PRESENT:

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

Members of the public/parishioners present for part/all of the meeting	6	
--	---	--

GAG = Greys Alert Grapevine email alert system

CIL = Community Infrastructure Levy paid by developers to mitigate the impact of new houses.

RFO = **Responsible Financial Officer.**

The parish website is www.rotherfieldgreys.org.uk

1/19 APM minutes 2018

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 12th March 2018 were signed and dated by SH, as an accurate record.

2/19 Chairman's Annual Report 2018/19

First let me introduce the Parish Councillors who are present.

Richard Ovey, John Hill, Michael Pearey, Nick Digby and myself, Susan Hems, as chairman.

All of whom have contributed a great deal of the time and energy to the parish and many thanks for that.

The clerk, Jane Pryce, has been a wonderful help to us all on the committee and a steadfast supporter of our village. We cannot thank her enough!

There have been 23 Planning applications received during the year (2018/19) of which:

11 SODC GRANTED

4 WITHDRAWN/AMENDED

RGPC 14 NO OBJECTIONS/APPROVED

RGPC 8 OBJECTIONS

1 application to be considered by RGPC

SODC 5 – awaiting decision

The Neighbourhood planning meeting at Henley Town council on the 21st January 2019 will be discussed in the parish council meeting later. But the request for a CIL payment of £65,000

for pavements in the village is on-going. Highlands Park will be a housing development we and the parish will be monitoring closely for its impact.

The telephone kiosk restoration was started after the parish council officially adopted it. The work carried out so far is to be expanded on by the restoration committee's report below.

Armistice Day 100th years was marked with a superb display of WW1 artefacts and photographs in the Elizabeth Room at the Church, a well-attended memorial service at the War Memorial at 11am on 11.11.19. A beacon was lit in accordance with the other villages across the country, and we marked the occasion with fireworks and a toast in the Maltsters Arms.

The War Memorial had work done to make the surround level and safe. The names of the fallen were added to the Imperial War museum's role of honour.

A silver birch tree was planted in Shepherds Green on Armistice Day with a plaque to commentate the fallen from the hamlet.

The Rotherfield Greys bus shelter/well housing building has been restored and only the pad stones to replace.

The village fete was a big success, raising £7,300 for the upkeep of the Church, the Village Hall, and the creation of a new Art Gallery in our phone box.

The parish council made a variety of charity donations totalling £1,830.00. The charity donations and subscriptions are made to local good causes and community groups.

There has been 10 more people added to GAG (Greys Alert Grapevine) and so now covers a third of parish. This provides local news such as road closures, local events and planning applications.

The Shepherds Green well and the housing has been sold (for £690) to the neighbouring property which means that there will be a saving in maintenance and insurance cost.

Litter Picking – Our annual litter picking event will take place Sunday 24th March and thanks to Joanne and Graham Duncan for organising this. We urge you to volunteer as it is also an opportunity to meet other residents of the villages.

Thank you to the OCC and SODC councillors for their attendance at our parish council meetings and their invaluable help during the year.

We are very sorry to hear that the SODC councillor David Nimmo-Smith will be not standing in the coming year and wish him well.

I am confident I speak on the entire council's behalf when I say that we are looking forward to coming year.

Susan Hems

Chairman - Rotherfield Greys Parish Council

3/19 Oxfordshire County Councillor's Annual and General Report

These reports can be found with the minutes and on the website.

During the year I have been in discussion with the parish council about various subjects:-Highlands Farm damage to the verge, stopping up order at Broadplat House, Dog Lane repair and signage, 3rd Reading bridge, the Sonning Common Liaison meeting. And I have attended every meeting.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS

DOG LANE RESURFACING & SIGNAGE

I am still awaiting the following from officers:

- 1. Report on outcome of officer visit during the first week of December.
- 2. Copy of letter to residents about future repairs and liability in respect of public mishaps relating to unknown specification. (Draft is with Legal Services.)
- 3. Decision on sign funding.

DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 1 (PART) THE ROSARY, SHEPHERDS GREEN.

I have been invited to comment on this application and seek the views of the PC. The clerk had thought she had emailed to David Bartholomew about the council's thoughts on this. She confirmed that the council had no objections.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

I am advised that my contribution of £500 towards line marking works (dragon's teeth and roundels) from my Councillor Priority Fund 2018/19 has been processed. I would be pleased to offer similar match-funding of £500 for 2019/20.

The parish council expressed their thanks for the £500 to help pay for the new white lining. But confirmed it that not been received as yet.

THIRD READING BRIDGE

As previously reported, the enthusiasm of Berkshire councils for this project is undimmed. I will be attending another Reading Area Transport Forum on 20th March and the bridge is an agenda item. Independently of Oxfordshire councils, Berkshire commissioned further work to support the 'business case' and I hope to get an update. The work is being conducted on a pro bono basis by consultants hoping to move the project forward. Reading asked SODC to 'safeguard' the proposed site of the bridge in the SODC local plan, but this has been refused on the basis of lack of detail and certainty the project will proceed. OCC supports the refusal.

TOWN AND PARISH LIAISON EVENT THURSDAY 17TH JANUARY 2019

This event was well attended and a report on this and similar meetings throughout the county will be issued shortly.

4/19 South Oxfordshire District Councillor's Report

I would like to start by saying I have been coming to these meetings for last 14 years off and on and at my last meeting I got a cushion.

The Gladman proposed development, this side of Emmer Green, went the appeal was refused. It was seen as 'Reading Spreading'.

Draft Local plan – there was a possibility of 3 additional developments were put forward but we are focusing on developments to the centre of the county. So these were refused.

The pavements in the village were discussed and CIL payments. Please see item 023/19 for more detail.

Street lighting within Highlands Park are causing a great deal of light pollution. This was not in the planning permission. Cllr Richard Ovey produced a photograph which shows excessive lighting at 10pm. An objection needs to be pursed. This would be followed up.

A question about Greys Meadow – the track has been granted but was that permanent? When the building is complete, the artist studio, this track should be removed. The clerk will then be in contact with a planning/enforcement officer to check this has been done.

Both Davids were thanked for their attendance during the year. David Nimmo-Smith was wished well for the future.

5/19 War Memorial Annual Report

Mr. Chris Green (the caretaker) kindly attended and asked if there were any questions. He also asked if the parish council were happy with his work. The parish council is more than happy and thanked him for his work. Any suggestions? None, the work done was of a high standard and the parish council was very happy.

It was suggested signs be put out to stop lorries turning there. There was some discussion about this. But no decision.

Litter? Not on the War Memorial side but some on other side.

The overhanging branch? It had not been noticed. Mr. Green will check and report back.

6/19 Parish Roads Report Cllr. Michael Pearey PARISH ROADS

We continue to press for improvements to Parish Roads and Signage. Work has continued in filling in potholes and some white lining and other road markings. We are still waiting for the promised white lining to the sides of the road passing through Rotherfield Greys village itself. We are told that this will be carried out when the weather improves. Some of the white lining carried out to date was financed by the community investment levy payment which is a levy on new properties built in the Parish. Dog Lane has been re-surfaced

Recently one of the new village gates at Bolts Cross was demolished by a vehicle but the gate will be reinstated as soon as possible.

Areas remaining of concern are-:

The sharp bend at the foot of the hill up to Rotherfield Greys beside the Rocky Lane junction. The camber of the road, the tightness of the bend, drainage and inadequate signage need to be dealt with.

The lack of any footpath and/or bollards in the village itself remain outstanding.

Drainage on some parts of parish roads needs attention.

The chevron sign at Broadplat still need to be put back as sight lines are restricted.

The given way sign has been put back (again at Broadplat junction).

7/19 Henley Municipal Charities Annual Report

Louise Lloyd – Rotherfield Greys parish council representative provided a report which will be on the website and with these minutes.

8/19 Village Hall Annual Report Cllr. Nick Digby Village Hall Committee Report 2018-19

Chair Rae Ward reported to the AGM on 27th February 2019 on the past year. Joan and Rae Holmes retired at the end of July 2018, moving to a house in Henley. After a recruitment process new caretakers Jess and Dan were appointed. Nightingales was extensively redecorated prior to them moving in and they have since re-landscaped the garden that had been seriously neglected and a new garage has replaced the old rotten one.

There is now a Hall website to direct enquiries to Jess, which has been a success so far.

The car park was resurfaced as large puddles were forming in wet weather, particularly where the cars turn in and out of the car park.

The hall continues to be busy with booking of classes and groups during the week with occasional bookings for weekend parties and one off events.

Income looks to be on course to match the last full years' accounts and even after spending £11,000 on the refurbishment of Nightingales there is a £75,000 contingency fund in hand.

Plans are in hand to install Wi-Fi at the hall, bringing the valuable village amenity into the 21st century.

Question: Who owns the Village hall? The village hall committee is a registered charity and owns the hall.

9/19 Chiltern Society Annual Report

Jane Warren – Chiltern Society representative for Rotherfield Greys provided a report which will be on the website and with these minutes.

Also is the Annual Chiltern Society South Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers report 2019.

10/19 The Greys Women's Institute Annual Report Merryl Roberts

I think this is the first time that a representative of the WI has been invited to APM so have no idea what to expect. Founded in 1920 and so for the last 100 years, was part and parcel of this parish. Going through the archives showed we promoted better drainage, a bus service, telephone box and access to doctors and a host of other projects.

We would like the community to celebrate the centenary next year with us. Any feelings on this? As this was a new idea, the council would think on this. We would like to have a community event. We would be happy to support you.

The church has agreed to support too.

The surrounding villages like Bix, Highmoor and Nettlebed now have no WI whilst Greys has 19 members.

Lady Brummer was the National president and chairman for the Greys group.

The Elizabeth Room was suggested for an exhibition of a hundred year of the WI. This was confirmed as a community hall (funded by the SODC) and although next to the church is not a religious building. The WI is a non-religious and a non-political group.

Merryl confirmed that her email address was with the clerk and was more than willing to receive emails from the council. An open invitation to come to any future meetings was given.

The meetings are held on 3rd Wednesday in the month at 2.30pm.

11/19 The Rotherfield Greys Village Phone Kiosk Restoration Committee Annual Report

Update on the restoration of the Rotherfield Greys Telephone Box Progress between July 2018 and October 2018

We cleared around the base of the phone box and laid some paving slabs to make the area look smarter and provide a hard level surface for people to access the box.

We then removed the old polycarbonate panes which had gone opaque and the original cracked glass panes leaving the intact glass panes in place.

We also started scraping the many layers of paint off the outside of the box. (As it is lead paint and the telephone box is very near the road through Rotherfield Greys village, we have to put out cones and signage to slow traffic down and wear high visibility jackets and masks and goggles to keep us safe when working).

Over the summer we made good progress and scraped off a lot of the paint but getting all of it off will take a while as there are many layers. The hot weather we experienced this year made this work harder and limited the amount of time we could spend scraping. However, before it got cold and wet we applied a coat of primer to the hard wood door and the bare metal where we had removed the paint.

November 2018 - February 2019

In November we wrapped up the telephone box in plastic to protect it from the winter weather and we will start work on restoring it again in the spring. We still need to scrape off the rest of the paint, apply a primer, undercoat and the red top coat and then put in the new glass.

The phone box was decorated for Christmas 2018

Our future plans

Once we have restored the outside of the box we will start on the inside. The telephone box is in quite a dangerous position on the edge of the road through Rotherfield Greys village so we have decided that it would be safer not to use it in a way that would attract large groups of people. We therefore propose to produce a leaflet which we will display in the phone box that will tell villagers and visitors about the history of the village and provide information on local facilities and walks. We will use this to direct people to the Well Head which is the building opposite the telephone box and church. We intend to use lockable wooden display cases in this building to display art produced by pupils from Peppard Primary School and historical photographs of the village. Rotherfield Greys Parish Council have applied for grant funding to buy the display cases.

The Well Head at Rotherfield Greys

We have also been busy fund raising. Early in 2018 we visited businesses at Greys Green Farm, many of whom gave us with contributions towards the restoration of the telephone box. We have also received generous donations from Rotherfield Greys Parish Council, Rotherfield Greys Fete Committee, Rotherfield Greys Cricket Club, Greys Green Golf Club and numerous people who have kindly put money in the jar on the bar at The Maltsters Public House. With all these donations we currently have a total of £1,120. Much of this will be spent on buying the new glass and cast iron frames which hold the glass in, as well as the paint and other materials needed for stripping and redecorating the box. Any money left over will be used to print the information leaflet to go inside the box and help towards buying the display boards for the Well Head.

Finances

Donations (as at 03/03/19)
Jar at the bar and village donations
Cash from jar in Maltsters PH - £175
R. & G.M. Ovey - £50
Anonymous donation - £200
J R Hill & Sons Welding & Fabrication Engineers - £20

Greys Green Farm businesses

Ella's Kitchen - £150 Hennell Vehicle Services - £15 Knox & Eames Chartered Accountants - £15 Bruton Charles Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors - £15

Village organisations

Greys Green Golf Club - £30 Rotherfield Grey Parish Council - £50 Greys Green Cricket Club - £50 Rotherfield Greys Fete Committee - £350

Total: £1,120

Question: Future use was more to direct visitors to the well housing?

Maybe put excessive vegetable produce be put in the well housing?

A mini art gallery with pictures drawn by Peppard primary school pupils. But warn people to take care going to/into the phone box from the Well head as a start to Greys trail. And maybe be part of the Arts Trail. Walks and points of interest in the village. And a vegetable exchange. Any other ideas please contact the clerk.

FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

014/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

015/19 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

None

016/19 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (14/01/2019):

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

017/19 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

Please see above in the annual parish section of the meeting.

018/19 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:

Please see above in the annual parish section of the meeting.

019/19 CLERK'S REPORT

I attended two Neighbourhood Planning meetings at the Henley Town Hall for a cross parish and District Council discussion. Susan Hems attended with me on the second meeting. This is detailed on agenda item 023/19.

I had lunch with the Guardian of the Natural Burial Ground to discuss the footpath next to the church. As this has been newly fenced in, dogs were now not creating their mess in the field but along the footpath. Visitors to the ground go this way and generally for everyone it is rather horrid. There were several piles and this had been cleared only a month before. May I suggest a sign first and if that does not make dog owners clean up – maybe a dog bin? There was a query about seeking permission for this – the clerk will check.

The occasional damage to the padlock at the burial ground has stopped.

I inspected the destroyed village gate at Bolt's Cross parking at the layby and walking to it -I collected 2 heavy bags of rubbish. This was mostly builder's rubbish. There is nothing worth salvaging from the gate and it will be replaced.

I have been promoting the Greys WI in my other parish of Bix & Assendon and they now have two new members from Middle Assendon.

The clerk had emailed AF Jones again to get the padstones at the bus shelter replaced. No reply.

020/19 PARISH ROADS

See annual report above.

021/19 MISCELLANEOUS:

a) Correspondence

Email from a company called Images by Hand. They produce hand drawn maps which allows them to be copyright free at a cost of £500 with 3 years free updates and includes an electronic version for the website and one for a noticeboard. Ordnance Survey maps cost the same but you have to 'rent' them at £50 a year. No updates and no electronic version unless you pay for each. The quality looked very good and very charming. The council would discuss this further at the next meeting.

Wall to Wall television company (who make 'Who do you think you are' and other programmes for BBC2) are requesting parish families (with minimum of 2 children) involvement for a 'Back in Time' programme. Any outdoor scenes will generate income for the parish council. Permission to put on GAG? This was agreed. There is a poster too for the noticeboards. Doing old crafts is the focus for the programme and a history in the countryside and village life.

A thank you card for the parish council donation from the Royal British Legion. Also included is a brochure of events for 2019.

SODC CIL payments team have requested that a minuted reference is made that the parish council wish to receive the money and do not wish the Council to retain these monies on your behalf. It was agreed by council to have the CIL money and not SODC to retain.

TIME SET ASIDE FOR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The silver birch tree that was planted on Armistice Day last year is too close to the road and it was requested to be moved back. It was agreed to move it. And a field maple also needs cutting back.

022/19 PLANNING/ENFOREMENT

a) Applications to be considered

P19/S0667/HH

Lambridge Wood House, Lambridge Hill near Bix RG9 4RZ

Two storey extension.

RGPC response required by 29.3.19

b) Planning responses

P18/S4125/FUL & P18/S4126/LB - Amendment no. 1

New Farm Road from Gravel Hill to Broadplat House, Badgemore RG9 4NX

Conversion of existing curtilage listed Cookery School and adjacent stable to new residential Annexe.

RGPC response NO OBJECTIONS

SODC decision GRANTED but not clear if this for the amendment.

.....

P18/S3417/FUL - Amendment No. 1

School Cottages, Greys Green RG9 4QG

Two new semi-detached dwellings with parking to serve the existing and new dwellings on the site. (Amended plans received 22 February 2019, showing revised design of the dwellings).

RGPC response - NO OBJECTIONS

As this has been amended – the decision date has not been updated for the website.

.....

P19/S0161/FUL

Pinfold, Greys Green RG9 4QG

Erection of two two-storey 5-bedroom dwellings

Rotherfield Greys parish council OBJECTS to the application with the following comments: 'Plot 1 is overdevelopment with little amenity space for a 5 bedroom house and suggest a smaller house there or one 5 bedroom house on the plot instead of two. The parking provision for two 5 bedroom houses seem to be lacking. The single lane track would not allow parking and if used would block the track to traffic.

SODC Target Decision Date: 19th March 2019

There is CIL liability of this development

c) Planning decisions

P18/S4269/FUL

The Strip, Shepherds Green RG9 4QW "Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission P17/S3894/FUL to increase the new dwelling's size and add a fourth bedroom.

- 1. Alterations to existing private dwelling including demolitions.
- 2. Construction of new private dwelling within existing residential curtilage.

RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC decision - GRANTED

......

P18/S3727/HH

Old Post Office, Shepherds Green, Rotherfield Greys RG9 4QL Single storey extension to dwelling

RGPC response NO OBJECTIONS SODC Decision - GRANTED

.....

P18/S4125/FUL & P18/S4126/LB

New Farm Road from Gravel Hill to Broadplat House, Badgemore RG9 4NX

Conversion of existing curtilage listed Cookery School and adjacent stable to new residential Annexe.

RGPC response NO OBJECTIONS

SODC decision - GRANTED

.....

P18/S2253/FUL & P18/S3709/AG

Greys Meadow – the first application is removal of condition 7 as to driveway to new barn/artist studio across National Trust land. The second is a statement of need for an apple store building.

RGPC – Objections with comment: Condition 7 should not be removed. Control of access must be retained as access should be for pastoral reasons only

SODC Decision - GRANTED

.....

P18/S2191/HH

Lambridge Wood Farm, Bix RG9 4RZ

Roof conversion and extension to the Old Stables. Rear extension to existing garage to provide additional storage.

RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC Decision - GRANTED

023/19 HTC NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING MEETING - SUMMARY

The Henley Standard article (1st February) was well written and although the money was refused at the present time, some councillors were sympathetic. It was suggested to do a head count of pedestrians and then come back. Also suggested a church car park as the car parking was appalling and would use any new pavements as parking space.

Doing a head count would be probably best carried out in summer. The clerk had loads of willing volunteers for this.

The transcript of the article dated 1st February 2019:

Headline: Village worried about extra traffic refused cash for pavements By Jamie Presland

A rural village has been refused a request for £65,000 to install pavements as residents fear an increase in traffic.

Rotherfield Parish Council wanted a share of the money that Henley and Harpsden will receive from developers under the Community Infrastructure Levy.

But Henley Town Council's neighbourhood plan committee said the work was not a priority. Housebuilder Crest Nicholson is due to pay £584,000 by 2021 under the levy in return for being granted planning permission for 163 homes at the Highlands Park development off Greys Road, Henley.

The money is designed to mitigate the effects of development by funding infrastructure improvements.

Residents of Rotherfield Greys are concerned that the development will lead to more traffic travelling through the village.

Parish council chairwoman Susan Hems and clerk Jane Pryce formally requested money at a meeting of the committee.

They said there are no pavements or street lights in the village and the extra traffic could put villagers and visitors at risk when on foot.

The 65m of pavement would be outside houses north of the Maltsters Arms pub and opposite St. Nicholas's Church. Councillor Hems said: "Two pavements will be extremely useful as we are likely to get more traffic because of the development. We have schoolchildren waiting for buses and four groups of houses all of whom have to get about the village. We have walkers coming through and church-goers. We need pavements to add protection going through here."

Mrs. Pryce said: "We don't want street lighting but pavements to help people as they go round the village. We want to create two pavements which have to be a certain width for mobility scooters".

Committee chairman Ken Arlett said he was concerned the pavement could be blocked by the amount of parked cars, especially during church services.

He said: "When the church is fairly full and you've got cars parked outside there's nowhere to walk down there. You are sending people to the other side where they will have to walk on the road".

Committee member David Whitehead add: "It might well cause more problems than it solves. You are going to displace cars from the parking area. The whole area is filled up with cars on many occasions, it's not just church services".

Patrick Fleming, of environmental campaign group Henley in Transition, said: "People are creatures of habit – aren't they going to use this pathway for parking? You could have a church car park as part of this scheme, it gives more justification for this scheme".

Kester George, chairman of Harpsden Parish Council, said that while he had sympathy for the request, the committee had agreed to prioritise three areas for CIL funding, Gillots Lane, Valley Road and Sheeplands Farm.

He said: "We have a solid agreement that we don't spend any of our CIL money until we know the costs of the three priorities.

"Both Rotherfield Greys and Greys Road are secondary priorities, things we want to be spending that money on. It would be easier if you could pay half of it yourselves because it's going to take several months before we know where we are. In principle we would like to help you".

Committee member Jackie Walker suggested that the parish council asks Oxfordshire County Council, the highways authority, for funding. She said: "If there are other reasons to have pavements, for safety or traffic coming through, is there any reason this money can't be sought from the county council? Pavements do slow traffic down".

Cllr Arlett added: "There's always lots of people after this pot of gold and it's picking the right one. But one casualty is one casualty too many. At the end of the day you wouldn't like to see someone injured there".

END OF ARTICLE

Then there was a 'what do you think?' There were no letters the following weeks.

025/19 FINANCE

a) Donations/Subs:

CFO annual subscription £35 OALC annual subscription £138.97

b) Accounts to pay:

Jane Pryce

Clerk's salary	£294.66
Office rent	£ 41.68
PC expenses – replacement USB	£ 8.00
Total for cheque	£344.34

c) Payments received

Bank interest £4.50 Bank Balance £ 9,938.51

The budget 2019/20 was not signed at the January meeting. This was done.

026/19 Matters arising for information only

Updated **USB** stick handed to ND. And previous one returned. This forms a risk assessment process of off-site backup.

Litter pick 24th March. The clerk has put out details of this on GAG on 10th March for two weeks' notice.

Quotes for a new noticeboard were proving difficult as most companies not interested in a tailor made product being manufactured.

Cllr. Nick Digby had attended the Sonning Common Liaison event in January. There were some aspects of this event that may of use/interest to the parish. It was agreed that a report for the next meeting be made.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.12 PM

Next meeting – 20th May 2019

This meeting is the Annual Parish 'Electors' Council Meeting.