

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2017
IN GREYS VILLAGE HALL, GREYS GREEN**

PRESENT:

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

Members of the public/parishioners present for part/all of the meeting	3
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Please note that page numbers start at the beginning of the year

GAG = Greys Alert Grapevine email alert system

The parish website is www.rotherfieldgreys.org.uk

064/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

065/17 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

None

066/17 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (11/09/2017):

The minutes were declared an accurate record and duly signed and dated by SH.

067/17 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

GENERAL OCC REPORT

The report was emailed to the councillors before the meeting and will be attached to the minutes and available on the website.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS

GREYS COURT CAR PARK CLOSURE

I have been contacted by residents and others concerned about the car park closure. I have advised them that this matter is something over which OCC has no control.

A4155 RE-OPENING

The A4155 re-opened last Friday and increased traffic on the B481 should now fall back to previous levels.

THIRD READING BRIDGE

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Matt Rodda MP convened a meeting of the Bridge Steering Group on Monday 18th September and I was not invited. The only Oxfordshire Councillors present were Ian Hudspeth, Leader OCC, and John Cotton, Leader of SODC, neither of whom are close to the issue. Aside from MPs Matt Rodda and John Howell, the majority of attendees were Berkshire councillors and officers. The following day a Berkshire representative present at the meeting stated during a BBC Berkshire Radio interview that in his opinion the bridge would be built within five years. The project continues to be driven with enthusiasm and vigour by Berkshire bodies, while neither Oxfordshire council has much interest in the process, resulting in limited challenge to the benefits suggested by the proponents. I have circulated all available documentation to parish councillors (email to clerk 20th September 09.19hrs). I understand the Chair of Highmoor PC is to convene a meeting in the New Year in order that affected parishes can review the current situation.

The clerk confirmed this and was organising for Highmoor PC. DB asked the clerk to send any information to him.

JOP was asked to draft a response to this issue and use the list of names given to her from DB to voice the parish councils concerns and objection.

068/17 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS:

The report was emailed to the councillors before the meeting and will be attached to the minutes and available on the website.

CB reminded the parish council about grant applications. The deadline is 19th December. DNS confirmed he has £1,000 that can be allocated and would look favourably on the project for refurbishing the War Memorial.

The Henley leisure centre changing rooms will be finished with their refurbishment before Christmas.

Free car parking for district council car parks in Henley on Tuesdays in December

DNS gave a brief account of his time in St. Thomas Island whilst helping after the hurricane. Unfortunately another hurricane came in as he was there (Maria) with winds of 120mph.

JH asked if the hedges at Badgemoor Golf course could be cut back. Flooding in village caused by blocked drain was asked to be looked into. CB will come back about this.

The Lamb pub conversion of private house is still in the appeal process.

The compliant about the size of the Highlands Farm development sign was being looked into. This was brought about by Highmoor parish council. CB has not received an update to this.

Dr.Thompson provided details of her planning application (see below). Unfortunately the application had only just arrived and councillors had had no opportunity to look at the plans. Questions were asked about the land and position of the new house in relation to the existing house that is next to it. No new access drive as existing one will be used.

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069/17 CLERK'S REPORT

The well at Shepherds Green has the deeds agreed by Land Registry. JOP wrote back to confirm the details were correct and now await them. A Deed of Sale needs to be drawn up. JOP will write up a draft and seek council agreement and get it verified by a solicitor. The Rosary residents are willing to pay for this.

An Ordnance Survey Officer was shown the well and JOP was photographed opening the door. This is to prove ownership and that it has no-one living within the well housing.

A telephone kiosk restoration lesson was given to the restoration committee. There has been a lot of work to remove soil and vegetation around the back. There has been much interest from the whole community around this. Offers of help have come from several people and is now letting neighbours meet each other.

All notices in the bus shelter (well housing) at Rotherfield Greys village have been removed.

GAG (Grey Alert Grapevine) email system has had 5 more people join. It seems the 'cat flap' burglary in Bix generated a lot of interest. And was a good talking point which prompted residents to join up. The number of parishioners is 284 but there are 131 houses. The distribution list contains 55 people. There seems to be about 10 people who are outside the boundary so the number of residents/houses on distribution list is about a third of the parish.

The site meeting for the building of two semi-detached houses in Greys Green. This provided clarification of the outline planning and seems to be in keeping with the existing cottages. As the clerk was early she used the time to rustle up takers to advertise on the new website (see below).

Programming the new website www.rotherfieldgreys.co.uk has started. See below. This will generate a small amount of income for the parish council but should have a positive effect to promote interest/awareness of local business.

A huge amount of fly tipping at Shepherds Green was collected. Seems to be excess of Sue Ryder sale.

070/17 PARISH ROADS

The parish council needs to approach Harpsden parish council to tender a request for a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) grant from them. The pavement in the village will cost £40,000 but there are several problems with utilities that will incur extra costs which is likely to rise the price to £65,000.

Their parish meeting is on the 20th November and it was suggested that a meeting with the chairman, Cllr. Kester George before this date so he could inform the council of this to discuss.

The pavement plan is now with OCC Highways to survey. It is funding that will now be a top priority. Highlands Farm Development CIL payments will not be handed out till the houses are sold. How the transfer (if agreed) from Harpsden parish council is a grey area as not usual. But the clerk has contacts in the CIL OCC department to help with this.

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Cllr K. George (chairman of Harpsden) is very sympathetic to the need for a pavement and hopefully will view the tender as realistic.

The meeting is on Wednesday 15th November in the afternoon.

071/17 MISCELLANEOUS:

a) Correspondence

Thanks from Citizens Advise Oxfordshire South & Vale for £150 donation.

The clerk received an email about Christmas cards – this promotion was for minimum of 1000 (at £95) so of no use but 131 houses could receive a card from the parish council (with a nice photo of church was suggested). Also as a vehicle to promote GAG. This idea was deemed to have merit and the clerk was asked to pursue it.

The Chiltern Conservation Board asking for £500 for the Hill Forts project. We do not support them at present with donations. This amount was not in the budget and was seem as excessive so was rejected.

Would the council be interest in an offer on ex hire lights and motifs and grottos? From MK Illuminations. This was considered for the village hall and SM and ND said they would come back to the clerk about it.

b) Public Footpath/Bridleway Report

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

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2017

There is nothing of any significance to report since the last meeting.

The National Trust car park at Broadplat was closed earlier this month. It is too early to say what, if any, impact this will have on roadside parking nearby and access to Rights of Way in Lambridge Woods and Greys Court.

I have replaced a few missing way mark discs and reported to County a couple of very minor things

c) Parish Websites (www.rotherfieldgreys.org.uk and www.rotherfieldgreys.co.uk)

The War Memorial has its own button on the home page on the main parish website (www.rotherfieldgreys.org.uk) with some history and the names of the fallen from both wars. The War Memorials Trust has the names recorded too.

The second website has generated great interest for advertising and so far 8 business have agreed to have their businesses on it. It will cost £10 per annum. The website is half completed.

SH would provide the Link magazine to the clerk which lists more local business.

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072/17 PLANNING/ENFORCEMENT

a) Applications to be considered

**Registration Date/
Decision Target Date**

P17/S3853/FUL

The Walled Garden, Badgemore Park Golf Club,
Badgemore RG9 4NR

Removal of existing buildings and erection of five dwelling houses (two 3-bed dwellings, a 4-bed dwelling and two 5-bed dwellings) within existing walled garden; provision of private amenity space, car parking, bin and cycle storage (alternative to scheme approved under permission P17/S0709/FUL)

RGPC response by 28.11.17

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P17/S3894/FUL

The Strip, Shepherds Green, Rotherfield Greys RG9 4QW 1. Alterations to existing private dwelling including demolitions. 2. Construction of new private dwelling within existing residential curtilage.

RGPC response by 30.11.17

b) Planning responses

**Registration Date/
Decision Target Date**

P17/S3660/HH

Bel House, Shepherds Green RG9 4QR

Single storey timber orangery

RGPC 'SHOULD BE APPROVED'

12 Oct 2017

7 Dec 2017

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P17/S0819/DA

The Lamb Inn, Satwell RG9 4QZ

Without Planning permission, the material change of use of the public house to residential use.

RGPC response 'SHOULD BE REFUSED'

Still no decision by SODC and under consideration/appeal.

23 March 2017

18 May 2017

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P16/S4190/HH

Heathfield, Badgemore RG9 4NR

Single storey extension to rear of existing detached garage to provide ancillary family/guest accommodation.

RGPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' 9.1.17

This is still under consideration and still 14th Feb 2017 for a decision

20 Dec 2016

14 Feb 2017

c) Planning decisions

P17/S2489/FUL Amendment No. 1

The Barn, Greys Green RG9 4QH

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Proposed demolition of remnants of existing barn and reconstruction to create a four bedroom dwelling. Erection of a car port. (as amended by revised site plan received 31st August 2017, setting the proposed dwelling further to the rear of plot)

RGPC response - NO STRONG VIEWS

SODC - GRANTED

P17/S2489/FUL

The Barn, Greys Green RG9 4QH

Proposed demolition of remnants of existing barn and reconstruction to create a four bedroom dwelling. Erection of a car port.

RGPC response/recommendation – NO STRONG VIEWS

Amended – see above

P17/S2730/FUL

Badgemore Park Golf Club. Road from Gravel Hill to Broadplat House, Badgemore RG9 4NR

The construction of a new pond on the 18th hole for golfing strategy and visual amenity

RGPC response/recommendation – NO STRONG VIEWS

SODC - REFUSED

073/17 DATA PROTECTION DIRECTIVE

The audit for this is on-going. The clerk was requested to password protect any sensitive information. This has been done. The information held by GAG is anti-virus software as part of the email system.

ND was elected as ‘Data Protection’ officer. This position needs the officer to attend training. ND was willing. JOP confirmed this would be booked when a course comes available.

074/17 WAR MEMORIAL

Mr. Green (caretaker) to be paid for the first 6 months starting from May 2017. Cheque for £200 (see below). He was also informed that the wooden crosses should be removed after 3 months. The cheque was posted with a Christmas card that was signed by the councillors.

Safety equipment has been purchased (see below) – 2 hi-viz jackets and a ‘man at work’ sign.

The budget for next financial year should include repairs which has been quoted as £7,294.80 (VAT £1,215.80) – quote from AF Jones. As this is specialist work it cannot be widely quoted.

A grant application will be submitted to SODC for £1,000 to help with this. DNS confirmed there was still funds available.

JH suggested the removal of scrubs in front – this was not agreed. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting after inspection.

075/17 FINANCE

The OALC has suggested that smaller councils (with precept under £25,000) can opt out of the external audit. As the internal audit seems very thorough would the members consider this? This was agreed. Certification can only be requested after 31st March 2018.

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The clerk requested she be included as a signatory for cheques. This was agreed. A bank mandate form was signed by SH and MP.

The cheque to OCC for the village gates of £6,282.50 has been cashed.

a) Donations/Subs:

None

b) Accounts to pay:

Clerk's salary	£294.66
Office rent	£ 41.68
Outlays:	£ 71.39
Total	£407.73

Parish council outlays (paid by clerk) are – 'Man at Work' sign £21.49 (VAT £3.58) and 3 hi-viz vests £15.90 (VAT £2.65). Website (www.rotherfieldgreys.co.uk) domain hosting renewal £23.98 (VAT £4.00). Land Registry charge for inspection £30.

JOP forgot to add the Phone box adoption £1. The contract of sale was available for inspection.

Note. An extra hi-viz vest was purchased for use by councillors during site inspection by roadside.

Cheque for village hall booking of 6 meetings £120.

Cheque for Mr Green (war memorial caretaker) for £200 (six months payment).

The clerk has stupidly done all the charity payments agreed in the budget 2017/18 in January 2017. She apologises for this and suggests that if the same charities are chosen in the budget 2018/19 that cheques should be issued in the March 2018 meeting and dated 1st April 2018.

c) Payments received

SODC grant for village gates: £1,000

Bank Balance £ 14,107.44

076/17 Meeting dates 2018

Next year's (2018) meeting dates are as follows:

15th January

12th March

21st May

9th July

10th September

19th November

077/17 Matters arising for information only

The bus shelter (well housing) at Rotherfield Greys village

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After removing the notices, JOP surveyed the building. There is woodworm, most of the iron railing are in poor repair and rusting badly. Vote for budget to include funds for replacement parts and black metal paint to refurbish to only panel in reasonable condition. JH to get quotes for this.

Residents are asking about a noticeboard/information board to be put in. This will cost about £1,000. It could be used in conjunction with the telephone kiosk as it deemed too small for the planned art work. The phone box restoration committee would also like history, places of interest and walks information put in too. This was agreed to put forward for the budget 2018/19.

Updated **USB** stick handed to ND. And previous one returned.

Police report highlights were read out.

The Inspection Log was handed to MP? To check the parish council assets. This is due back completed for the May meeting 2018.

A member of public asked if the grass cutting could be done more often. As the National Trust is the owner of the verges not the parish council, this was something to be taken up with them. The clerk would bring this up with them.

SH and NB will be attending the annual meeting of the village hall and the terrible state of car park and wobbly noticeboard was requested to be mentioned.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.55 PM

Next meeting – 15th January 2018