

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 11th July 2016
IN GREYS VILLAGE HALL, GREYS GREEN**

PRESENT:

Michael Pearey (in the Chair)	MP
Susan Hems (vice-chairman)	SH
John Hill	JH
Richard Ovey	RO
Nick Digby	ND
<i>For part of the meeting:</i>	
David Bartholomew (OCC councillor)	DB
David Nimmo-Smith (SODC councillor)	DNS
Jane Pryce – Clerk	JOP

Members of the public/parishioners - None

026/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Richard Ovey emailed that he might not make the meeting and asked the clerk to pass on his apologies. Charles Bailey telephoned the clerk to apologise for non-attendance.

027/16 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None

028/16 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 16TH MAY 2016

The minutes as an accurate record and duly signed and dated by MP.

029/16 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

By Cllr. David Bartholomew

GENERAL OCC REPORT

STATEMENT FROM OCC LEADER ON EU REFERENDUM RESULT

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, has responded to the EU referendum result. He said: "Following David Cameron honouring his pledge to offer a referendum on our membership of the European Union, the British people have voted to take more direct control of the decisions which affect them. That process must not stop at the gates of Parliament. This is an opportunity to remake our democratic system, and must be used to drive, not delay, the process of devolving power from Westminster and Whitehall to England's cities and counties, and from those cities and counties to the towns, villages, and neighbourhoods within them. The priorities of the county council will remain the same – to support economic growth, to protect the most vulnerable, and to drive efficiency in public services. To support these priorities, our work on stripping out another level of bureaucratic decision making by developing proposals for a new council for the whole of Oxfordshire will continue, as will our ambition to win a wide-ranging devolution deal from central government."

PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL

As previously reported, Oxfordshire's District Councils have appointed consultants PwC to prepare a report on the future of local government in Oxfordshire, and OCC has

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appointed consultants Grant Thornton to do the same. Ten workshops were held by OCC over the course of June to obtain input from parish councils about concerns they might have and opportunities they might relish with a change to Unitary local government. PwC were due to report for the Districts by the end of June, but are behind schedule. The Grant Thornton report for the County is still on schedule for July. All councils will then submit proposals to central government in the autumn, following a period of public consultation.

COUNCIL CONTEMPLATES IDEA OF NEW PARK AND RIDES

A study which could lead to up to five new park and ride sites being built to serve Oxfordshire has been published. OCC, through the Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS), part of Local Transport Plan 4, is proactively working to find solutions to the demands that are increasingly being placed on the road network by current and projected growth. In order to reduce congestion within the city and on the approaches to it, the OTS proposes a major expansion and reconfiguration of the Park & Ride system to intercept more car trips earlier in their journeys and further away from the city. In addition to new park and ride sites, the OTS proposes a network of “Rapid Transit” public transport routes to provide an uplift to transport connectivity in the city, including links between the proposed new sites and the city’s “Eastern Arc” (broadly speaking the Headington/Cowley area). The report is the latest step in the process of delivering solutions. The park and ride study has reviewed the locations proposed as part of the OTS, and made specific recommendations on where new park and ride sites should be located, following an assessment of the corridors. New sites are proposed at Eynsham, Cumnor, Lodge Hill, Sandford, and Oxford Airport, phased over the next 15 years.

INCREASING ADULT AND CHILD SOCIAL CARE COSTS

Adult and child social care costs continue to increase as a proportion of OCC's expenditure, now accounting for nearly half the council's budget. OCC's obligation to assist with unaccompanied young asylum seekers has added further added pressure.

COUNCIL AMONG NATION'S BEST FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Only a quarter of councils – including Oxfordshire – have passed Ofsted’s new harder inspection test for children’s social services, according to the watchdog’s annual report. The remaining three-quarters were found to be ‘inadequate’ or ‘requiring improvement’. [The report](#) ranks Oxfordshire among the best performing of 87 councils so far put to the test, with 64 of these failing to secure a ‘good’ rating. Oxfordshire is also one of just three areas where Ofsted and its partner inspectorates have completed the new Joint Target Area Inspection, which highly praised the council’s work to tackle child sexual exploitation alongside its partner agencies.

MULTI-MILLION POUND BOOST FUELS EXPANSION OF HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND

The second phase of Better Broadband for Oxfordshire is now underway after the first part was completed on time and under budget. The first phase of the broadband programme exceeded many of its targets and, as a result, the county is expecting up to £6.75 million of funds to be made available to extend the fibre network to even more remote communities. Since the roll-out began more than two years ago, Better Broadband for Oxfordshire has made faster fibre broadband available to more than 70,000 county premises – 64,500 of which have access to superfast broadband speeds of 24 megabits per second (Mbps) and above.

GRASS VERGE CUTTING PROGRAMME 2016

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Financial pressures have forced OCC to reduce its overall verge mowing in recent years; just one general cut a year is now carried out across the whole of the road network. This includes cutting all visibility splays at junctions and cutting grass verges to a distance 1m back from the kerb. The general cut started on 20 June, although visibility splay issues have been dealt with earlier if they have been reported or observed by highway inspectors. More information can be found at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/grass-verge-cutting-programme-2016>

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS

PROPOSED THIRD READING BRIDGE OVER THE THAMES

A third 'Summit Meeting' was convened by MPs John Howell and Rob Wilson in June to review progress on the preparation of the *Strategic Outline Business Case* to secure funding to move the proposal forward. In addition to the MPs, the meeting was attended by various Berkshire councils and enterprise groups. OCC was represented by Cabinet Member David Nimmo Smith and me, the councillor for the most affected Division. The scheme supporters want to take 55,000 cars a day out of the centre of Reading. OCC is participating in the process to ensure any solution doesn't simply move Reading's traffic problems into south Oxfordshire. I remain concerned that the proposal is gaining momentum and the regional economic benefits could take priority over the environmental/quality of life aspect for south Oxfordshire residents.

TRAFFIC ISSUES AT BROADPLATT LANE JUNCTION

A resident has expressed concerns about visibility and speeding traffic issues at the junction where Broadplatt Lane meets the Henley to Rotherfield Greys road. I have asked officers for a report.

030/16 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Road Concerns should be emailed to DNS and cc DB. An accident history would be looked at.

DNS reported that Woodcote is in favour of the **Third Reading Bridge** to get to the M4. But there was no support from South Oxfordshire due to no economic benefit. The traffic modelling information that Wokingham borough council was collecting was obtained by using mobile phone data and stopping cars to ascertain where the journeys were coming from and going. The area being modelled was from Oxford and down as far as Windsor and Basingstoke, west to Newbury.

Unitary situation – re-organisation of the county council will be delayed due to civil servants being re-allocated to deal with Brexit.

Waste – Reading borough has banned non-residents from using the Reading waste recycling plant on the Basingstoke Road. Oakley Wood may be upgraded to accept waste that would have been gone to Reading or Redbridge or it may act as a transfer site. The district is top in the country for recycling.

Townlands hospital still haven't managed to recruit a manager. The care home will be open at the end of the year. Top floor still empty.

New park and ride sites for Oxford will be positioned outside the ring road. Stanford will be looked at for a site to the south.

New West Gate Centre which will improve the shopping in Oxford should be ready for Christmas 2017.

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031/16 HIGHLANDS FARM PUBLIC EXHIBITION

The public exhibition held on the 13th July from 2-8pm will have a private viewing starting at 12 noon. Councillors from Henley and Harpsden will also be attending.

Publicity for this exhibition should have been posted to residents. Posters have been displayed on the noticeboards. SH and MP would be unable to attend.

JH provided a sketch of the village with a proposed pavement as there is none at present. Also some speed reducing provision such hump was agreed upon. This would be used when planning applications for Highlands arrived. JOP resolved to scan a copy to councillors. MP asked that any councillors that go to the exhibition to report back.

DNS advised to put together a parish council response when the planning applications come in.

032/16 MISCELLANEOUS:

a) Correspondence: The Rotherfield Greys Parochial Church Council wrote to express their appreciation of the donation of £850.

b) Public Footpath/Bridleway Report

Jane Warren, Rotherfield Greys Chiltern Society Representative, provided a footpath report for the meeting.

ROTHERFIELD GREYS FOOTPATHS JULY 2016

There are no major issues to report.

Because of the wet weather, there has been a lot of vegetation growth that has made some paths difficult to use, notably:

Footpath 12 (Shepherds Green to Bolts Cross). This is on the list for OCC list and should be cut once this season

Footpath 4 (Opposite Lane End Lodge) Brambles are taking over the gateway into the field

Footpath 35 (Adjacent to Rocky Lane Orchard)

Much of this path is in a poor state with overhanging trees, brambles and nettles encroaching, fence panels leaning into path, and also an old wire fence slipping into the path

All these problems have been reported to the County Field Officer.

Information on Rights of Way

The Oxfordshire County Website has an excellent section on Rights of Ways including details of landowner's responsibility to keep paths clear, and the facility to report problems using an interactive map.

I shall continue to check paths throughout the summer and make sure footpath signage is visible and paths are clear and safe to use.

If you are able to find out who owns the FP 35 (from Rocky Lane at Rocky Lane Orchard through to Shepherds Green) the Chiltern Society Maintenance team could work with them to sort out this path, which is by far the worst on the patch, it would be a great help. I suspect the land owner is the person who owns the orchard but don't know who that is.

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Jane Warren
Chiltern Society Footpath Rep. for Rotherfield Greys

JOP to ask Charles Bailey about FP35

c) Telephone kiosk: JOP was able to report that the floor in the telephone kiosk is now level and not leaking. Shelves can now be installed for the library.

The phone kiosk at St. Nicholas church was asked about, as it had not been working for 18 months. Elizabeth Duckworth has made a complaint about the state of it. The clerk asked the members if they wanted it mended and connected? SH to ask Ms. Duckworth to ask villagers if they had need of it.

d) Rotherfield Greys Website:

The website designer felt that coding the website in raw code will cost the parish council too much. A package to write it was requested but as this came with a monthly fee, JOP refused and the contract was terminated. JOP is looking for another website designer.

e) Defibrillator Project at Greys Court: Greys Court and the village hall has been superseded by the Maltsters public house as a siting for the defibrillator. They have agreed and Brakspears have agreed to pay for an electrician to install it. The defibrillator has been installed, registered and insured. Training is being arranged for the pub staff and a separate session at the village hall for the villagers. A grant would only be available if the defibrillator was installed on a parish council building. Leaflet drop would be needed for the training day notification.

f) Request for bin and noticeboard

Louise Walker (NT) has replied about the noticeboard which the National Trust are doing at present. The rubbish bin was not mentioned or the requested meeting. JOP has written again. Commercial dog walkers are proving a problem with them not keeping to the paths and letting them off the lead. The only suggestion was to fence the footpaths but that would ruin the look of the wood.

g) Parish Roads

A letter will be drafted by MP about the roads and safety to be emailed via DNS and for Highlands planning applications responses.

TIME SET ASIDE FOR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

033/16 PLANNING APPLICATION RESPONSE(s):

a) Applications to be considered

P16/S2039/FUL Badgemore Park Country Club, Badgemore RG9 4NR

Removal of existing buildings and erection of single dwellinghouse with ancillary facilities, garages, access and landscaping (renewal of extant planning permission ref: P13/S2832/FUL).

Registration Date 22nd June 2016 End Consultation Period 15th July 2016.

This application had been seen in the past and a different response was felt unnecessary.

b) Planning responses

None

c) Planning decisions

P16/S0242/O Robinsgrove, Satwell Close, Rotherfield Greys RG9 4QT

Erection of a new two storey dwelling and garage

RGPC response 'SHOULD BE REFUSED' 26 March 2016

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Target Decision Date 4th May 2016 – Still under consideration

P16/S0077/O Highlands Farm, Highlands Lane RG9 4PR
Outline permission for 170 houses and associated infrastructure
RGPC response SHOULD BE REFUSED with comments – 14 April 2016
Target Decision Date 29th July 2016 – Still under consideration

The lamb public house – the appeal decision is due next week.

034/16 WAR MEMORIAL:

None

035/16 FINANCE:

(a) **Donations/Subs:** None

(b) **Accounts paid:**

Clerk's salary	£268.66	
Office rent	£ 41.86	
Refund (expenses) £ 38.03		Floor – self-levelling compound and vinyl floor covering
Total	£348.37	

Defibrillator invoice to pay £1,658.10 to WEL Medical Ltd

Internal Audit invoice of £360 to Jefferies Accountancy Services Ltd

(c) **Payments received**

SODC grant of £200.00 received 10th June 2016 for expenses incurred during the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

VAT refund of £196.37 received 2nd June 2016

(d) **Change of signatory requirements**

MP felt that three signatures on a cheque should be changed to two. JOP was at a meeting with Barclays Bank about another matter and asked about this. The bank manager said he would be dealt with. This has been received.

(e) **Annual Subscription to CFO**

CFO (formerly known as ORCC) have their subscription paid by Bank Standing Order (£50). The amount has changed and their bank so needs to be cancelled. A letter to this effect was presented and signed the Chairman and Vice-chairman.

036/16 Risk Assessment and Standing Orders update

JOP thanked JH for posting the completed the 1st bi-annual External Structures Inspection form for May 2016. This forms part of the Risk Assessment monitoring. ND noted that the noticeboard at Shepherds Green need some work. JOP to arrange.

The Standing Orders section 1. Financial control and procurement has been updated (with the members agreement) to state – 'vi. Inform the bank of any changes to the councillor's position in the parish council and of any new members/resignations/death. This should be carried out after the annual elector's meeting in May.'

The well at Shepherds Green may be sold when the house is sold.

037/16 Matters arising for information only

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Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council merge? JOP had been approached by RPPC for a possible merger due to difficulty in obtaining new councillors. The parish council decided against. JOP to inform acting chairman for Rotherfield Peppard, Simon Crouch of the decision.

JH asked about the Greys Green Golf course. SH confirmed that turf had been laid over and the changes were coming to an end on Rotherfield Greys section.

New bench was suggested to mark the Queen's 90th birthday and placed on the cricket pitch under the beech tree in corner. JOP to ask National Trust for permission.

Green Place – single track road has a passing space but was unusable due to logs. JOP to photo and put on a 'Fix my Street'.

Meeting dates for next year were requested from the clerk.

MP informed the parish council he would not be attending the next meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.55 PM

Next parish council meeting is the 11th September 2016 at 7.30pm