

ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 13th JULY 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 (acting chairman)	RO
Michael Pearey	RP
Susan Hems	SH
<i>For part of the meeting:</i>	
David Bartholomew (OCC councillor)	DB
Charles Bailey (SODC councillor)	CB
Jane Pryce – Clerk	JOP

Members of the public:

None

A Standing Order for Filming

A request was stated first for the filming of the meeting by the clerk and Standing Order for it was signed by RO.

820/15 Apologies for absence

Peter Lloyd was absent.

821/15 Members declarations of personal and prejudicial interests/declaration of acceptance of office

There were no personal & prejudicial interests declared.

821a/15 Resolution to adopt Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the parish council meeting on the 18th May 2015, were declared true and accurate and signed by RO.

822/15 OCC Report

**REPORT TO ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL
JULY 2015 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW**

GENERAL OCC REPORT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE STEPS DOWN

Joanna Simons will be stepping down as Chief Executive in September in order that OCC can carry out a review of senior management arrangements. The aim is to reduce costs in the light of further funding cuts announced by the government. Earlier this year the council had a series of robust debates about whether to remove the post but concluded that a permanent change required further consideration. Following further cross party discussion, it has been decided to put an interim arrangement in place pending a senior management review. The council has reached an amicable agreement with Joanna to step down so this can take place.

BUDGET 2014/15 REVIEW

The final outturn for the 2014/15 year was an underspend of £0.196m on a budget of £424.185m, which is an impressive achievement despite all the pressures that exist. The good news is that there has still been investment in Highways with a capital expenditure for 2014/15 year of £43.1m. This was £17.8m higher than in 2013/14. Major projects completed include Kennington Interchange, Witney Ducklington/Station Lane Junction, Oxford London Road, A4130 Bix dual carriageway and A420 Shrivenham Bypass. There was £14.8m spent on highways structural maintenance programmes.

COUNTY COUNCIL AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETS – UPDATE

Since 2010 the council has saved £204 million with a further £88 million of savings to be made by 2018. A report to the Cabinet on 24th May stated that there could be another £50M - £60M of saving to be found. This will be a challenge to the County Council with the increasing pressure on both adult and children's social care – currently around 50% of the budget is spent on just 2% of the population.

EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES

The Early Intervention Service and Children's Centres are currently supported by a budget of approximately £16M. As part of the service and resource planning process for the period 2014/15-2017/18, possible savings of £6M against this figure were identified by a cross-party Cabinet Advisory Group. These savings could be achieved if the Early Intervention Service was integrated with Children's Social Care. This proposal was debated at the Cabinet meeting in June and it was agreed that full proposals would come back to Cabinet in September after a summer of engagement with partners. A full consultation process will then take place.

SUPPORTED TRANSPORT SERVICES

OCC needs to save more than £6M on supported transport services, and a consultation is currently taking place about how this can best be achieved. (The consultation closes on 14th September.) OCC has asked the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC), a not for profit, community development organisation, to act as the independent facilitator during the consultation. Some money can be saved by running existing services more efficiently, but savings will also have to come by reducing the current £4M a year the council pays in bus subsidies and to run the Dial-a-Ride service. To comment on the proposals or to attend one of the five public consultation events, contact the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council on 01865 883488 or email orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk.

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

At the July Cabinet meeting the Local Transport Plan for 2015-2031, *Connecting Oxfordshire*, will be considered following public consultation. The business case for delivering the A40 bus lane scheme and developing the long-term A40 strategy will also be considered.

RECRUITMENT OF 'SHARED LIVES' CARERS

Shared Lives, a scheme established over thirty years ago, enables people over the age of 16 who needs support or accommodation, to become a regular visitor to or move in with a Shared Lives carer. Together, they share family and community life. Typically, people supported by Shared Lives have a learning or physical disability. By joining the scheme, they often become a permanent part of a supportive family and by doing so increase their independence. Shared Lives is also used to give breaks to unpaid family carers or as a stepping-stone for someone to get their own place. The Oxfordshire Shared Lives Scheme currently supports around 80 people in long term arrangements and a further 40-50 people who use the service for short breaks. The scheme is constantly seeking to recruit new Shared Lives Carers. Please spread the word about Shared Lives and to encourage more people to sign up as carers. To find out more visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives

NEW DIRECTORY OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ADULTS AND CARERS

The County Council funded Community Information Network, has developed a directory of services for adults and carers. The aim of the Community Information Network is to provide information and advice to adults to help them maintain their independence and keep well. The directory contains a wealth of information about activities and support. Listings range from IT clubs, singing clubs, mobile libraries, health and wellbeing centres, to exercise classes and Women's Institutes. The directory can be accessed at www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire

If you have any feedback about the directory or would like to add any entries, please write to the Community Information Network team at: network@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS CONCRETE GLOBES AT PINDARS

The PC asked me to investigate if the concrete globes that had appeared at Pindars were on Council land. I contacted officers who inspected the site; they confirmed the land was the Council's and asked the property owner to remove them. This was promptly done.

ALLEGED VERGE INFRINGEMENT AT BROADPLAT HOUSE

Councillor Hill asked me to investigate tree planting and boundary issues at Broadplat House. I have made extensive enquiries and officers have visited the site. It appears planting may have occurred on Council land and I will report back further in due course.

JH gave DB a copy of 1965 map showing the boundaries and requested a site visit to his house to check the original map showing council land being infringed upon.

CHAIRS' MEETING 17TH JUNE

The Chairs of all parishes in my Division were invited to a special meeting on June 17th to discuss Highways issues. Copies of the slides presented have been circulated to those unable to attend.

823/15 SODC Report

Charles Bailey introduced himself to the councillors and asked that any queries to be addressed to him and David Nimmo-Smith (SODC councillor for the same ward). The new offices of the SODC will be moved into on 14th July 2015.

CM resolved to help with information on 3 Oaks and The Lamb appeal situation.

824/15 Miscellaneous

a) Correspondence:

Salt bins re-ordering. Michael Pearey agreed to check any salt bins and report back to the clerk about supply.

Louise Lloyd has written to confirm that if the parish council is in agreement, she is willing to continue as the council's nominative trustee for the Henley Municipal Charities. JOP to confirm councillor's confirmation.

JOP informed the councillors of a public consultation for subsidised buses and dial-a-ride.

b) Public footpath/bridleway report

Jane Warren (Chiltern Society Representative) provided the following report:

1. The urgent need to mark Path 27 through the growing crop. The Land Agent for Grange Farm has been asked to do this.
2. Footpath 27 needs to be realigned and the line of the County Finger Post corrected.

3. Footpath 25 is off-line in Lambridge Woods, though nearer the golf course the line is correct. The landowner has given permission for this path and also Footpath 28 to be reinstated on their correct lines and this will be done in the autumn when the vegetation has died back.

4. Bridleway 26 need to be marked with a way mark post at its junction with Footpath 25. It will also be way marked when it enters the Golf Course.

NB Footpath 26 is a bridleway that leads only to a footpath - this is unusual so Jonathan Beale is looking into the history of this. It is understood that horse riders have asked that it continues as a bridleway into Lambridge Woods, but the landowners are likely to resist any such requests.

Apart from these issues paths in the Parish are generally in good order. Where seasonal vegetation growth poses problems please let me know - the Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers may be able tackle the necessary clearance work.

c. Telephone box restoration update: JOP informed the parish councillors that residents of Shepherds Green had requested that the perspex panels be replaced with glass. There are 16 perspex panes and 7 broken glass panes. The cost of replace (exc. VAT) is £76.05.

d) Rotherfield Greys – A website?

JH has been receiving the Bix & Assendon Grapevine (called BAG) for a couple of weeks. He found it excellent. It is not a website in the traditional sense as the information is emailed to you about local matters and events. For example: notice of road closures, burglaries in the area, summer fete, planning applications. The costs are low: domain name £0-10. Cloud based hosting for 2-3 pages about Rotherfield Greys Parish Council – £0-20 per annum. A forwarding service (which changes the sender's email address) £100-200 per annum. Handouts/delivery to publish the service £200. Writing the website and admin £200-400. Start-up cost approximately £400-500. Running website £200-300 per annum. Lead time to full coverage – 2 years.

The council informed the clerk about an existing website about Rotherfield Greys which JOP will investigate further.

The councillors voted to pursue this project.

825/15 Planning

a) Planning application to be considered.

Planning application P15/S2087/HH Green Place, Greys Green RG9 4PH

Single storey extension to west elevation.

CONCLUSION: No Strong View. JOP to submit decision of the parish council.

b) Enforcement/Appeals

JOP stated that she had received a response to the request for information about the Lamb, as follows (from Emma Bowerman):

“The appeal at the site (storage of motor cars for sale purposes) is still under consideration by the Planning Inspectorate. The final comments for the appeal were submitted on 8 April and so I would hope that a decision will be issued shortly. However the time is down to the individual Inspector –

we find that sometimes they are quick and at other times we may be waiting for around 6 months for a decision.

Planning application P14/S3477/FUL is for the letting rooms, extension to the PH and owners accommodation. This is a separate application from the appeal for the motor cars. The plans for P14/S3477/FUL can be amended as with any other application.

3 Oaks: Ian Severn has left OCC and I have not received a reply from his replacement. Charles Bailey to follow up on the parish councils behalf.

Susan Hems will check the site for caravans.

826/15 Golf Course Update

From PL:

"I note that the Golf Course has put in a retrospective application to approve the earth bund which has been built along the side of Dog Lane. The work was done in March.

The application is supported by letters from the two houses along Dog Lane which are most affected. They express pleasure at being screened from the vehicles going to the course parking area. In the circumstances I am disinclined to comment on the application which I expect will be approved. It lies within Peppard boundary I think.

I did walk over the course a few weeks ago. Considerable earthworks have taken place but they did seem to me to be in keeping with the original application."

Information only: Two planning applications for Lambridge Wood House have been withdrawn.

827/15 War Memorial

a) Any business: None

828/15 Inspection Log

a) Bus Shelter

There was a complaint about the state the bus shelter was in. A request to have a clean-up involved cobwebs on the ceiling removed, floor swept and old posters removed. SH had previously offered to take an asset to check but at the time there were none left. The councillors asked if she would take up the role. JH informed the parish council that he did clean out the bus shelter but public misuse mean it is an on-going issue.

SH has agreed, instead, to inspect the telephone box. JOP to add SH to Inspection Log.

b) Form checking

The inspection log which was issued in May had a list of assets to be checked with councillors assigned to each. The form was not available as Peter Lloyd is in possession of it and he is absent.

829/15 Finance

- a) Donations/Subs: None
- b) Accounts to pay:
- | | |
|--|---------|
| Clerk: Salary, office rent and expenses | £587.44 |
| Jefferies Consultancy Services Ltd – Audit | £270.00 |
- c) The clerk has had notice from South and Vale DC about charges for an uncontested election. The invoices will be raised week commencing 29th June. The cost is likely to be £85.

830/15 Matters for information only

There were 10 questions relating to the accounts for the audit

Q1) ORCC top-up £40

subscription is now £50 but direct debit was not changed in time.

Therefore a top-up was required. However, looking back I found a DD for £45 implying the top-up should be only £5 per year.

A. All of the ORCC are away on a conference. JOP will check the subscription fees over the last two years, when the ORCC return.

Q2) cost of laminator pouches £2.50 (10 Nov) in accounts versus £2.95 on receipt

A. I made a mistake -the council owes JOP 45p

Q3) £120 income - on bank statement but no other backup

A. This is part of the Precept.

Q4) No evidence of employer's NI being paid?

A. The hours are only 2 per week at £15.50 per hour – so too low for NI.

Q5) VAT reclaim - what standard of invoices are required? In some cases receipt does not itemise VAT. Normally the amount and rate of VAT must be displayed

A. VAT is on most things and rate is rarely anything other than 20%

Q6) No bank rec provided (other than on face of accounts).

A. Went through accounts and bank statements and resolved that issue

Q7) No asset register provided

A. Emailed

Q8) Council approval of salaries?

A. There was no change in salary

Q9) Council approval of budget?

A. Minutes dated 11th November 2013.

Q10) Some costs are on bank statement but unsupported by receipts/invoices

A Direct debits and standing orders don't usually have a receipt or an invoice.

Meeting ended 8.50pm

Next meeting 14th September 2015 at 7.30pm