

DRAFT Rotherfield Greys Annual Parish Meeting

7.30pm on Monday 12th May 2025

PRESENT:

Nick Digby (Chair), John Hill (Cllr), Nicola Whittle (Cllr), Richard Ovey (Cllr), Annette Young (clerk), Gill Franklin - Chiltern Society, Members of the public – 4

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Susan Hems (Cllr), Peter Dawkin (RG Cricket Club), Paul Fairweather – St Nicholas Church

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

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM 13TH MAY 2024

An edit was made in the final paragraph to read "The Christmas Common Cluster". The minutes were then agreed to be an accurate and true record and were signed by the Chair.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

Thanks to the current Parish Councillors – Richard Ovey, John Hill, Susan Hems and new Councillor Nicola Whittle. Nicola replaces Robert Hadfield who has moved away. Also thanks to Annette Young, Clerk. Full Chair report on website [here](#).

5. OXFORDSHIRE COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL AND GENERAL REPORT

David Bartholomew (outgoing OCC) annual report [here](#).

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 2024 we welcomed our "house for duty " priest Hugh Balfour and his wife Helen. Mark Ainsworth our Priest in Charge stepped up to become the Rector of the parish. He is now away on a well-deserved three-month sabbatical after being in post for over five years. It became clear in the spring of last year that the churchyard was becoming untidy and that the heavy work of mowing and strimming was becoming too much for our ageing team of volunteers so we have resorted to outside contractors to do the heavy work and to cut the hedge and trim the trees overhanging the churchyard.

Unfortunately, there has been some storm damage to the bell tower which will need scaffolding to effect the repair. Also there has been a fall of plaster from the ceiling in the chancel and we await a quote for the repair.

On the bright side the church clock is working perfectly following the full repair. We have had two floodlights donated and are illuminating the church every night.

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. Paul Fairweather

8. VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL REPORT

The Hall has had a relatively quiet year, weekly exercise, ballet and yoga classes continue to be held, together with external meetings, the monthly Flower-arranging Group demonstrations and highly popular Children's Parties.

The fabric of the building remains in good order and the internal appearance was improved during the past year by specialist treatment of the flooring.

The Hall is lovingly cared for by our resident Caretakers – Mary and Alex Angell, who live at Nightingales, across the road. And as always, we are enormously grateful for the foresight of the Sir Felix Brunner of Greys Court, who when the Village School closed down, purchased Nightingales, the old school teacher's house and gave it to the Village for the sole use of Caretakers for the Hall.

Financially, we are holding our own – although Bookings have never reached the pre-pandemic levels of 2020, when the Hall was in use every weekday and many weekends.

Anyone wishing to hire the Hall, should contact Mary Angell on 01491-628552. Rae Ward

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.** No further comments.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm