

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL 'ELECTORS' MEETING  
HELD ON 13TH JULY 2020 7.30PM 2020 VIA ZOOM**

**PRESENT:**

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

Members of the public/parishioners present for part/all of the meeting	2
--	---

**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)**

**027/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. John Hill was unable to attend.

**028/20 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:**

None

**029/20 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020**

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

**030/20 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:**

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

**SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS**

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

I emailed all clerks in my Division on 17th May to let you know that Reading is now consulting on its Transport Strategy 2036. Several proposals would have major impacts on South Oxfordshire including:

- North Reading Orbital Route (p97)
- A Third Thames crossing (see p98)
- North Reading Park and Rides (p111)

The consultation closes on 30 August and I urge you to respond here:

<https://consult.reading.gov.uk/dens/reading-transport-strategy-2036/>

In addition, you may also wish to email the Leader of OCC [ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Lastly, you will know a joint parish response is being coordinated by Kidmore End PC.

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL 'ELECTORS' MEETING  
HELD ON 13TH JULY 2020 7.30PM 2020 VIA ZOOM**

ND confirmed he has attended the Zoom meeting yesterday hosted by Kidmore End. There will be response from this council.

A parishioner, although in support of a 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge to link up to the M40, he had concerns about the 'Northern Orbit Route' that had been mentioned. It was asked the clerk forward the details of this to him.

**ADVERTISING SIGN AT GREYS GREEN INDUSTRIAL PARK**

Subsequent to emails from the parish clerk and Cllr Pearey, I requested photographs and investigated the matter. As the sign is not on public land, it is a planning matter for SODC, not a Highways matter for OCC. I understand District Councillor Jo Robb is pursuing the issue.

**COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND: VILLAGE GATES**

I agreed to contribute 2 x £500 from my Councillor Priority Fund towards these and would be grateful for confirmation the work has been satisfactorily completed.

The clerk was asked to forward the request for this work to be done to him.

Grass height at Broadplat junction was asked to be cut as impeding sightline. The clerk was requested to forward the FMS number for that.

**031/20 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:**

This SODC report can be found on the website.

The suggested North Orbital Road for traffic coming off the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Bridge was discussed and the proposed park and rides. A vehicle solution might not be needed if the mode of transport changes so most measures were opposed.

The Highlands Park lighting has been inspected and it had been agreed to cap the lights. The suggestion to switch them off during the night (after 11pm) was still being looked into.

JR has been made 'Thames Champion' and the process to get Bathing Quality Water Status is being applied for.

A parishioner asked about bus services. JR suggested the use of [www.goingforwardbuses.com](http://www.goingforwardbuses.com) running on Thursday to Henley.

The road from Highlands Park to the church had suffered melting and buckling. LH would mention this to DB.

The Local Plan discussion/consultation will be live streamed on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

**032/20 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

ND was proposed for chairman by RO and seconded by SH. SH for vice-chairman was proposed by ND and seconded by MP.

The forms for this election will be email to the members above, for signing.

**033/20 CLERK'S REPORT**

I have been pursuing the installation of the new village gateways, between Rocky Lane junction and the War Memorial, and the off-road parking opposite the church. I have not

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL 'ELECTORS' MEETING  
HELD ON 13TH JULY 2020 7.30PM 2020 VIA ZOOM**

had a reply (DB asked for this be forward). The double kerb on the War Memorial corner was discussed with OCC Highways and Bell Bollards were suggested. These are much safer than kerbing. The look of them was not liked.

I apologise for this meeting being first Zoom then the village hall and back to Zoom.

I would like to give thanks for the many volunteers that helped before lockdown (for the containment of the Corvid-19 virus). Every house was given a telephone number for help. I phoned several elderly residents to check on them. And Cllr. John Hill for his help in Broadplat.

The new email address for the parish council is: [parishclerk@rotherfieldgreys.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@rotherfieldgreys.org.uk).

The Shepherds Green phone box has one broken pane. I have put some plastic film in at present and if some glass is left over from the village phone box restoration then it will be used. If not, one will be ordered.

It was noted that some of the gold leaf that worn away and box itself was looking scruffy. I had washed it down last week and requested someone mow round the box rather than the usual cut with a strimmer. This would help the box stay cleaner. The gold leaf would be checked.

I have paid for work to the pad-stones on the bus shelter building. This chemical treatment prevents future erosion so not a replacement of the stones. It was deemed by AF Jones (Stonemasons) that the stones will now last another 30 years. A second treatment will be done next year.

The SODC grant for this was more than the cost and too much time that lapsed so the grant application was cancelled.

After my car crash, I have lost the key to the new noticeboard in the bus shelter. I have asked for a replacement. No reply, so assume the company is closed for now due to the lockdown.

Richard Ovey's Register of members' interests was blank when I was asked to check they were current by the SODC elections team. I have emailed the form to Richard. This was asked to be forwarded to Gillian Ovey as RO's printer was not working.

Rocky Lane Orchard. I have been speaking to the owner and planning officer. The planning response has been submitted. See below under planning.

### **034/20 THIRD READING BRIDGE**

Nick Digby

I attended the Kidmore End Zoom meeting on this on 7<sup>th</sup> July and 12 local parish councils attended via Zoom. A response to Reading's Transport Strategy 2036 is being formulated. The fear of housing/development to fund the building of the 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge was raised.

### **035/20 SIGNAGE AT GREYS GREEN FARM**

Michael Pearey

JR has contacted Hicks and Baker about this sign. Enforcement have confirmed that the sign complies with guidance in terms of size so is allowed under permitted development.

However, Hicks and Baker have indicated that a lease is in the process of being negotiated so the signs may be coming down soon anyway. JR will follow up next week and update you.

### **036/20 PARISH ROADS**

Broadplat sign 'Not suitable for HGVs' had been ask to be bigger by member of public. And put both ends. Another sign was suggested 'Single track road - No passing places for 700 yds'. Another suggestion was to make the road one way but from where? And would Bix find that unacceptable?

The destroyed village gateway at Bolt's Cross had been replaced.

### **037/20 MISCELLANEOUS:**

MP will forward existing/new National Trust contacts. This in to relation to reporting a traveller's site on their land.

#### **a) Correspondence**

Road closure notice for Gravel Hill to Broadplat House 28<sup>th</sup> August for a new water connection. Nearer the time the clerk will issue a GAG.

Sue Ryder asking for support as they are now seeing twice as many patients than before but in their own home not the house in Nettlebed.

It was agreed to support this with a donation of £100.

Conversion of 2 potting sheds to offices to be named – Office 1 and Office 2, the Walled Garden, Badgemore.

Erection of 1 new residential dwelling to be named: Amherst Lodge, Shepherds Green.

Thanks for donation for the Citizens Advice Bureau.

#### **b) Footpath report**

I have walked virtually all of the parishes 39 Rights of Way at least once during the last six months. In the winter months many were impassably boggy, but recent dry weather has restored the surfaces. Despite strong winds recently little storm damage is evident

All paths are passable.

Items to note are:

RG1 (The Rosary, Shepherds Green) The new Diversion appears to be working well

RG4 (Lane End, Shepherds Green) Bramble encroachment in Gateway – I have requested this be cut back by Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers

RG21 (Cross Lane Farm) Stile needs replacing. Waymark discs needed. For a time during lockdown this path was blocked off

RG27 (Grange Farm) Missing finger post at road. Path off-line

### **Jane Warren**

**7.7.20**

A problem with path 330/17 meeting with 330/16 – there were many pruning left on the footpath. The landowner will be informed. There was also reports of bicycle riders destroying stiles.

## TIME SET ASIDE FOR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

### 038/20 PLANNING/ENFORCEMENT

#### a) Current planning/enforcement

##### **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.

RGPC response required by 17.7.2020

The parish council decided on NO STRONG VIEWS

##### **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 required by 24.7.2020

The parish council decided on NO STRONG VIEWS

#### b) Planning responses

##### **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

##### **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 13th July 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 11th August 2020

#### c) Planning decisions

##### **P20/S0745/FUL**

Grange Farm, Road from Gravel Hill to Broadplat House, Badgemore RG9 4NZ

Revised Design of recently approved Extended Barn Offices to Include Mezzanine Floors and Additional Parking

RGPC response OBJECTS to this application with following comments: Access and signage issues, 'street furniture' inappropriate for AONB. No objections to the new building, or road widening. Footpath should be separate from vehicle access. Subject to the Highways Authority being satisfied with vehicular arrangements and the protection of non-motorised users.

RGPC response has changed to NO OBJECTIONS with comments that the signage should be a small CS disc and the Bridleway possibly changed to a footpath.

SODC GRANTED

#### **P20/S1164/HH**

The Strip, Shepherds Green RG9 4QW

Retrospective installation of new oil tank and screen surround.

RGPC - objects - re-site

SODC GRANTED

#### **P20/S1053/DPO**

Office & Stores, Grange Farm, Badgemore RG9 4NZ

Discharge of planning obligation relating to P95/S0254/O Erection of Farm Worker's Dwelling

Information only

#### **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.

RGPC - OBJECTS/COMMENTS: Inappropriate to exceed the agreed number of houses as this is a rural location without the road network to support these extra homes/cars/traffic.

SODC GRANTED

#### **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%

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL 'ELECTORS' MEETING  
HELD ON 13TH JULY 2020 7.30PM 2020 VIA ZOOM**

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 OBJECTS

SODC GRANTED

**P20/S0481/HH**

The Bothy, Badgemore Park Golf Club, Road from Gravel Hill to Broadplat House, Badgemore RG9 4NR

Erection of first floor extension to south elevation, replacement conservatory to west elevation, new conservatory to east elevation and guest suite extension to northern courtyard. (Identical scheme previously approved ref: P17/S1406/HH).

RGPC response has been asked to be reconsidered as this application has been previously approved and the pc response was NO STRONG VIEWS.

SODC GRANTED

**P19/S4085/FUL**

The Cottage, Highlands Farm, Highlands Lane RG9 4PR Construction of 5 detached dwellings including garages on at land at the former 'Cottage' site, Highlands Lane, Highlands Farm, Henley-on-Thames RG9 4PR

RGPC - OBJECTS/COMMENTS: This site is already overdeveloped and the consequent increase in traffic, so this application should be refused.

SODC GRANTED

**039/20 FINANCE**

**a) Donations/Subs:**

None

**b) Accounts to pay:**

**Jane Pryce**

Clerk's salary (April/May/June/July) £ 297.70

Office rent £ 41.68

PC expenses AF Jones £ 414.00

**Total for cheque £1,055.32**

**Mr. Green** – £200 half yearly payment for upkeep of the War Memorial site.

**c) Payments received**

First bi-annual payment of the Precept of £4.007 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

VAT refund £804.90

Bank interest £2.94

Bank Balance £23,997.80

ND is has not been made a signatory for cheques. The clerk had not received written confirmation. The bank was also not aware of this and after a fruitless search by the bank for the mandate, the mandate will have to be re-issued.

**040/20 Internal Audit 2019/20**

The Internal Audit is now due to be carried out. Did the council approve the Governance Statements and the Accounting Statements 2019/2020? These was approved.

Pages 3, 5 and 6 need to be signed by the Chairman. These pages with be picked up on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**041/20 EOY CIL spend repot 2019/20**

Total amount of CIL received £7,469.28

Total CIL spend £2,963.64

Remaining CIL £4,505.64

**042/20 Project proposals**

**Kerbing at War Memorial** – it was decided to leave as is.

**Cherry trees** – replacement might have to moved away from dead roots to avoid re-infection. The clerk to check with the National Trust.

**Benches** – a suggestion of a bench to mark VJ day. It was felt there was already too many benches.

**Area opposite church** to be improved – this will be escalated to DB. This was deemed the most important.

**Signage Shepherds Green and Broadplat** – the clerk was requested to arrange OCC Highways to have a site visit.

**Noticeboard refurbishment at the Greys village hall** was agreed.

**Wildflower meadow** was suggested to the NT by Shepherds Green residents.

**043/20 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.

Dead cherry tree near Ridgeway House was reported and the clerk was asked to forward this to the National Trust.

Development work at Highlands Park – the number of units was not stated in the Henley Standard (6 hectares).

The defibrillator is being wired in on Friday (weather permitting). The clerk will deliver the defib to Nick on Thursday. Insurance will be informed.

**War memorial damage log:**

None to report at this meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10 PM

Next meeting – 7.30pm 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020