

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2020
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	1
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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

001/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

002/20 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

None

003/20 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM 11th November 2019

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

004/20 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

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

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS

SPECIAL THIRD READING BRIDGE MEETING FRIDAY 31st JANUARY 2020

The chair at Sonning Common has called a meeting of parishes in my Division to consider a joint response to the situation in advance of the MP 'Summit Meeting' in March. I very much hope two representatives from each parish will attend. Please respond to the email sent by the SC PC clerk on 21st November if you haven't done so already.

Date and time: Friday 31 January 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Venue: Sonning Common Village Hall, Wood Lane, Sonning Common RG4 9SL

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SH and ND asked to be booked in.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FROM GRAVEL HILL TO BROADPLAT HOUSE

A request has been received from Thames Water for a temporary road closure to apply to a section of unnamed road whilst water main connection works are carried out. A temporary Notice (T7401) is being made to implement the temporary closures and will operate from the 20 April 2020 up to and including the 24 April 2020. This is a 24 hour per day closure.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

I understand quotes have now been received for 2 x village gates. I am prepared to contribute 2 x £500 from my Councillor Priority Fund towards this, but the application form must be submitted before the end of this month.

The OCC Highways grant (£1,000) is being applied for to fund the installation of a gateway at the change of speed limit (down to 30mph) between Rocky Lane junction and War Memorial.

The paperwork for this was filled in and signed.

Thanks for the filling in of potholes but a request was made for have grips cleared out as flooding was causing the potholes to form again. This has been reported via FMS but the report had been closed as work completed. DB asked that the FMS numbers be forwarded to him but if the reports had to be re-submitted then wait a month to see if work done. If not raise this with him. This was in three locations (Henley Cottages, Sage Lodge and opposite side to entry to Hernes).

005/20 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:

This SODC report can be found on the website.

An update on Enforcement issues:

The Lamb Inn at Satwell – there is still a need to keep logs if any activity there.
Highmoor Park street lights – the planning officer and the developers were in discussions.
Greys Meadow – there is a report of a light fixed to a tree on the National Trust verge.

Questions about an area in Lambridge wood – which has been fenced and filled with rubbish. Apparently enforcement action had been taken but no reply to letters.

The Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick MP, wrote to Sue Cooper, leader of the Council last week (7 January) regarding the Local Plan and the SoS's holding order. You can read the letter here:

file:///C:/Users/sav_robj/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/9GODFROH/20200107%20Letter%20from%20the%20Secretary%20of%20State%20South%20Oxfordshire%20eLP2034%20(003).pdf

The SoS is inviting the Leader of the Council to respond, outlining her and the Cabinet's position on the Local Plan. He indicates a range of options including giving control of the Local Plan 2034 to the OCC.

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In the meantime, Mark Stone, the Council's Chief Executive, has written a response from officers:

file:///C:/Users/sav_robj/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/9G0DFROH/2020-01-10-MS%20Ltr%20to%20Emran%20M%20-%20SDOC%20local%20plan%20Final%20(002).pdf

Earlier this week, Cllr Cooper wrote to the Secretary of State, outlining the position of the administration and her Cabinet. You can read her letter here on the SODC website (link to follow).

We will keep you updated with any further developments. Some parishes, particularly those affected by housing allocations in the Local Plan (Culham, Clifton Hampden) are writing directly to the Secretary of State. Feel free to do so if you would like to express the view of your Parish.

It has become very clear since the elections last May that the Council is in a poor financial position. This is the result of a combination of factors, including an over-reliance on one-off 'New Homes' bonus payments, central Government cuts, the decision of the previous administration not to increase the SODC portion of the Council Tax in line with inflation, and the lack of any commercialisation plans to generate revenue in new and innovative ways. As a result, our Band D Council tax charge is some £60 lower than that in comparable authorities, and there is a gap of about £3m between our income and our expenditure every year. In addition to working very hard to create a responsible and sustainable budget for the coming few years, Council has now also asked officers to explore the implications of a full merger with the Vale of the White Horse and to bring their findings back to a future meeting. Any decision would take into account both future financial sustainability and the need to protect local democracy and decision-making.

Other items were mentioned which can be read in full (SODC report January) on the website.

The clerk confirmed that the SODC grant (£1,250) had been banked for the defibrillator.

Cllr. Jo Robb and Cllr Lorraine Hillier thanked for this.

006/20 CLERK'S REPORT

No report for this meeting.

007/20 PARISH ROADS

Road signage repositioning was asked about (Broadplat junction chevron and Shepherds Green name sign) and the clerk confirmed that there had been numerous emails about this with Highways. A site visit was agreed but so far had not been carried out. The clerk will be continuing to push for this.

And 30mph repeater hidden by half gate near Maltsters has still not been done.

The village pavement – what were the next steps in this? There had been a request from the joint CIL allocation meeting in Henley (last year) that a head count/footfall be made to justify our request for funding. This would be done in the summer.

008/20 HENLEY MUNICIPAL CHARITIES – PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

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Jo Robb has readily agreed to be the parish representative and she was thanked for this as it had been a long search for a replacement to Louise Lloyd.

The clerk for the Municipal charities will be informed.

009/20 MISCELLANEOUS:

a) Correspondence

Community First Oxfordshire (CFO) has asked the parish council to complete a survey into current services that are available in the community. A once a week bus was all that could be thought of. The clerk would complete the survey.

And subscription of £35 was agreed and in budget.

Road Closure – 20-24th April by Thames Water. Small section of road before junction of Road and Lambridge Lane. This will be put out on GAG closer to the time.

Citizens Advice Bureau has two matters that they have asked to have put on GAG and noticeboards. A need for volunteers and help with relationship breakdown. Both were agreed.

Also from the above a letter of thanks for financial support and a request for funding for 2020/21. This was agreed and in budget.

SODC in association with Bell & Hart surgeries are leading ½ walks at 12 noon every Tuesday in Henley. This agreed to be put out on GAG. It was suggested that the Sonning Common Health walks would be also good to promote. The clerk would ask their clerk about this.

A brief guide on how to help rough sleepers – GAG was agreed. Gillian Ovey requested a cut down version (from 2 pages) to create a poster for the church noticeboard.

OCC support offered to help keep you safe and well in your home – for GAG and noticeboards was agreed.

Christmas card from Sue Ryder to thank Rotherfield Greys parish council ‘Thank you for your support, we are incredibly grateful.’

CPRE requesting support for next year and a donation? The parish council does subscribe every year by direct debit. A donation was not possible at this time and was not put in the budget.

The clerk has been told that ‘The Link’ has been shelved for now. Gillian Ovey is kindly filling the gap by producing ‘The Contact with Greys’. This will go only to Rotherfield Greys. Easter church services would also be put out on GAG. Gillian Ovey to provide copy.

b) Footpath report

The footpath report from Chiltern Society Representative, Jane Warren

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There is a multitrunked tree down in Pack and Prime Lane just a few yards to the west of where the track bisects it. This is very difficult to clamber over and would be impossible for horse riders.

There is also a fallen ivy bush completely blocking the same bridleway about 200 metres east of the track.

In my experience bridleway users will breach the hedge and take a diversion into the adjacent field when blockages occur, so it is best if the obstructions can be cleared as quickly as possible.

I understand the Oveys have a woodsman they like to use but if they want any help from the Chiltern Society do let me know. The woodsman has been booked to do this.

I have just started my 2020 inspections and apart from Pack & Prime Lane have encountered no problems except extreme mud!

Gillian Ovey confirmed that the woodsman had been contacted to do this.

TIME SET ASIDE FOR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A new noticeboard for the village hall was agreed with the village hall committee. A larger section for the parish council was discussed. A cover glass for it too. ND would come back with their thoughts.

Defibrillator was also agreed. It was agreed to give a training session again at the village hall and a refresh training at the pub as they had new owners.

010/20 PLANNING/ENFORCEMENT

Erection of 5 new residential dwelling to be named and numbered: 1 to 5 The Walled Garden, Badgemore.

a) Applications to be considered
No new planning applications received.

b) Planning responses

P19/S4511/LB

Backus, Shepherds Green RG9 4QN

Demolition of outbuilding and erection of replacement garage, associated landscaping works. Replacement doors to house."

RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS

P19/S4492/HH

Backus, Shepherds Green RG9 4QN

Demolition of outbuilding and erection of replacement garage, associated landscaping works. Replacement doors to house.

RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS

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P19/S4598/HH

Rosebank, Shepherds Green RG9 4QL

Erection of single storey front porch and alteration to existing front door (including increasing structural opening width)

RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS

P19/S4603/LB

1&3 Pear Tree Cottages, Rotherfield Greys RG9 4QB

Replacement door frames, front entrance door and two windows-no 1 Pear Tree Cottages.

Replacement window-No3 - Pear Tree Cottages

RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS

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 Target Decision Date 8th January 2020

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 OBJECTS

SODC Target Decision Date: 29th November 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.”

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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 Target Decision Date: 29th November 2019

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

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/S3347/FUL

Grange Farm, Road From Gravel Hill To Broadplat House, Badgemore
RG9 4NZ
Demolition of Existing Commercial Building and Erection of Extension to recently approved Office Conversion.
RGPC - NO OBJECTIONS
SODC GRANTED

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 GRANTED

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 GRANTED

011/20 FINANCE

a) Donations/Subs:
None

b) Accounts to pay:

Jane Pryce

Clerk's salary (Dec/Jan) £294.66

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Office rent	£ 41.68
Correction	3.00
Total for cheque	£ 339.34

Village Hall

Six meetings at £21 each (new rate) = £126.00

Mr. Green

For upkeep of the War Memorial area £200 payment per 6 months.

c) Payments received

Bank interest £0

SODC grant £1,250 for Greys village hall defibrillator.

Bank Balance £22,898.72

ND would like to become a signatory for cheques. The mandate form had been given to him in September and the clerk had received no confirmation of a new signatory. It was agreed to resubmit for a new mandate form as they expired after 3 months.

The SODC grant of £500 had been withdrawn as the delay in implementing the project was too long. This was for 2 treatments to the padstones on the bus shelter.

012/20 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2020/21

Precept amount £8,014 (£7,860.00 suggested by SODC precepts team) was agreed. Forms for this were signed by ND.

Budget was discussed and agreed. This will be with the minutes and on the website.

It was decided to keep the donations and subscriptions as of 2019/20.

The phone box restoration committee asking for the donation of gold for the crowns £50. The parish council agreed to this so this can be bought for then net. The clerk will check the current price and if not all used she knew someone who will buy the excess from the council. The clerk can apply this gold leaf, so no labour cost. There was some confusion of the glass price and the cost of the frames had been missed out by the clerk. The amount was much greater than had been stated to council before. The committee had raised enough funds to pay for this.

Donation to Greys WI for parish history exhibition – village hall hire 18 & 19th September £168 was agreed and the cheque raised at the next meeting.

013/20 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - PROPOSALS

For 2019/20 £9,959.04

For 2018/19 £2,489.76

Total: £12,448.80

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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. Quote of £4,000. There is an OCC Highways grant available £1,000. The paperwork was signed and would be submitted by the clerk.

Second CIL payment relating to Badgemoor development £4,979.52.

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

Improvements around the village near the church and post box would be thought about.

014/20 MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY

An updated USB stick backup of council business was given to the chairman. This forms an offsite backup.

War memorial damage log:
None to report at this meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10 PM

Next meeting – 9th March 2020