

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING  
HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 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
Charles Bailey (SODC councillor)	CB
Peter Lloyd	PL
Jane Pryce – Clerk	JOP

Members of the public/parishioners – John Brown Krystian Groom from Curtin & Co., and Ian Hicks from Vectos and Wayne Francis from Crest Nicholson
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**013/16 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

The out-going chairman, Peter Lloyd, resigned and MP was proposed as chairman by PL and seconded by RO. SH was proposed as vice-chairman by PL and seconded by MP.

A new co-opted member, Nick Digby, for Rotherfield Greys Parish Council was welcomed. JOP gave him the ‘Acceptance of Office’, ‘Declaration of Interests’ and ‘Members Allowance Scheme’ forms to sign. JOP signed as returning officer.

**014/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**015/16 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

None

**016/16 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

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

**017/16 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

By Cllr. David Bartholomew

**PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL**

Without consulting the public or OCC, on Thursday 25th February a surprise announcement was made by Oxfordshire's District Councils and Oxford City Council. It called for the abolition of OCC and the establishment of four district quasi-unitary councils. In addition, the announcement called for the creation of an unelected quango to be known as a 'Combined Authority' to take on difficult areas of responsibility currently with OCC, such as social care and major road projects. The Districts put out a tender to consultants to produce a report to support their proposals. Their brief to consultants

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initially stated: "The District Councils' view is that a single county-wide unitary authority is not the right solution for Oxfordshire". It went on to say that any finding suggesting a single county-wide unitary is best would not be approved. The OCC view was that a single county-wide unitary authority was an option that should be considered, and stated that it would therefore be forced to commission a separate report. As a result of OCC and public pressure, District Council leaders eventually agreed to commission a report covering all the options. However, the protocol relating to the commissioning and management of the report could not be agreed between OCC and Districts, so the nett result is that two separate reports costing in excess of £100,000 each will proceed. Initial findings will be available June/July with public consultations to follow. It is likely the Secretary of State will rule on the reports in the autumn.

**CHILDREN'S CENTRE CONTRACTS EXTENDED UNTIL SPRING 2017**

OCC has extended contracts for Oxfordshire's children's centres and early intervention hubs until 31 March 2017. The Cabinet is due to meet on 24 May to consider a proposal on how to allocate an additional £2m that the County Council agreed not to cut from early intervention services when the budget was set in February. The extension to the contracts until the spring of 2017 is intended to allow more time to manage the transition into the new service, pending decisions being taken on how the £2m is to be spent. It will also allow more time for OCC to continue working with community groups to develop the best possible local solutions for the continuation of open access services – including proposals for the continued use of children's centre and hub buildings. Following the decision of the Cabinet, the council will carry out an extensive staff consultation regarding the new Children's Service model and the roles within it.

**OXFORDSHIRE TOGETHER - HIGHWAY SERVICES NEXT STEPS**

Since the launch of the Oxfordshire Together proposals in September 2015, around 140 town and parish councils have expressed an interest in taking on delivery of some local highway services that the council will no longer be able to deliver in the future, or will only deliver to the statutory minimum standard. OCC is now inviting all interested town and parish councils to sign the necessary agreements that will allow the council to formally transfer the undertaking of highway services under the Oxfordshire Together proposals to town and parish councils that wish to take them on. More information on Oxfordshire Together and the approach and services which can be taken on by Towns and Parishes can be found at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiretogether](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiretogether) and any questions or comments should be sent to [localities@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:localities@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**COUNTY'S ADOPTION WAITING TIMES AMONG NATION'S SHORTEST**

Children are waiting less time to be adopted in Oxfordshire than almost anywhere else in the country, latest Government figures show. Between 2012 and 2015, 73 per cent of Oxfordshire children waited less than 16 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family - the third highest figure out of 149 authorities across the country. The council was sixth best for the average time taken between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, and recorded the 15th shortest average time between receiving court authority to place a child and matching them with a family.

**TAXI SAFEGUARDING TRAINING**

All taxi drivers and passenger assistants transporting children and vulnerable adults as part of OCC contracts are now required to have completed safeguarding training. This training also covers bus and coach drivers. The aim of the training is to raise the bar for the safety of all passengers – and empower drivers to play a key role in protecting those

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in their care. Like other professionals who come into regular contact with children – including those with complex care needs – OCC wants to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge they need to feel confident in that environment and to ensure the safety of all passengers in their care.

**LATEST INFORMATION ON CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IN OXFORDSHIRE**

An updated version of the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership's Strategic Intelligence Assessment has been published. It aids understanding of emerging trends and patterns in crime and disorder, and it explores future threats and opportunities. The SIA is part of the evidence base which supports community safety partners to plan and target their work. The headline long-term trend shows that crime in Oxfordshire has fallen by 33% over the past eight years. The full report and an executive summary can be seen via this link: <http://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/community-safety-0>

**SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS**

**THIRD READING BRIDGE**

Unless blocked, I will be attending the next 'Bridge Summit Meeting' on 10 June. Parish 9 represent 7 opposed. B481 M4 to M40 Sonning Common parish council would support the bridge if a link road would be created between that and Wallingford. This is not going to happen through an AONB. This is 12 year period of gravel extraction starting at Sonning-on-Thames and the lorries cannot go through that way because of the weak bridge. These vehicles would use a new bridge. Traffic modelling is being carried out now. Support from the parish council was offered to back the Oxfordshire case.

**018/16 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

**By Cllr Charles Bailey**

I have been a councillor with DNS for over a year now and all is going well. Oxfordshire has been voted number 1 place to live in the countryside. Unitary plan is being considered and view from district level is there will be some change. No change to the services.

Housing plans (local plan) the requirement has risen from 12,000 to 15,000 extra houses.

Corporate Plan is a 3 year plan investing more in the community

The Lamb at Highmoor – cars have been moved from there and Shepherds Green. There has been an appeal relating to the accommodation block and a new application had been put in but JOP confirmed that nothing had been received as yet. SH asked about the tree removal that had happened and these had been checked by JOP and the protected ones had not been touched.

**Cllr. David Nimmo-Smith**

Waste recycling – kerb side collection of fabrics and small electricals have started. The district is now best in the country for recycling. There is a bio-digester at Benson and an 'energy from waste' incinerator. Fabrics should be put in a plastic bag and placed on top of the green bin.

The 145 (White Coaches) bus from Woodcote to Henley subsidies will end on 20<sup>th</sup> July at the end of school year. In the morning it takes the children to Gillots school and it is uncertain if will continue but the County Council still has a responsibility to transport children to the nearest school. I have just come from a planning seminar and training. There is a predominance of housing need in the South-east England – where people want to live. Large housing developments at Chinnor Benson, Wallingford and Didcot. Rotherfield Greys is in an AONB so there are no large scale developments in the area.

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**019/16 HIGHLANDS FARM**

Krystian Groom from the public relations company, Curtin & Co, Ian Hicks from Vectos as Transport consultants and Wayne Francis, project leader from Crest Nicholson came to answer questions and talk about traffic issues.

Ian Hicks - Background – our traffic work picks up where Neighbourhood plan left off. A traffic model from the development and from around the wider area. Greys Road was surveyed and the traffic coming out from Highlands – morning peak 8-9 am work there were 500 movements. There were 350 going to Henley and 150 going out. In the evening peak, 140 cars coming out and 160 going in. Based on similar developments with 2 cars per house, the increase is calculated. Not all journeys are to work. There is also some employment on site. 90 – 100 vehicles are calculated but use is about 1.5 – 1.6 per household. Predication is 111 extra in the morning and 123 in the evening. Department of Transport that sets out the modelling parameters. There are a set number of sections such accident areas, other means of transport (buses, walking). This gives a 12-13% increase in the morning through Rotherfield Greys and 15-17% in the evening. Nothing is being planned to mitigate traffic through the village as use is low. Buses going to site is being looked at depending on whether the bus is still viable. School children walking/cycling to school have a package of measures to be looked at.

Wayne Francis - The exhibition is due to take place in July, before the summer holidays. This is before the submission of the reserved matters application. It will run for one full day and two evenings.

The final exhibition dates and timings have not been finalised yet (we have to wait until the outline application is determined), but we will let you know as soon as we've set the dates in stone

Construction timescales are quite fluid and dependent on the rest of the planning process, which as we all know can be unpredictable in terms of timings. However, if all goes smoothly, Crest would look to begin construction in early 2017. It would likely take three to four years to complete the development.

**020/16 QUEEN'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

A grant has been made available from SODC. JOP resolved to apply for the £202 grant detailing the expenses that have been supplied. The parish council reimburse RO for his expenses (£200) incurred in the 'Lighting of the Beacon' and fireworks display (see below). Thanks go to Mr. & Mrs. Ovey and their volunteers for a memorable event.

**021/16 MISCELLANEOUS:**

**a) Correspondence:** Insurance quotes 2016/17

Zurich: 1 year deal £766.36, 3 year deal £738.29, 5 year deal £710.24

AON: Failed to provide quote

It was agreed to take the Zurich quote for 5 years.

**b) Public Footpath/Bridleway Report**

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

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“Nearly all paths are clear and well-marked. Footpath 27 (Lambridge woods to New Farm) has not been marked through the growing crop but the land manager may be awaiting assistance from Oxfordshire County Council to help him determine the official line.

The long-standing issues of some paths being off-line remain but they are considered to be of low priority.

The major thing to note is the improvements to paths in **Lambridge Woods**.

All public footpaths and bridleways within the wood have been surveyed by Jonathan Beale, the Oxfordshire County Council Field Officer. Under his direction and with the agreement of landowners, the paths have recently been reinstated to their correct line and way marked. Where the owners are keen to restrict the public to the statutory paths on their land, other minor paths have been blocked off with brushwood. 'No cycling' signs have also been fixed to way mark posts on footpaths. It is to be expected that public interest in the wood may increase after Richard Fortey's book is published.

Jane Warren also asking about replacing two stiles at Lower Hermes Farm (FP17) and one at Cross Lane Farm. If agreed by land owners and to upgrading to kissing gates there is a grant for this and the Chiltern Society would carry at the installation. RO refused the offer of kissing gates.

**c) Telephone kiosk:**

Charles Bailey and the clerk tried to level the phone box before the meeting. This was not successful.

**d) Rotherfield Greys Website:**

JOP purchased a 'How to' guide to website building. The clerk has managed to progress the website to near completion. There is a grant available from OALC which the clerk has been asked to pursue. Cricket information had been received.

Linda Collison has been approached to put in the finishing touches and investigate 'Constant Contact' for email alerts.

**e) Defibrillator Project at Greys Court:** Greys Court has been looking into this but has not got back to me yet. In the meantime JOP would enquire about grants from SODC.

Quotes: WELmedical - £1,381.75, training free, installation £270

Millie's Dream - £1,300.00 no training, installation £90

JOP recommended WELmedical and the parish council agreed.

A change of location was decided to the village hall. Agreed with the village hall committee would be sought.

**f) Request for bin and noticeboard**

An information board was requested by two independent representatives (Maggie Templeton and Jane Warren) at the car park (as well as a bin) at Lambridge wood car park. Educating the public about not dropping litter, special nature of the woods and keep to the paths. This wood will soon become a tourist attraction due the publication this month of Richard Fortey's book 'The Woods for the Trees'.

John Hill reported the rubbish, dog walkers and lost people (from Greys Courts using their walking guides – insufficient signing was blamed as well).

Meeting to be arranged with National Trust to try and resolve some of the issues. With JH, SH and JOP

**g) Annual Subscription to CFO**

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JOP wrongly issued a cheque for CFO (formerly known as ORCC) £55 when this was paid by standing order. The money has been refunded (£50) but amount had increased to £55 so the cheque was correct (£55) but not the standing order (£50). They are changing their bank so this Bank Standing Order needs to be cancelled. JOP resolved to have the letter for it, for the next meeting.

**TIME SET ASIDE FOR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**022/16 PLANNING APPLICATION RESPONSE(s):**

**a) Applications to be considered**

None

**b) Planning responses**

**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

**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

**c) Planning decisions**

**P16/S0219/FUL** Bells Cottage, 3 Rocky Lane, Rotherfield Greys  
Two storey and single storey extensions and alterations to existing dwelling to include the erection of a single storey swimming pool block. Two storey and single storey extension and alterations to existing double garage. Change of use of paddock to domestic curtilage and erection of tractor store.  
RGPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 - SODC GRANTED 23 March 2016

**P16/S0299/HH** Holly Dell Satwell Close Satwell RG9 4QT  
Erection of flat roof single storey rear extension with glazed roof lantern  
RGPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 - SODC GRANTED 31 March 2016

**P16/S0491/HH** Fishers, Shepherds Green RG9 4QL  
Demolition of east side of existing dwelling house and erection of two storey extension, glazed link to existing garage and addition of mansard floor to garage to facilitate conversion into domestic studio space and erection of detached 3-bay garage  
RGPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – SODC GRANTED 6 May 2016

**0023/16 WAR MEMORIAL:**

JH reported one post missing and would be dealt with.

**024/16 FINANCE:**

**(a) Donations/Subs:**

Rotherfield Greys Parochial Church Council £850 donation.

Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice Bureau thanked the parish council for the donation of £150.

**(b) Accounts paid:**

Clerk's salary       £ 268.66

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Office rent	£ 41.86
Refund (expenses)	£168.00 (OALC - see below)
Total	£ 478.34

Mr. A. Denslow for maintenance of the War Memorial £190.00

Mr. R. Ovey was re-imbursed for fireworks on 'Lighting of the Beacon' Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations (£200.00).

OALC courses for Susan Hems (Chairmanship) and Nick Digby (New Councillors) £168. JOP paid herself due to places for these courses go very fast. The courses were agreed to be booked at the previous (14.3.16) parish council meeting.

**(c) Precept:**

The first instalment of the Precept has been paid into the saving bank account (£3,894.00)

**d) EOY accounts and Audit 2015/16**

The financial statements and accounts were checked and agreed by the members and signed, minuted and dated by the chairman.

**027/16 Inspection log**

The External Structures inspection form was updated for Shepherds Green noticeboard and the disused well (to ND). The form will be updated and passed round for the May 2016 inspection. The disused well has had interest from buyers of Sue Fulford-Dobson's house. The councillors were agreed about selling it. Value for insurance is £6,382.19

**026/16 Matters arising for information only**

None

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30 PM

Next meeting is the 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm