 680.00	£ 680.00
Jubilee working group	£ -	£ -
KCPC working group	£ 1,825.00	£ 2,025.00
Total Budget	£ 18,882.00	£ 18,935.00

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/>