

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020 7.30PM 2020 VIA ZOOM**

**PRESENT:**

Susan Hems (Vice-Chairman)	SH
Nick Digby (Chairman)	ND
Michael Pearey	MP
Richard Ovey	RO
John Hill	JH
<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	2
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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](http://www.rotherfieldgreys.org.uk)**

**044/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**045/20 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:**

None

**046/20 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020**

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

The clerk will be bringing the July minutes to ND on Tuesday to sign.

**047/20 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:**

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

Subjects:

**SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND CHILDCARE PROVIDERS WELCOME CHILDREN BACK**

**BRAKES COULD BE APPLIED TO OXFORD'S LOCKDOWN EMERGENCE AS COVID CASES RISE**

**REPORT INTO OXFORDSHIRE COUNCILS REORGANISATION**

**SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS**

**READING TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2036 (INCLUDING THIRD READING BRIDGE)**

I emailed all clerks in my Division on 17th May to advise that Reading was consulting on its Transport Strategy 2036. Several proposals would have major impacts on South Oxfordshire. I urged all parish councils in my Division to respond to the consultation and am delighted that most have, either individually or as part of a cooperative effort led by Kidmore End PC.

OCC and SODC have also submitted their responses.

OCC states:

“We are opposed to the Plan in its present form, as we do not agree with the proposed schemes and measures it includes for cross boundary travel between Reading and Oxfordshire. We are particularly concerned about the approach proposed to developing large-scale ‘multi-modal schemes’ to the north of Reading, in particular the proposed Thames Crossing, Reading Orbital Route and North of Reading Park & Ride sites.”

The full response is available on the OCC website here:

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/response-to-readings-local-transport-plan/>

SODC states:

“We are particularly concerned about the approach proposed to developing large-scale ‘multi-modal schemes’ to the north of Reading, in particular the proposed Thames Crossing, Reading Orbital Route and North Reading Park and Rides. We believe that development and delivery of these major schemes is inconsistent with the objectives and many of the policies of the plan, they will not be effective in managing cross-boundary travel movements, and are likely to have significant negative impacts on South Oxfordshire.”

#### **MISSING RESTRICTED BYWAY SIGN AT DOG LANE**

On 5 August a resident reported the ‘Restricted Byway’ sign had been removed. I reported this to officers and am pleased to report that the sign was replaced within a week.

Area opposite church to be improved – this has been escalated to DB last meeting. DB asked for this to be emailed again to OCC Highways. The subject on the email may have confused the two projects (the other being the village gateways).

#### **048/20 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:**

This SODC report can be found on the website and attached to the minutes.

Subjects:

Local Plan Examination in Public  
Reading Transport Strategy Consultation  
Changes to “Use Class Order Groups”  
Planning White Paper  
Local Government Reorganisation (aka Devolution)  
Grant funding

Local Issues:

There will be a cap put over lights in Highlands Park development but not timed use.

Parking charges in Henley have changed for Saturday

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A question, from the public, was raised re the Leisure Centre at Gillotts. Could we please find out why the full facilities are not yet open, in particular squash courts which are fairly well separated from the rest of the building. I have approached both the District Council and Better/GLL who have unable to respond on this specific point.

JR confirmed she will ask cabinet member for Leisure and then inform the clerk for forwarding the information.

**049/20 CLERK'S REPORT**

I interviewed a prospective councillor to discuss the role. This is in prelude to the resignation of Michael Pearey in March 2021.

A lot of work preparing the Internal Audit 2019/20 and delivering and picking up after, with interview on some minor details at the auditors' offices.

**050/20 PARISH ROADS**

The 30 repeater being obscured by the village gateway was still not moved up to post. Would the clerk put this on FMS and escalated if not done within a month.

**051/20 MISCELLANEOUS:**

**a) Correspondence**

Change of property name from Cherry Trees to Mulberry House, Satwell Close.

Thank you from Sue Ryder for donation.

**b) Footpath report**

The Chiltern Society Representative has not provided a report.

Roger Booker asked if the following footpath problems be put forward to the council, so they are aware these are going to be fixed by him.

There is a footpath (330/15) over my property next to St Nicholas Church in Rotherfield Greys. There is a gate at the end of the Churchyard where one of the posts has rotted and is now falling over meaning the gate will not latch. I plan to replace the post.

The kissing gate from my property to the Hood land (or Woodland Trust?) is too wide and allows animals (sheep/ponies) to exit freely. I plan to change this to narrow the access such that people and dogs etc can pass freely but larger animals cannot.

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

**052/20 PLANNING/ENFORCEMENT**

**a) Current planning/enforcement**

**P20/S2723/FUL**

Greys Meadow Studio, Rotherfield Greys

**P20/S3127 & 8/HH & LB**

Backus, Shepherds Green RG9 4QN

Installation of Stovax Stockton & Stovax 8 Midline solid fuel freestanding

stoves, register plates, twinwall flexible flue pipes, chimney stack clamp & looting plate & reseat pots in lime mortar. Installation of surface mounted CO2 detectors all in compliance with building regulations.

RGPC response required by 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

**b) Planning responses**

**P20/S1855/FUL**

Grange Farm, Road from Gravel Hill to Broadplat House, Badgemore RG9 4NZ  
Change of Use of Farm Buildings to Equine and Veterinary Hospital (relocation of Henley Vets)

RGPC response NO STRONG VIEWS

SODC Target Decision Date 19th August 2020

**P20/S1692/HH**

Bluebells, Rocky Lane, Rotherfield Greys RG9 4RD

Two storey and single storey extensions and alterations to existing house and garage, erection of replacement tractor store.

RGPC - no objections

SODC Target Decision Date 2nd October 2020

**P20/S1838/FUL**

Rocky Lane Orchard, Rocky Lane, Rotherfield Greys RG9 4RE

The construction of a single storey residential dwelling to provide accommodation for an orchard manager.

Rotherfield Greys Parish Council OBJECTS to this application for the following reasons:

As the area is in an AONB and will be viewed by residents and from a public footpath, the building of a dwelling should be REFUSED. The need for a 24/7 manager living on-site is not justified.

SODC Target Decision Date 30th September 2020

**P20/S0782/FUL**

Garden Cottage, Badgemore Park, Gravel Hill RG9 4NR

Reconfiguration of Garden Cottage to provide additional office accommodation; enlargements to provide twenty units of overnight accommodation (net increase of twelve), treatment rooms and staff accommodation.

RGPC OBJECTS to this application with the following comments: Subject to the pre-application advice being monitored by the Local Planning Authority and complied with but generally this is overdevelopment of the site.

This is going to Planning committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 6pm

A written response by ND will be written and submitted to the meeting.

**c) Planning decisions**

**P20/S2055/HH**

Badgemore Park Golf Club, The Bothy, Badgemore RG9 4NR

Demolition of existing extension to west elevation, followed by (i) erection of first floor extension to south elevation and (ii) erection of ground floor extension to north and west elevations.

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RGPC response NO STRONG VIEWS  
SODC GRANTED

**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 GRANTED

**53/20 FINANCE**

**a) Donations:**

Church maintenance fund	£850.00
SCAS	£100.00
Wyfold Riding for disabled	£150.00
The Chiltern Care Centre	£150.00
Chiltern Society Donation	£150.00
The Royal British Legion	£100.00

The donations above were agreed in the budget.

The clerk asked if these cheques could be signed on Tuesday. This was agreed.

**b) Accounts to pay:**

**Jane Pryce**

Clerk's salary (April/May/June/July)	£ 294.66
Office rent	£ 26.00
Parish council expenses:	
Website hosting	£ 187.06
Annual Website renewal	£ 81.86
Defibrillator electric connection	£ 227.57
<b>Total for cheque</b>	<b>£ 807.15</b>

Jefferies Accountancy Services Ltd (for internal audit) £399.00

**c) Payments received**

Bank interest £1.61

Second half Precept £4,007

Bank Balance £ 26,651.09

**054/20 Internal Audit 2019/20**

The audit passed with the following comments:

My wages Oct/Nov 2019 cheque was written 10p less than documented in accounts.

A CAB donation cheque was dated end of March 2020 when it should have been 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

Risk Assessment document sometimes blank on certain fields (for example: Action). This was, sometimes, too obvious to document. As in advice to wear Hi-viz jacket (to avoid a car hitting you)?

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The audit paperwork has been submitted to the external auditors Moore Stephens.

**055/20 MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

An updated USB stick backup of council business will be given to the chairman later and swapped for the last one used. This forms an offsite backup.

Noticeboard refurbishment at the Greys village hall was agreed. Dan Catlin has been requested to do this.

NB had a meeting with the MP John Howell regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge and RBC transport strategy. The lack of funding for any of the RBC proposals would seriously hamper this.

**War memorial damage log:** Due to problems with audio, this would be related to the clerk tomorrow.

Future CIL payments were requested to be kept by SODC to avoid bank balance (income or expenditure) being over £25,000 which triggers an external (expensive) audit.

There was discussion about the pavement in the village and whether a joint funding with Highways could be sought? The clerk was asked to look into this.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.25PM

Next meeting – 7.30pm 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020