

ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
 HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 PM
 IN GREYS VILLAGE HALL, GREYS GREEN

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED IS LISTED BELOW:

Parishioners/Public/Press are welcome

PRESENT:

John Hill	JH
Richard Ovey (vice chairman)	RO
Michael Pearey	RP
Susan Hems	SH
Peter Lloyd (chairman)	PL
<i>For part of the meeting:</i>	
David Bartholomew (OCC councillor)	DB
David Nimmo-Smith	DNS
Charles Bailey	CB
Jane Pryce – Clerk	JOP

Members of the public:

None

843/15 Apologies for absence

None

844/15 Members declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

There were no personal & prejudicial interests to be declared.

845/15 Resolution to adopt Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the parish council meeting on the 14th September 2015, were declared true and accurate and signed by PL.

846/15 OCC Report

REPORT TO ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL November 2015 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT BUDGET CONSULTATION

OCC has launched a public consultation on options for saving money. It has already saved or has firm plans to save nearly £300m since 2010 but believes it needs to find another £50m of savings over the next four years. Council Leader Ian Hudspeth said: "The government is rightly reducing public spending to tackle the national budget deficit, which means we have to make some difficult decisions about council services." As well as receiving less money from government, the council faces rising demand for services – particularly for vulnerable adults and children at risk of abuse and neglect. About half OCC's budget is spent on 2% of the population of Oxfordshire, and that proportion is set to rise to as a result of a growing aging population. The council is consulting the public before taking the decisions and delivering a balanced budget on 16th February 2016. *Talking Oxfordshire*, the council's budget consultation, started on 20 October, when all the savings options were published on the council's website. It will close on 30 November. There are three public events with an independent chair alongside the leader and chief finance officer to provide residents with a chance to find out about the council's budget position and have their say. The first was on 27th October in Oxford, and the second at Banbury Town Hall on 2nd November, and the last at Regal Centre, Wallingford on 5th November. Start time 7.00pm. People need to register in advance to attend the event. To register or take part in the consultation online go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/budget. Hard copies of the budget consultation documents will also be available in every library.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE AND EARLY INTERVENTION CHANGES

OCC is also asking for views on its proposal to adopt a new model of children's services in Oxfordshire for children aged 0-19 to save £8 million from the budget by 2016-17. The proposal is to create a brand new service for families and their children aged 0-19 years old, or up to 25 if the child has additional needs. The consultation runs until 23:59 on 10 January 2016. OCC would open up to eight new Children and Family Centres across Oxfordshire. These centres would support children and their families who need help and will integrate the work of the Children's Centres, the Early Intervention Hubs and Children's Social Care. As well as the new Children and Family Centres OCC would also provide an outreach service so children and families can be supported close to where they live. Furthermore, OCC would work with schools, health and other services to ensure that children and families get the help that they need. As part of the consultation process OCC would like to identify any potential impact of this proposal. OCC would also like to identify options for the future use of the Children's Centres and Early Intervention Hub buildings. Options about how universal services could continue to be run without financial support from OCC are also to be considered. Hard copies of the consultation are available at all children's centres and early intervention hubs. There will also be three open meetings to discuss the proposals. The events are 6-7.30pm and dates are:

- 18 November - Kings Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

- 23 November - Didcot Civic Centre, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN
- 30 November - John Paul II Centre, Causeway, Bicester OX26 6AW

OXFORDSHIRE TOGETHER – SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH EVENT FOR PARISH COUNCILS

As referred to above, OCC is looking at alternative ways in which it can deliver a number of different public services, across a wide range of areas. The way public services are delivered will shift towards enabling people and communities to take ownership of local priorities. OCC will continue to provide community leadership and foster partnership working, but the days when the council could deliver all services to all people have gone. OCC has started talking to town and parish councils to identify opportunities to work together. An initial engagement event for town and parish councils took place on 21st September. OCC's vision for working together is outlined in *Oxfordshire Together – the Model* booklet, with further details on some of the initial services in scope included in the *Transitional Offer of Highway Services* booklet. Both can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiretogether. The programme timetable is:
September – December

- Initial discussion with town and parish councils.
- Engagement with town and parish councils interested in taking on delivery of some services to develop agreements.

January - April 2016

- Implementation of the first 'tranche' of agreements

April 2016 onwards

- Review viability of approach and consider further roll out.

FREE WI-FI IN LIBRARIES

OCC has been awarded more than £86,000 by Arts Council England for Wi-Fi to be installed in the 28 Oxfordshire libraries that currently do not have it (it is already installed in 15 of the county's 43 libraries). The Wi-Fi fund supports the Arts Council's goals around developing library services, ensuring that they are fit for purpose now and in the future. This is one-off grant from the Arts Council. It is therefore not a substitute for money that may be saved from the Library Service's annual revenue budgets in future years as part of the council's 2016-20 budget savings options. Installation will take place during spring 2016.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS OAKLEY WOOD HWRC – POTENTIAL CLOSURE

I continue to campaign to safeguard the future of Oakley Wood HWRC. Details of a relevant County Council motion and letter have been circulated to the PC.

847/15 SODC Report

Additional housing requirements in Oxford number 3,000. It is likely that this will be built outside the city in the surrounding districts.

The new SODC (South Oxfordshire District Council) headquarters has yet to be decided on location. The insurance claim for the fire is nearly agreed. The SODC councillors are deciding on a location.

Charles Bailey told the parish council about an interview he had given for Rotherfield Peppard newsletter. He requested that the transcript be published locally. The clerk confirm this would be done when received.

The electoral roll was still low in numbers with only 59.7 of the electoral registered (for the parish). A request for local publicity was asked for but the clerk informed CB that had already been done.

Green bins are being mis-used with articles that should have been put in the black bin. This means the recyclable content becomes unusable. A note will be left to explain why the bin is not emptied (if the content was unacceptable).

The Go Active project (fitness for the over 60s) had achieved a Gold level standard. Launch invite from SODC 1st December (RSVP by 20th November) at Milton Park, Milton.

More funding was available for rural businesses.

Parish information newsletter from SODC will be circulated.

848/15 Broadband

PL gave an update on the arrival of superfast broadband. On 2nd October PL attended a meeting at Watlington given by Ed Vaizey, Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy. The roll out of broadband should have 96/97% of the country covered by June 2017.

“The website www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk gives more information. I have heard from Broadband Oxford that Shepherds Green is due to get upgraded broadband via a new Rotherfield Greys No 3 cabinet by December 2015. This appears to be for the houses connected directly to the exchange.”

849/15 Miscellaneous

a) Correspondence

The SODC Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant is being withdrawn.

b) Public footpath/bridleway report

Jane Warren (Chiltern Society Representative) provided a report.

Path 33 Dog Friendly Stile

JOP confirmed that she had talked to Jane Warren (Chiltern Society Representation for the parish). A new stile can only be installed by the landowner or at the request of the landowner.

Stephen Fox (Chiltern Society) has promised NO CYCLING signs for both ends of public footpath 11.

Clare's gate had been removed after damage.

c) Telephone box

The party for the Completion of Restoration of Telephone Kiosk was well attended by most of the community. JOP asked PL to thank the residents of Shepherds Green for their generous present. Unfortunately there was still a leak from an unknown source. Shelves and map drawing on the noticeboard with walking guides are still to be completed.

d) Rotherfield Greys website

The clerk informed the councillors that the Rotherfield Greys website (www.rotherfieldgreys.org.uk) was written but not yet put in the public domain. Welcome text (Rotherfield Greys information and history) will be supplied by Susan Hems. The National Trust property, Greys Court, is in agreement to add text and photographs. JOP requested direction on content for other areas and subjects to be included.

Michael Pearey promised to get cricket information.

e) Meeting Dates 2016

The dates for 2016 are Mondays, 14th March, 16th May, 11th July, 12th September and 14th November.

Time set aside for Members of Public

No members of the public present

850/15 Planning

a) Planning applications to be considered/decisions made

The enforcement to prevent the car sales at The Lamb, Satwell has to be complied with by February 2016.

P15/S2240/FUL

The Lamb Inn, Satwell RG9 4QZ

Change of use from licensed premises to domestic dwelling

RGPC response: Should be approved

Target decision date 10th September 2015

REFUSED

P15/S2635/FUL

The Lamb Inn, Satwell RG9 4QZ

Erection of 6 letting rooms.

REFUSED 30/09/2015

P15/S3276/DIS

Shepherds, Shepherds Green RG9 4QL

Discharge of conditions 4 and 8 on application ref. P15/S1059/FUL. Demolition of existing buildings erection of new dwelling and detached car port.

Date registered: 28 September 2015

Information only – no response required from parish council

Target Decision Date: 9th November 2015

P15/S2678/HH & P15/S2679/LB

Rose Farm, Rocky Lane, RG9 4RE

Proposed rear extensions consisting of single storey Orangery and extension to existing laundry and threshing door style gable extension to the barn ranges

RG[C response: NO STRONG VIEWS 7/10/2015

SODC APPROVED

P15/S3261/HH

Tudors, Satwell Close, Rotherfield Greys RG9 4QT

New single storey front extension, internal alterations, 2 no. single storey rear extensions, first floor rear extension, two storey rear extension, demolition of Conservatory and replacement single storey side extension.

Date registered: 28 September 2015

RGPC response: NO STRONG VIEWS

Target Decision Date: 23rd November 2015

Update on 3 Oaks

PL attended a site meeting with the owners of the orchard.

I visited Three Oaks (last week 1/10/15) and met Nick Hay whose wife owns a third of it. Nick is a colourful marketing copy-writer working in London and the Thames Valley but also trying to manage the orchard for the family.

The orchard was established about twelve years ago by father-in-law, an Iranian agronomist from Cornell University and subsequently Reading who set up the orchard as a hobby in retirement. Sadly he died three or four years ago and his wife died two years later. The orchard was inherited by a brother (living in Nottingham, I think), a sister in Belgium and Nick's wife Bani. He planted about 1,300 trees and carefully pruned and cared for them but they are still only semi-mature. In their best year the trees produced two tons of fruit but when I walked round with Nick some were bearing good fruit but many were bare. Nick told me the total site was seven acres. Only half is planted.

The family are faced with a problem in that the orchard represents a substantial part of their emotional inheritance from their father but in a really good year Nick estimates the orchard might produce £10,000 of fruit which is not a living wage for one person tending the trees. They are trying to address the problem by "employing" people through WWOOF. WWOOF, which you can google, is a loose federation of farmers employing people on no salary but free accommodation while they learn the trade or just travel round the world cheaply on gap years. There is a Serbian ? couple there at present who are expected to move on shortly. Nick gave a long list of people who have stayed on the orchard, generally for a month or two at the most. They have come from all round Europe and various parts of the world.

There is one caravan on the site at present. The second one has been dismantled to create a very basic trailer but actually it would be better to buy a second hand purpose built trailer I suspect.

I explained that locals would be opposed to any plans to build a house on the plot. Nick said the family had no plans whatsoever to put up a house but would like to have five year permission for the caravan to house workers at times throughout the year and was in discussion with SODC. His understanding was that the planning permission would legitimise the caravan but not grant any dwelling rights which in turn might give rise to building rights later.

I asked Jane to follow this up with SODC and Robert Cramp's reply is attached. I suggest SODC approval is probably the way forward because it protects the land from development. Nick accepts that the caravan is not a thing of great beauty and would be happy to hide it behind wattle fencing or something similar.

Robert Cramp explains the process below:

A temporary planning permission for a caravan on an orchard for an agricultural worker provided that it is worded accordingly and adequately conditioned does not provide a foot in the door for the erection of a dwelling. The danger lies in not having any planning permission in place which can later give rise to a claim of lawful use. Even then it would take 10 years to establish such a claim. But a temporary permission stops the clock as it were.

I'm afraid that we can't determine an application on what might be the ultimate intention of the owner. The success or otherwise of their application will depend upon whether or not the presence of the caravan for an agricultural worker can be justified on the basis of a demonstrated agricultural need. The council will look to its agricultural consultants for advice on that score.

I suggest we await the SODC application and their response.

851/15 War Memorial

a) Any business

Payment to Mr. Denslow for maintenance. See below.

852/15 Finance

a) Budget 2015/16 – the donations to charity listed, below have been agreed.

Forecast 2016/17 – the parish council agreed the forecast figures for 2015/16 to set the precept.

The forecast included two projects for a new parish council noticeboard for Village Hall and the installation of a defibrillator at Greys Court. JOP to contact the National Trust about the defibrillator and the village hall owner about the new noticeboard. It was suggested that a donation might may be made to the NT of £500 instead of an installation of a defibrillator.

b) Donations/Subs

Rotherfield Greys Parochial Church Council £850, Nettlebed & District Commons Conservators £100, Henley & District CAB £150 cheques were signed

It was felt that a donation of £100 should be made in 2016/17 to the Chiltern Conservation Board instead of the NDCC.

c) Accounts to pay:

Mr. A. Denslow £170 for war memorial maintenance. JOP was asked to thank him for the excellent work on the site.

JOP for wages £270.15/office rent £41.68/expenses £671.19 total = £983.02

d) Payments received

Barbara Marston refunded £51.60 the parish council for gold leaf purchased as bulk buy from Wrights of Lymm Ltd. It was agreed with the members that Barbara should receive half a book of gold leaf (£10), that was left over, as payment for her gold leaf work on the telephone kiosk crowns.

853/15 Matters for information only

The external Audit is complete and at no cost. Three issues need to be highlighted.

1. Parish Council asset values stay the same and the overall value does not increase unless an asset is removed or another added.
2. A grant was put in box 2 rather than box 3. The clerk did put the grant in the box 3. JOP confirms that administrative expenses put in box 4 should not have been.
3. Box 7 and box 8 should be the same regardless of uncashed cheques.

The parish council accept the conclusion of the audit.

PL informed the council that the telephone kiosk at Rotherfield Greys village had a notice of adoption dated August 2009. This notice expires after 42 days. If there is another opportunity in the future, it may be considered and there is still half a tin of paint and primer.

PL informed the parish council that he was resigning on 31st March. JOP informed PL he has to come back to resign at the May meeting to hand over to the new chairman.

Louise Lloyd as Henley Municipal Charities representative of the council still had a year in tenure and could be appointed again if the council and Mrs. Lloyd wishes to continue.

John Hill was concerned about the trees growing around Broadplatt House. The power and GPO lines that are now meshed in are causing problems. The utility companies still need to be made aware of the danger of power/communication cuts to Broadplatt. The parish council was informed that it would cost £22,000 to remove. JOP to contact the above utilities companies.

Meeting ended 9.40pm

Next meeting 14th March 2016 at 7.30pm