

Rotherfield Greys Annual Parish Meeting

7.30pm on Monday 13th May 2024

PRESENT:

Nick Digby (Chair), John Hill (Cllr), Robert Hadfield (Cllr), Annette Young (clerk), Cllr Susan Hems (Cllr), David Bartholomew (OCC, Cllr) (part), Jo Robb (SODC Cllr) (part). Rae Ward – Village hall, Gill Franklin - Chiltern Society, Members of the public – 5

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Peter Dawkin (RG Cricket Club), Richard Ovey (Cllr), Paul Fairweather – St Nicholas Church

2. MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS - None

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM 16TH MAY 2023

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

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Thanks to the current Parish Councillors – Richard Ovey, John Hill, Rob Hadfield and Susan Hems. Unfortunately, Richard Ovey was unwell and sent his apologies. This the first AGM for our new Parish Clerk, Annette Young who joined us in November. Also due thanks to our elected representatives, on Oxford County Council, Cllr David Bartholomew and on South Oxfordshire District Council, Councillors Jo Robb and James Norman. Full Chair report on website [here](#).

5. OXFORDSHIRE COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL AND GENERAL REPORT

[See separate report](#)

6. SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL AND GENERAL REPORT

[See separate report](#)

7. HENLEY MUNICIPAL CHARITIES ANNUAL REPORT

[See separate report](#)

8. ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

During the year the lovely church clock and chimes were repaired by Smiths of Derby who were the original makers and installers of the clock shortly after the end of WW2. Greys PCC are grateful for the donation from the Paris Council which helped defray some of the not inconsiderable cost of the repair work.

Mark Ainsworth the Priest in Charge at St. Nicholas church is, at long last, to get some assistance in the shape of a House for Duty priest. Hugh Balfour will be joining Mark this summer and Hugh and his wife Helen are in the process of moving into the House for Duty property that has been acquired in Satwell by the Oxford Diocese.

8. VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL REPORT

Rae Ward gave an overview of the past year: The Hall continues to be a popular venue for Children's Parties, Fitness and Dancing Classes, Flower Arranging Groups and Village Activities.

In 2023, we were sad to see the departure of the Greys Women's Institute after almost one hundred years of holding their monthly meetings here. Greys W.I. due to the increasing age of their decreasing membership numbers, have now joined up with Harpsden W.I., in order to remain viable.

After several unsuccessful attempts, we were finally able to install Wi-Fi at the Hall, as an additional facility for hirers.

The Hall hosted another successful Village Christmas Drinks Party last December for around 70 people and provided back-up and furniture for the Celebration Picnic held across the road, on the Green for King Charles's Coronation last May.

We are fortunate that due to the foresight of Sir Felix Brunner in purchasing Nightingales for the Hall back in 1969, we are able to accommodate our own Caretakers. Alex and Mary Angell have now happily settled into the Village, and we are enormously grateful to them for all they do to care for the Hall and for their contribution to the Community.

The fabric of the Hall remains in good condition, hirings are picking up and although they have not returned to pre-pandemic levels, we are financially holding our own, as our energy costs have reduced.

10. **WAR MEMORIAL ANNUAL REPORT** - [Covered in Chairman's Report.](#)
11. **PARISH ROADS ANNUAL REPORT** - [Covered in Chairman's Report.](#)
12. **CHILTERN SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT** - [See separate Report.](#)
13. **CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL REPORT** - [See separate Report.](#)
14. **Open forum**

A Litter Pick Report was given by Joanne Duncan and is available on the website [here](#).

There was a lot of discussion about the Golf Course land for sale. The Parish Council will monitor the situation and Gill Ovey suggested TPOs be applied for, to protect some of the land.

Discussion about cars being left in track to Lane End in Shepherd's Green by walkers and blocking access if emergency vehicles need to use the route. It is unclear who is responsible for the lane. Clerk to investigate further.

Gill Ovey talked about an initiative that Hernes Estate are involved with called the "Christmas Common Cluster" Many landowners from the M40 in the north to the M4 and the River Thames in the south have joined this local scheme to provide animal highways, to encourage ground nesting birds, to protect and control wild animals, flora and fauna, trees and hedges and to work in conjunction with DEFRA and other land agencies.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

