

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
 HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> September 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
Jane Pryce – Clerk	JOP

**Members of the public:**

Adrian Hill, John Brown and Clive Hemsley

**831/15 Apologies for absence**

Charles Bailey telephoned with his apologies for being unable to attend and David Nimmo-Smith sent his apologies via David Bartholomew.

**832/15 Members declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

There were no personal & prejudicial interests declared.

**833/15 Resolution to adopt Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes from the parish council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015, were declared true and accurate and signed by PL.

**834/15 Matters arising from minutes**

**Salt bin refill**

MP informed the clerk he could find no salt bins.

**Henley Municipal Charities**

The clerk confirmed that Louise Lloyd had been informed of the council's wish for her to continue as a representative of the parish council for the Henley Municipal Charities.

### **Update on 3 Oaks caravans**

The clerk had received the following report from Robert Cramp and Susan Hems gave an update from a site visit. The second caravan is still on site. JOP to inform Robert Cramp.

“The owners have undertaken to remove one of the two caravans by the middle of September 2015. With regard to the other caravan, however, they have signalled their intension to lodge a planning application for the temporary retention of the caravan on the site for a period of 5 years on the basis that it is required for the accommodation of agricultural workers at various times throughout the year. I have given them until the end of September 2015 to submit their planning application. They have also been informed that the success or otherwise of any such application will depend upon the demonstration of the agricultural need and that the council will like seek the opinion of its owner agricultural consultants when considering the merits of any such application.”

### **Rotherfield Greys website**

The clerk informed the councillors that the existing website ([www.rotherfieldgreys.co.uk](http://www.rotherfieldgreys.co.uk)) was at least 10 years old and was hi-jacked for commercial feeds. A new website name was purchased ([www.rotherfieldgreys.org.uk](http://www.rotherfieldgreys.org.uk)) and a public hosting domain. The website is being written and will shortly be published. MP questioned whether the previous website could be deleted. JOP stated that as the domain did not belong to the parish council that it would be difficult to remove. JOP will look into the removal.

### **Inspection Log Update**

SH was added to the log for the telephone box.

### **835/15 OCC Report**

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

### **GENERAL OCC REPORT**

#### **BUDGET**

The hard work of preparing a budget for 2016/17 will soon begin in earnest. The exact financial position will not be known until the end of November when the Comprehensive Spending Review is announced; this may mean that the final details of the Budget may not be decided until the January 2016 Cabinet meeting. It is currently expected that around another £60m of savings will have to be made; these will mean some difficult decisions will have to be taken in order to achieve a balanced budget on 16th February 2016. The County Council has already made savings of £204 million since 2010. Further savings of £88 million by 2018 have been planned, so the additional £60m takes the total savings to £352 million. The biggest single budget challenge is the ever-rising cost of Social Care (see below).

#### **THE CHALLENGE OF SOCIAL CARE COSTS**

Nearly half of the Council's budget goes on Social Care. By and large, the Council's responsibilities here are statutory, meaning that for the most part, budget cuts fall in other areas. An extraordinary statistic is that at any one time, just 2% of the population account for all these Social Care costs. The figures are shown in detail on the attached chart.

## **HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE STRATEGY**

A HWRC strategy will aim to create a sustainable network of sites across the county that are well located for areas of population. The network, together with district council kerbside collections, will aim to maximise the amount of waste reused and recycled in the county and minimise the amount of material sent for disposal. An agreed strategy will enable OCC to seek contributions from new development to maintain and improve the HWRC network. In order to achieve a financially sustainable network of sites, it is proposed that the strategy to be consulted on is based on the following key objectives:

- reduce number of sites;
- locate sites to limit as much as possible the drive times for residents;
- locate the sites as close as possible to the more populated centres.

A public consultation started on 10 August and will run until 5 October 2015. It can be found here:

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/HWRCstrategy/consultationHome>

DB encouraged all members to submit a response on the proposed closures of waste recycling centres and as a parish council.

PL voiced concerns about the closure of Oakley Wood being the nearest centre in South Oxfordshire. The parish council agreed to draft a response for JOP to submit to the on-line consultation.

## **REDUCING THE COST OF THE BACK OFFICE**

Cabinet agreed to join the Hampshire partnership as an operational partner for the provision of back office support services through their Integrated Business Centre, with an expected saving of £805,000 pa. The existing Hampshire partnership is legally underpinned by an unincorporated public-to-public partnership. This enables each public body to jointly deliver and share the benefits of shared services between themselves. As a partnership rather than a commercial outsourcing, the expectation is that all partners (including OCC) will collaborate and work together for the good of the partnership. OCC will join the partnership through a joint working agreement, retaining influence on the partnership through an operational forum, which provides a basis for consultation and the exercise of influence in the management of the overall joint working arrangements.

## **RECYCLING ROAD SWEEPINGS**

Road sweepings from across Oxfordshire are to be processed at a state-of-the-art new treatment and recovery facility in Ewelme – a move which is designed to boost recycling rates and help cut costs for Oxfordshire County Council. The specially-designed facility, built by Grundon Waste Management at a cost of £1.3m, is one of the most technically advanced in the UK and helps councils meet their recycling targets through the recovery of all road sweeping waste, including leaves, sand and grit, and metals. Around 5,000 tonnes of sweepings a year are collected from Oxfordshire's roads by operators working for each of the five district councils; all of this material will now be processed and recycled at the new plant.

## **A-LEVEL RESULTS**

Based on the information provided by schools and academies so far, early indications appear to show around 96 per cent of students have gained two or more A-Levels at the A\*- E pass rate. This would represent an increase on the 2014 figure (95.1 per cent) – but confirmed results will be published later in the year. Information received also suggests around 50% of students have achieved two or more A levels at grade A\*-B. This would also represent an improvement on the

corresponding figure for 2014 (46.7%); however, these are estimates only and should be viewed with caution at this stage.

### **GCSE RESULTS**

Around 6,200 young people across Oxfordshire have now received their GCSE results. As was the case last year, the council has received a mix of results from schools and academies, with some reporting their 'best results', and others reporting results based only on 'first exams' taken. As such, the council cannot yet provide an estimate for the percentage of Oxfordshire students achieving the national benchmark of five A\*-C grades, including English and Maths.

Verified results will be published nationally in the autumn. Last year Oxfordshire moved ahead of the national average for the proportion of students achieving 5A\*-Cs including English and Maths. A total of 59.4% of pupils gained five A\*-C GCSEs including English and Maths compared with 56.8 per cent for state-funded schools across the country.

### **SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS**

#### **TRAFFIC CALMING**

As requested by the PC, the defaced speed camera sign has now been replaced.

#### **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 and I have visited the site. Officers have now stated that subsequent to consulting the Land Registry Map there is no evidence that the boundary of Broadplat House been moved. (It should be noted that these maps are not accurate and do not show the boundary or what the boundary features are). They have concluded that the five small newly planted leylandii and three cherry trees are on the highway verge. Having looked at the evidence that has been presented by all parties, and because the trees do not cause any issues to the highway or people using the highway, officers believe the only practical solution is to issue the owners of Broadplat House with a retrospective Planting Licence (issued under section 142 of the 1980 Highways act). This would allow the trees to remain, but the management and maintenance would be the responsibility of the property. This would be in place until the trees are dead or removed.

The utility strip with electric and telephone lines have been disrupted and the residents of Broadplat have been urged to contact their supplier.

DB stated that the planning order being granted does not give the owners of Broadplat the ownership of the land, after PL voiced concerns of the order would be seen as legitimatising the planting of trees. JOP to gather information for the correct person at the utility companies to contact.

Adrian Hill asked DB about Super-fast Broadband and requested the parish council for pressure to be placed to obtain this essential service to be rolled out locally. The parish council is looking for a knowledgeable person in this technology to spearhead a campaign. The feeling was that Rotherfield Greys is being excluded from this service and so value of properties are being dragged down by this. DB made two points, one was to interrogate the OCC website to ascertain the rollout date and how Binfield Heath has raised money to get connected. Adrian Hill made clear, although he had not much spare time, he could talk at meetings and encourage others to band together to assert pressure. He asked for a local residents meeting. JOP to try and gather more information about

Superfast Broadband and talk to Charles Bailey and James Morrish to request one of them or someone they know who may be an advocate from the parish in this matter.

### **836/15 SODC Report**

Four months into our 4 year term and we have been very active learning how to represent and representing the ward. It is early days but I hope we are meeting your expectations of us. We are busy with various cases but please do contact us about matters relating to the District Council. Our details:

Charles Bailey [charles.bailey@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:charles.bailey@southoxon.gov.uk)

David Nimmo-Smith [david.nimmo-smith@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:david.nimmo-smith@southoxon.gov.uk)

For those not aware, Charles sits on the Audit and Governance committee, and is a sub for the Planning committee. David is on the General Licensing, Licensing, Taxi Licensing Panel. And is a sub for Audit, Planning and Scrutiny. We have been completing the various training required to sit on the committees and making decisions for South Oxfordshire as a whole.

We are trying to make sure we are active on the ground and are 'seen' in the ward. We are trying to attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible. So far we have not had much to report, but want to make sure we are known and that we are approachable to assist where we can.

#### Updates:

Local Plan – a number of workshops have been organised for Council members to attend, to add our voice to the discussion and input into the next Local Plan. I'm sure you will agree these are a priority during September and October, and may affect our presence at Parish Councils.

SODC newsletter – SODC have sent out their latest newsletter, this was sent to all Parish Councils and village magazine editors. Please say if you have not received it.

Voter registration – we need to encourage more residents to confirm or update their voter registration details as we've only had about 57 per cent of households across both districts do this. They will need to complete our online form to do this

at: [www.registerbyinternet.com/southandvale](http://www.registerbyinternet.com/southandvale) Residents will be asked for a security code, which we sent to them about two weeks ago in a reminder letter. From Monday (7<sup>th</sup> September) we will be telephoning any households who haven't responded to ask them to confirm their details. The ward currently stands at 58.75% registration.

New recycling services - From 7 September in South, residents will be able to leave out broken small electrical items next to their grey bin, and any tatty clothes or textiles that aren't good enough for charity next to their green bin. They'll be picked up by Biffa and taken away to be recycled.

Keep an eye out for more information about how it will work. If you have any questions about the service and how it will work, call the waste team on 01235 547640.

New home – SODC is now fully at home at Milton Park. If you need to send anything to SODC by post please use: 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB.

### **837/15 Miscellaneous**

#### **a) Correspondence:**

Oxfordshire County Council Emergency Planning unit informed the clerk of a large fund from SSE (Scottish and Southern Energy) for 'community resilience'. A salt bin was deemed unnecessary at the present time.

South & Vale Carers Centre – request for grant- no interest.

SCAS – no interest.

**b) Public footpath/bridleway report**

Jane Warren (Chiltern Society Representative) provided the attached report. Path 33 at Dog Lane still needs a dog friendly stile and path 11 have issues that JOP will forward to Jane Warren.

**c) Telephone box restoration update**

Apart from replacing the glass that is broken, the Perspex panes need metal frames. This has increase the price of replacement to £444.06

The cost of replacement (exc. VAT) was £76.05. Increase of £368.01 (due to high cost of postage and packaging £58 (+VAT)) and metal frames £194.00. The increase in cost of glass replacement was agreed by the members.

**d) Rotherfield Greys website**

The costs are: domain name £8.38 for 2 years  
hosting £29.88 For one year

SH has agreed to provide a description of the parish for the website. JOP to ask the National Trust if they would be interested in providing copy for Greys Court.

**e) Household waste recycling centre closures – Oakley Wood**

“As part of planned savings Oxfordshire County Council has reduced the overall household waste recycling centre (HWRC) budget by £350,000 from 2017/18. To meet this reduction the proposal is to reduce the number of HWRCs from seven to three, or to four and to change the opening hours of the remaining sites. Once agreed, these changes will be made over several years with plenty of notice given to local residents.

An [additional sheet of further information](#) can be used for internal meetings and distribution.

There will be a consultation on these proposals running from 10 August (12 noon) to 5 October 2015. This consultation is open to all Oxfordshire householders to comment on. Understanding public views, opinions and preferences is key to the decision making process.

“The consultation documents will be available online from 10 August (12 noon) at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste) and the parish council will encourage people to complete the online response questionnaire. If residents need support to take part in this consultation we recommend they contact the county council on 01865 816043 or email [waste.management@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:waste.management@oxfordshire.gov.uk). Hard copies of the consultation materials for people to review are available at all libraries.”

PL is to write a parish council response to the proposed closures and JOP to submit this response.

The members were asked by DB to encourage as many parishioners as possible to submit an individual response to the proposed closures.

**838/15 Planning**

**a) Planning application to be considered.**

None

**b) Enforcement/Appeals**

Planning application P15/S2240/FUL Licensed premises to residential – REFUSED 10/9/2015

**Greys Meadow Update**

This planning application appeal (relating to planning application P14/S3258/FUL) has been refused on the 25<sup>th</sup> August.

**Time set aside for Members of Public**

Clive Hemsley asked the parish council to view the proposed building site. Please see item 826/15. SH agreed to visit.

**839/15 War Memorial**

a) Any business: None

**840/15 Inspection Log**

a) SH has agreed to inspect the telephone box. JOP has added SH to Inspection Log. Updated log and Risk Assignment forms were signed by PL.

**b) Form checking – current log**

The inspection log which was issued in May had a list of assets to be checked with councillors assigned to each. This has been signed and dated by the councillors and approval signature given by PL.

**841/15 Finance**

a) Budget 2015/16 – the donations to charity listed (see attached and below) have been agreed. Forecast 2016/17 – the parish council need to review the budget/forecast figures for 2014/15 to set the precept for the next parish council meeting. JOP requested that thought be given to projects for forecast and suggested a bigger noticeboard outside the village hall due to its small size, not all parish notices could be displayed.

**b) Donations/Subs**

Rotherfield Greys Parochial Parish Council £850, Nettlebed & District Commons Conservators £100, Henley & District CAB £150 will have cheques raised for the next meeting.

**c) Accounts to pay:**

Clerk: Salary £270.14, office rent £41.68 and expenses £85 (election costs), Stamps £7.56, phone box materials £22.75 and website setup £44.24. Total £456.29. JOP had received the invoice for the election costs of £85. There was 14 days to pay notice so JOP paid on-line. Reimbursement above.

**842/15 Matters for information only**

None

**Meeting ended 9.30pm**

**Next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm**