

Rotherfield Greys Annual Parish Meeting

7.30pm on Monday 15th May 2023

PRESENT:

Nick Digby (Chair), John Hill (Cllr), Robert Hadfield (Cllr), Karen Wheeler (clerk), Cllr Susan Hems (Cllr), David Bartholomew (OCC, Cllr) (part), Richard Ovey (Cllr), Jo Robb (SODC Cllr) (part). Rae Ward – Village hall, Members of the public – 6

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM 16TH MAY 2022

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate and true record and were signed by the Chair.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Thanks to the current Parish Councillors who are all present, Richard Ovey, John Hill, Rob Hadfield, Susan Hems and myself, Nick Digby who were all re-elected. Thanks also to our Parish Clerk, Karen Wheeler. Also due thanks are our elected representatives, in positions prior to the May 4th election on Oxford County Council, Cllr David Bartholomew and South Oxfordshire District Council Councillors Jo Robb and Lorraine Hillier. Congratulations to those elected or re-elected.

Planning applications

30 received during the year (2022/23) an increase of prior year

2 objections by the PC 1 of which was approved by planning, 1 declined but subsequently agreed at appeal. 4 remain awaiting a decision

Highlands Park

As a council we continue to be very concerned about the increased levels of traffic that will be generated and will pass through our village as a result of this development.

Village Pavement

We continue to push OCC Highways for the construction of a pavement on the corner outside the Maltsters Arms and St Nicholas Church, to increase the safety for pedestrians and deter the speed of traffic on the corner through the curb stones marking the sharp corner in a more obvious way for drivers.

Remembrance Sunday

The 104th Remembrance was marked with wreath laying at the War Memorial.

The Village Fete

The fete again took place on the first Sunday in September. As always it attracted large numbers, brought the village together and raised funds for the church and villager hall. Finance Our finances remain on a sound footing, with a healthy balance in excess of £20,000.

Charities

The parish council continues to support local and community charities. We made a variety of charity donations totaling over £2000.

Litter Picking

A village litter pick took place in March, thanks are due to Graham and Jo Duncan for organising it and providing tea and cakes afterwards.

The Phone Box.

The group that restored the phone box by the church had an opening ceremony. The box now contains some old images of the village and some examples of work by local artists.

The Coronation of King Charles III

We financially supported a village picnic on the cricket green on Sunday 7th May to celebrate the Coronation

Coronation – Another successful event and thanks goes to those who organized along with the memorial stainless steel water bottle to all those in the parish aged 16 or under.

Nick Digby

Chair – RGPC

5. OXFORDSHIRE COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL AND GENERAL REPORT

See separate report

6. SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL AND GENERAL REPORT

See separate report

7. HENLEY MUNICIPAL CHARITIES ANNUAL REPORT

Henley Municipal Charities 2022-2023

Henley Municipal Charities (HMC) comprises the following individual charities, The Almshouse Charity, The Relief in Need Charity, The Educational Charity, The Bridge Charity and the Church Charity which are managed on a unified basis and governed by a scheme dated 1984. The first three charities offer assistance to people living in the areas of benefit by way of almshouses and grant allocations

The management of the HMC is the responsibility of the trustees, who are 13 in number and include 2 Ex-officio trustees (the Mayor of Henley on Thames and the Rector of St Mary the Virgin Church, Henley on Thames) 3 Nominative trustees one from each of the Parish Councils of Bix and Assendon, and Rotherfield Greys and from the Town Council of Henley on Thames, and 8 Co-opted trustees.

The day to day running of the HMC is carried out by the clerk who liaises with the chairman, treasurer and committees of trustees who oversee particular areas of activity i.e., grant applications from educational establishments, planning issues, property development. Now that Covid19 restrictions have been lifted the Trustees have resumed their monthly group meetings and monthly meetings with all the residents have also been resumed.

Commercial rents are received from 8 properties in Henley on Thames and the income received is applied to meet the objectives of each of the named charities.

The areas of benefit for the HMC are the parishes of Bix, Rotherfield Greys and the Town of Henley on Thames.

Almshouses - The HMC is responsible for the administration of 23 almshouses (11 for double occupancy and 12 single) which are situated in Church Avenue, Western Close and Vicarage Road, Henley on Thames. At this time there are two vacant properties which will be filled shortly. Currently there are 25 residents. Regular property maintenance of the alms-houses and in particular the replacement of windows in Western Avenue and general repairs to the commercial properties have been the major activities this year

Grants Grants were made to Gillots, Badgemore, Valley Road, Nettlebed and Trinity schools, the Henley 60+ and Henley Lions clubs , the Henley Youth Festival as well as Christmas grants to alms house residents. The Church Charity gave its annual grant for the update and repairs to the Church Wardens of St Mary the Virgin Church.

Dr Richard Tomlins May 2023

8. ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

See separate report published on Parish website

9. THE GREYS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT

Sadly, the RG WI has now closed.

10. VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL REPORT

It has been a relatively quiet year for the Hall, which has allowed our new Caretakers, Alex and Mary Angell, time to get used to their roles and to settle into Nightingales and the Village, with their two young children Rose and Ben.

Alex has tackled the neglected garden around the Hall with gusto, and Mary has done wonders in cleaning up and lavishing tender loving care on the interior. In addition, they have been hugely supportive and been involved in village life, participating in everything from the annual Litter Pick to the Fête.

The fabric of the building is in good condition and it continues to be used by village institutions and other organisations, for exercise and yoga classes, for private events and children's birthday parties. Another successful Christmas Drinks Party for the village, was held here in December.

However, post-pandemic, regular hirings have not reached the heights achieved four or five years ago, for a variety of reasons – retirement, health issues and different ways of doing things. Our income has therefore decreased, whilst our costs, in line with rises in the cost of living - especially for oil and electricity, have increased enormously!

We were therefore particularly grateful to receive half the proceeds of the Village Fête, held last September at Greys Court – not only is this a welcome boost to our funds, but it is also a wonderful occasion in getting people together. Sue Hems and the hard-working Fête Committee do a brilliant job in organizing the whole extravaganza, from which we benefit enormously.

Rae Ward – Chairman May 2023.

11. WAR MEMORIAL ANNUAL REPORT

The war memorial stone was cleaned this year. Thanks are passed on to Mr Green for providing maintenance to the War Memorial area. Mr Green has now retired and we seek a new contractor to carry out this work – hoped to be Alex Angle of the Village hall.

12. PARISH ROADS ANNUAL REPORT

Tickets regularly raised on Fix my Street. Predominantly flooding, potholes and foliage. Work to create a village footpath and 20mph being discussed at the annual meeting held (today).

13. CHILTERN SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

My job is to monitor the condition of the Public Rights of Way in the parish to ensure they are kept in a usable state. The signage is kept easily visible and clean, overgrown vegetation and fallen branches are cleared. I report back to the Chiltern Society who liaise with landowners and OCC to deal with major issues such as fallen trees and gate/stile repairs and replacements

The main concern in the parish has been the forestry work in Lambridge Woods. Permission was obtained for this but there has been much unhappiness about the way it has been done. We, the Chiltern Society, have replaced damaged signs and cleared paths of debris where the machines have not done enough. The paths have been churned up and some are very muddy and wet but remain passable.

A new Public Footpath No 245/35 and 330/36 has been established giving a Right of Way access from the end of Lambridge Wood Road joining into Path 330/28.

I walk the paths as often as I can but I always welcome reports from users of any matters of concern. Otherwise these should be reported directly to the OCC Countryside Team.

14. CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL 2022

The 2022 season saw full services resumed at the cricket club following 2 years with some disruption due to Covid. The playing record was good. Of the 16 matches played, 7 were won, 6 drawn and 3 lost. The weather held fair all Summer with no matches cancelled due to rain. However 8 matches were cancelled due to either ourselves or the opposition being unable to raise a side. This is a particular challenge to clubs of our size and location which we are trying hard to address this year. As always we issue the request/plea that anyone interested in playing cricket should make themselves known to us

As you will be well aware this is a very special year for the Cricket Club as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our foundation. The book that we are producing to commemorate this is in the final stage of production and should be available at the beginning of June. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for your generous support of this venture. For those of us involved, tracing the interaction of the village and the cricket club over this period of time has been an informative and absorbing project and we hope the finished project will be of interest to all. Details of how to obtain a copy will be advertised locally in due course.

As an additional celebration of the anniversary we are making the fixture against the Refreshers on Sunday June 4th a special occasion. They are a team largely composed of London-based members of the legal profession and we have been playing them for 80 years. The intention is to have the book

ready to launch on that day and we hope that some of you will be able to come along and join us then or, in fact, at any time during the season.

Financially, we have survived the Covid period in a relatively sound position, but we are as always indebted to our Vice Presidents who support us annually and we would like to thank those who live in the parish for their on-going support. New Vice Presidents are always most welcome! Being financially sound enables us to maintain the playing area to a high standard and to ensure that the Green looks at its best during the Summer months.

Last season we continued to support the work of the MCC Hub, a charitable branch of the organisation aimed at providing opportunities for less-advantaged young people, by staging some matches on the Green and we will do so again this year. Also this season we will continue to host county matches and festivals for the Oxfordshire Under 11 Girls county team. Details will be published in the Contact magazine and on the Parish website.

Peter Dawkins Chairman

15. Open forum – all electors are welcome to raise any issue relating to local government with reference to the Parish of Rotherfield Greys

Meeting closed 8.30PM

Rotherfield Greys – Annual Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm on Monday 15th May 2023

PRESENT:

Nick Digby (Chair), John Hill (Cllr), Robert Hadfield (Cllr), Karen Wheeler (clerk), Cllr Susan Hems (Cllr), David Bartholomew (OCC, Cllr) (part), Richard Ovey (Cllr), Jo Robb (SODC Cllr) (part). Rae Ward – Village Hall, Members of the public – 3

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

Richard Ovey (Cllr) – AOB, Church clock

2a. ELECTION TO OFFICE- CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND COUNCILLORS

Election of Chair – Nick Digby proposed by Susan Hems and seconded by Robert Hadfield
Election of Vice Chair proposed by propose Nick Digby seconded by Gillian Ovey
Election of Counillors proposed by Robert Hadfiled, John Hill, Richard Hadfield proposeb by Nick Digby seconded by Susan Hems.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM 13th March 2023

The minutes were agreed as accurate by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES:

- a) **Pavement through the village** – Open discussion was had with residents and at this stage it was agreed that the speeding is the more urgent item to attend to.
- b) **War Memorial** – It was noted that there are only 9 of the 14/15 villagers on the memorial. Details have now been obtained compared to the scroll in the church and should be added. Clerk and Chair to action
- c) **Litter pick date for Spring** – Conducted on Sunday 26th March – thanks to all those that joined in.
- d) **Tree opposite Coopers Close and Pinfolds** – NT no response in terms of replacing the dead trees. Need to clarify who owns the land and plant native trees.
- e) **Church** – A plaque exists relating to the Church clock, donated by the son of the late resident vicar it is also a war memorial. The clock has now ceased working. Contribution has been requested for the repair - £4,000 estimated costs. The treasurer is applying to charities for grants and donations and raising an appeal for funds.

5. OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

This general report will be attached to the minutes and available on the website.

6. SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:

This general report will be attached to the minutes and available on the website.

7. CHAIRS REPORT

Nothing extra to report.

8. PARISH ROADS

Verges – no record has been established of any agreement between SODC/NT/Parish relating to the verges. Conversation had with James Taylor of the NT who has provided some further information however this has not provided full clarity on the situation.

9. Correspondence

- a) 20mph application - 22 emails received in support, 2 wanted it considered that whatever speed is introduced, those that speed will always speed. Agreed to submit an application for a 20mph zone through the village – past the pub and church. Clerk to action.
- b) Removal of the no cyclists signs on the footpath by the church (clerk raised with Chiltern Society) follow up next mtg
- c) Noted path Rocky lane to lane end needs clearing – follow up at next meeting

10. Footpath report

As per annual report

11. Questions from the public

None

12. PLANNING/ENFORCEMENT

a) Applications received and awaiting decisions

[P23/S1079/HH](#)

1 South View Rotherfield Greys

First-floor roof reconfiguration, ground-floor single-storey extension, and oak-framed garage with possible home office/gym/accomodation above.

Target decision 24th May 2023

[P23/S1058/HH](#)

4 The Maltsters Cottages Rotherfield Greys Henley-on-Thames

Proposed two storey and single storey rear extensions, new first floor window and front porch on front elevation.

Target decision 24th May 2023

[P23/S0582/FUL](#)

Satwell House Satwell RG9 4RB

Landscaping works including the creation of a new access, the creation of a lake and substantial tree planting.

Target decision 26th May 2023

b) Planning decisions

[P23/S0974/HH](#)

4 Rocky Lane Rotherfield Greys RG9 4RE

Erection of new garage/store.

SODC granted

P23/S0804/S73

Garden Cottage Badgemore Park Gravel Hill Henley-on-thames RG9 4NR

Variation of conditions 3(Materials), 5(Landscaping) & 7(Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy) on application P20/S0782/FUL to reduce the number of conditions that need to be discharged prior to the commencement of the development. (Reconfiguration of Garden Cottage to provide additional office accommodation; enlargements to provide twenty soundits of overnight accommodation (net increase of twelve), treatment rooms and staff accommodation).

SODC granted

P23/S0626/LB

New Farm Badgemore

Variation of condition 2(approved plans) on application P22/S0331/LB - fenestration changes and additional flue. (Conversion of the existing Cookery School into a 3 bedroom residential annexe at New Farm).Amendment received to plans.

SODC granted

P23/S0624/S73

New Farm Badgemore RG9 4NX

Variation of condition 2(approved plans) on application P22/S0328/FUL - fenestration changes and additional flue. (Conversion of the existing Cookery School into a 3 bedroom residential annexe at New Farm).

SODC granted

P23/S0402/DIS

Grange Farm Badgemore

The application is for: Discharge of conditions 9 (Landscaping Scheme (trees and shrubs only)), 10 (External Lighting), 12 (Contaminated Land (risk assessment)), 14 (Surface water drainage works) & 15 (Foul drainage works) on application P22/S0028/FUL (New Class E(g) (i) & (ii) office building with solar roof panels, substation and plant housing, with associated car parking, cycle store and bin store).

Partially discharged

P23/S0400/DIS

Grange Farm Badgemore

Discharge of conditions 9(Hard and Soft Landscaping Scheme), 13(External Lighting), 14(Contaminated Land (preliminary risk assessment)),16(Surface water drainage works) & 17(Foul drainage works) on application P21/S0361/FUL (Redevelop farmyard with equine and veterinary hospital with associated car parking, bike store and bin store).

Target decision 16th March

Partially discharged

P23/S0294/FUL

New Farm Badgemore RG9 4NX

Creation of an agricultural access, as well as the erection of estate metal fencing and a 5-bar gate.

SODC Granted

P23/S0185/HH

Gardeners Cottage Shepherds Green

Proposed single storey and two storey side and rear extensions. Remove existing garage and rebuild in a new position to include home/office in roof. Remove existing timber workshop.

SODC Granted

P22/S4451/FUL

Grange Farm Road From Gravel Hill To Broadplat House Badgemore RG9 4NZ

Construction of a new concrete yard area [511.97m²] and revised entrance tracks [267.80m²] of crushed stone for new Grain Store and General Purpose Farm Building already consented under P22/S1379/AG.

SODC Granted

Greys Meadow - enforcement date for action is 6th June 2023

APPEAL: Site Address: Pinfold Greys Green RG9 4QG

Planning permission granted by SODC

13. FINANCE

- a) Payments** – Clerk pay March and April £248.50, OALC subs £156, Kingswood common donation £100, Mr Green £100 final payment (to approve) OALC training for new clerk £96, Audit £358.80, Replacement ink for exiting clerk £31.99
- b) Income** – Precept £4265. CIL £10,018.18, VAT reclaim £308.75
- c) Balances** – As at 11.05.23 £2,472.26, £31,682.18 TOTAL £34,154.44 Of this bank balance, £5316.72+£10,018.18 in bank account is CIL funds and £10,746.91 CIL funds remain held by SODC.
- d) Accounts for the year 2022/23**
- e) Approve Keith Jefferies as auditor for 2023/24** - approved
- f) Donations**

14. AOB

Next Meeting 17th July 2023

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:50PM