

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2019
IN GREYS VILLAGE HALL, GREYS GREEN**

PRESENT:

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

Members of the public/parishioners present for part/all of the meeting	0
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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

66/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Lorriane Hillier emailed her apologies.

067/19 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

None

068/19 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM 9th SEPTEMBER 2019

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

069/19 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

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

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS

DOG LANE RESTRICTED BYWAY SIGNAGE

The new sign was initially erected on the existing post parallel to the highway rather than perpendicularly, reducing the likelihood of it being seen. I asked officers to see what could be done to improve the situation. The sign has now been repositioned and I have received a note of thanks from a resident.

WHITE LINING AT THE MALTSTERS BEND

Previously, there were no road centre white lines here, but there were white lines at the edges. Subsequent to the surface dressing and re-lining the situation has been reversed. I brought this to the attention of officers and the lines at the edges have now been reinstated but they advised

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that reverting the centre back to the previous arrangement would damage the road surface so it will be left as it is.

THIRD READING BRIDGE

I successfully moved a motion in relation to this matter at OCC Full Council on Tuesday 10th September and SODC Full Council on Thursday 10th October. As a consequence, the Leaders of both councils have written to council leaders at Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell, plus MPs John Howell, John Redwood, Matt Rodda and Theresa May, stating that:

- a) In the context of the Climate Emergency a car-based solution to a car-based problem that would pour thousands of cars and HGVs into Oxfordshire is totally inappropriate and should a new bridge be built it should be restricted to public transport, cyclists and pedestrians;
- b) Notwithstanding the above, if a car-based solution is pursued, the bridge and necessary mitigation measures (i.e. improvements to the Oxfordshire road network) must not be considered as two separate projects, but as one project so that the benefits, disadvantages and costs of the scheme can be holistically assessed.

A ‘Summit Meeting’ of MPs, leaders, other key councillors (including me) and officers, met on Friday 18th October to review the project. Despite my best efforts, the project protagonists refuse to engage with option a) and continue to deflect questions about mitigation measures saying this will be dealt with via ‘traffic calming’ and is for discussion at a later date. I have stated that such vague assertions are not acceptable from Oxfordshire’s perspective. It was announced the Berkshire parties have applied for £800k to fund the development of the Outline Business Case; local councils will have to contribute an additional £120k. There will be another ‘Summit Meeting’ in March, meanwhile officers from the various authorities will meet to suggest next steps.

Parish council chairman’s in my division have been contacted to suggest they get together to discuss a joint decision and it is becoming urgent. Although Sonning Eye & Dudsen was going to hold a meeting, it seems likely that Sonning Common will now.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

Subject to Highways agreement, I offered to support signage changes at Broadplat and Satwell (I have offered match-funding of £500 for 2019/20 for Highways works). I would be grateful for an update on progress.

Cllr David Bartholomew agreed the OCC Highways grant to be £1,000

070/19 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:

This SODC report can be found on the website.

South Oxfordshire’s Local Plan 2034

Following the Secretary of State’s intervention on 9 October, Council was unable to take a decision on the Local Plan 2034 at the Full Council meeting on 10 October. Accordingly, the Local Plan 2034 is now in abeyance and carries no weight in planning decisions.

Officers from SODC have had a series of meetings with officers from MHCLG and we now understand that a decision on the draft Local Plan will not be made until after the general election on 12 December. Last month, OCC signed off on the £218m Housing Infrastructure Fund money, funds that are earmarked for road upgrades in the Didcot area. The decision on whether to release the funds is now with Homes England.

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Climate Emergency

The previous Council administration declared a climate emergency in April.

Following this, the new administration established a cross-party Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, chaired by Cllr Sue Roberts, with the aim of devising and implementing an ambitious and wide-ranging response to this crisis. Council unanimously approved a motion to aim to reduce the Council's own carbon emissions to net zero by 2025 and the District's emissions to net zero by 2030. Officers, working alongside members of the CEAC, are in the process of compiling a comprehensive and ambitious work programme detailing areas for change in seven broad categories:

- Council business
- Partnership
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Transport
- Biodiversity
- Behaviour change

A key area of focus in point 7 is engaging with community groups and engaging stakeholders in the decision-making process. Parish Councils will be a central part of this consultative process.

Councillor Grants

We have been delighted at the uptake for our individual grants. These pots of money can help in so many ways around our parishes. We are helping fund a community bus service, a club room kitchen, village hall defibrillator, SID machine, Bus stop accessibility and a tree planting scheme. We have had such a response that we have had to think carefully how to distribute this so that all who have applied can benefit. In some cases we have not been able to grant quite the amounts requested, but hopefully sufficient to make these projects happen. We both feel strongly that these grants are hugely beneficial to our communities.

Cllr Jo Robb confirmed that the Rotherfield Greys parish council grant for the defibrillator had been accepted and awarded the full amount.

She was thanked for this.

Capital Grants Scheme

The Capital Grants Scheme is now open and larger sums of money are available for projects which support community facilities and initiatives that improve the health, wellbeing and quality of life for residents and which contribute towards the council's. You can apply online. The closing date for applications will be midday on Monday 2 December 2019 and decisions will be made by end of March 2020.

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants-and-community-loans/capital-grants>

Homelessness & rough sleeping consultation

The draft Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 has been published online. The Council is seeking views on the aims and objectives within this document and welcome all

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contributions with the purpose of preventing or relieving homelessness. The deadline for completing the survey is 5pm on Monday 25th November 2019. Responses can be made as individuals, organisations, business or Councillors.

Extra help from the waste team

Residents across South Oxfordshire who have signed up for the brown bin collections can put out TWICE as much garden waste during garden waste weeks this month. Week commencing 18th November residents may leave the extra garden waste out in bin liners or sacks beside the brown bins on the usual collection days. The recycled garden waste goes to local farms for compost.

Greys Meadow

Clive Hemsley was invited to submit a respective planning application for the studio and extra outbuilding by the 31st October which he did not. It is now with enforcement and drainage experts are checking the impact of the basement and also tree experts, the damage to trees and the displacement of large amounts of soil onto the surrounding area. We are seeking to enforce. This does take a long time.

The Lamb, Satwell

A site visit did not show evidence of occupation so it was decided not pursue it. The matter remains with enforcement who will continue to monitor the situation.

Highlands park street lighting

A schedule of lighting was needed. The lights went up and no schedule had been agreed. They are in breach of planning. Enforcement has been started.

Travellers on Peppard Top Common

This situation was dealt with quickly and they moved on to an approved site within the day.

Highlands Farm – new planning application

The re-surfacing of a footpath with tarmac has been stopped. But this would be checked.

071/19 CLERK'S REPORT

The Homeless and Rough Sleeping consultation was completed by accident before the majority of questions were answered.

The 'clear up after your dog' signs have not been received. A sign without a bin was requested to be purchased. The clerk was asked to seek permission from land owner (Ms. Hood) to put up 'clear up after your dog'. Permission refused.

Ken Jones (of AF Jones Stonemasons) about the pad-stones at the **bus shelter**/well housing. It was suggest a preservation instead to be used. We have a £500 SODC grant for this. The cost is for two visits to apply a 'Shelter coating' – cost £345 net £414.00 gross (VAT £69.00). This was agreed.

The Rotherfield Greys village phone box needs new glass and the parish council agreed to donate this.

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I have asked for a SODC grant for the full amount of the defibrillator but seems it might fall short of the full amount. And the electric connection (about £300) will be on top. Greys WI want to donate £100.

There used to be a wooden sign near the village hall for the winner of the 'best kept village'. That is now missing - was put out in the 1970s. The Greys WI want to have a new one made. The council did not agree to this as it would involve an extra asset to look after and insure.

072/19 PARISH ROADS

The hedges by Badgemoor had been cut back. Broken window mirrors that been reported due the overhang.

Highway signs at Broadplat (to be moved back) and Shepherds Green sign (to be moved to where Shepherds Green is) has been in discussion with Highways. Snaps from Google Earth had been used to fix the new locations and a Highways officer was going to walk the area to work out the best placement. This forms part of the OCC Highways grant. But the clerk had heard nothing since.

073/19 HENLEY MUNICIPAL CHARITIES – PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

There has been a delay in the selection progress and a few people's names were suggested as an alternative. The clerk would contact them and see if there was an interest. The clerk has the role's description and details duties involved.

073/19 MISCELLANEOUS:

a) Correspondence

RGPC – thank you for the £800 donation

SCAC – thank you for £150 donation

Royal British Legion – thank you for £100 donation

SSAF The Armed Forces Charity – 75 years VE day 8-10th May – the information of the events were looked at and would be discussed at a later meeting.

SODC waste/recycling – Christmas tree recycling – was there an area that could be used for leaving trees to be collected for composting? The deadline has passed for responding but maybe next year? There was no area suitable. A Christmas tree can still be left next to the brown bin (but cut down to under 6ft).

b) Footpath report

The footpath report was not available this time.

TIME SET ASIDE FOR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A defibrillator has been suggested for the village hall. It was decided it would be a good use of the SODC grant. Applied for and is granted.

And a new noticeboard for the village hall was discussed. ND will discuss the defibrillator and the noticeboard with the village hall committee. The existing noticeboard was found to be a bit wobbly and looking scruffy.

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074/19 PLANNING/ENFORCEMENT

a) Applications to be considered

P19/S2646/FUL Amendment No. 1

Highlands Farm, Highlands Lane near Rotherfield Greys RG9 4PR

Full planning permission for a variation of housing mix at Highlands Farm (as consented under P17/S0024/RM), comprising the substitution of 85 dwellings in the central and south-western parts of the site with 113 dwellings; a net increase of 28 dwellings with 40% affordable housing maintained across the site, along with footpath connection (as amended to alter the route of the proposed footway off Highlands Lane and to provide minor adjustments to the development layout)

RGPC response required by 18.11.19

b) Planning responses

P19/S3061/FUL

National Trust, Greys Court near Greys Green RG9 4PG

Installation of 'package' secondary treatment plant to the existing wastewater system - to sit between existing primary settlement tanks and drainage field.

RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC Target Decision Date 27th November 2019

P19/S3204/HH

Greenmarsh Cottage Road Running South West From Junction with Track Leading To Bix RG9 4RY

Erection of 2-storey side and rear extensions.

RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC Target Decision Date 6th December 2019

P19/S2646/FUL

Highlands Farm, Highlands Lane near Rotherfield Greys RG9 4PR

A variation of housing mix at Highlands Farm (as consented under P17/S0024/RM), comprising the substitution of 85 dwellings in the central and south-western parts of the site with 113 dwellings; a net increase of 28 dwellings with 40% affordable housing maintained across the site, along with footpath connection.

RGPC response OBJECTS with following comments:

“Overdevelopment of site. More undesirable vehicle movement into village road. Three storey height unwelcome in ANOB. “

“Wood cladding is inappropriate and too high for maintenance for ‘affordable’ housing. Height increase, with rooms into roofing is unacceptable as houses will then be widely visible in AONB. Thus spoiling the look of our village. Street lighting is currently out of keeping with village setting and causing light pollution. All should be refused.”

“Remain opposed to the overdevelopment of the site and the increased traffic generated through Rotherfield Greys. The increase to 191 units will increase traffic movements further.”

The drawing plans were received late and an extension of week was given for response.

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P19/S1839/FUL

Badgemore Park Golf Club, Badgemore RG9 4NR
Upgrade an existing vehicular access to public highway together with replacement entrance gate
RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS but the response date was missed
SODC Target Decision Date 8th August 2019

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P19/S2047/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 Target Decision Date 22nd August 2019

c) Planning decisions

P19/S2441/HH

Holly Dell, Satwell Close, Satwell RG9 4QT
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single-storey side and rear extensions
RGPC response due 5.9.19
Although the plans/response sheet were missing the response was NO OBJECTIONS. The clerk confirmed she will submit this.
SODC GRANTED

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P19/S2405/FUL

Grange Farm Road, from Gravel Hill To Broadplat House, Badgemore RG9 4NZ
Change of Use of Part of Agricultural Building to B1 Offices
RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS
SODC GRANTED

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P19/S1468/HH

The Rosary, Shepherds Green, Rotherfield Greys RG9 4QL
Extensions at first and ground floor to increase first floor bathroom size and ground floor utility spaces.
RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS
SODC GRANTED

075/19 FINANCE

a) Donations/Subs:

None

b) Accounts to pay:

Jane Pryce

Clerk's salary (Oct/Nov)	£294.66
Office rent	£ 41.68
Website renewal (.co.uk)	£ 23.98
Total for cheque	£358.22

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OALC

Website accessibility for new regulations. £60.00 (VAT £10)

c) Payments received

Bank interest £0

CIL payment £4,979.52

Bank Balance £22,061.54

ND would like to become a signatory for cheques. The clerk issue a mandate form for him.

076/19 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - PROPOSALS

For 2019/20 £9,959.04

For 2018/19 £2,489.76

Total: £12,448.80

The 2018/19 CIL of £1,046.37 was spent on the white lining in parish. This leaves £1,443.39 from the 2018/19 payment.

A SODC grant of £500 was received for the new noticeboard in bus shelter so total net payment was £1,675.00. This was deemed a community access so CIL monies can be used.

The 2018/19 CIL monies are now spent and leaves the 2019/20 total as £9,727.43

Village gates between Rocky Lane junction and War memorial has been put forward to mark change of speed limit to 30mph. Awaiting quote. There is an OCC Highways grant available £1,000 in conjunction with the signs being re-positioned.

Just received – £4,979.52 second CIL payment relating to Badgemoor development.

The total CIL money available for any highways/community improvements is now £9,727.43

War Memorial site – double kerbing was suggested. Lorries, in particular, are cutting off the corner. The clerk was requested to pursue/cost this.

077/19 NEXT YEAR'S MEETING DATES

All meetings are on a Monday at 7.30pm at the village hall.

20th January 2020

9th March 2020

11th May 2020

13th July 2020

14th September 2020

9th November 2020

078/19 MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The external structures inspection log has been completed and the clerk thanked the councillors.

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An updated USB stick backup of council business was given to the chairman. The spare has been mislaid and when it turns up this will be swapped for the previous update. This forms an offsite backup.

War memorial damage log:

Cllr. John Hill has just replaced 1 post and repositioned 1, the traffic is seriously damaging the verge all around the Memorial now, and the Council will soon have to consider curbing all the side of it. The cracks in the road show where the existing verge was and is obvious to see.

We now have 2 replacement posts left.

It was decided to investigate a charity to donate to for Homelessness in next year's budget 2020/21.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.55 PM

Next meeting – 20th January 2020