



## Annual Report 2017/18

This report contains a brief summary of some of the Parish Council's projects over the past year. It also explains how we have managed the Parish Council's finances and assets. More of village interest on the Parish Council website [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk)

The Council's continuing aims are:

- To provide a safe and pleasant environment in which parishioners can live, work and play.
- To provide good facilities and services or to help West Berkshire District Council to do so.
- To spend money wisely and provide value for money.



Mapledurham Lock

During the past year we have had just one change in the Parish Council 'line up'. Bernard Nix stepped down after several years of enthusiastic and dedicated service. His seat has been taken by Sarah Sinclair who represents the growing number of young families in Purley. Since the Summer there has been a change of Amenities Officer for the Parish. Colin Moses now holds this post. The officers have worked hard to improve administrative systems as increasing demands are made on the Parish Council in terms of scope of

responsibility and compliance. The Clerks also launched a monthly, electronic newsletter which has proved very popular. This can be requested from the parish office by email. The Parish Council is keen that local people know what is going on so we have upgraded several of our noticeboards and have a programme to increase the number.

## Allotments



Our Allotments

The allotments continue to be popular but we have found that some gardeners find it increasingly physically demanding to maintain their plot. The Parish council is therefore planning to create several micro-plots that will make it easier for less mobile people.

## The Bungalow

The bungalow adjacent to the Parish Office at Goosecroft has been completely refurbished and is now occupied. This asset will provide a valuable income for the Parish Council.

## Recreation

Upkeep of the grounds at Goosecroft, Bucknell's Meadow and Pikeshaw is a key responsibility of the Parish Council. Maintenance of these areas has been contracted out to specialist companies. A programme of work including cutting and upkeep of pitches, play areas and surrounding land is agreed at the start of the financial year and the tree surgeon has identified trees which are in need of attention in the immediate future.



New play equipment at Bucknell's Meadow

Last year we reported that we would be using Community Infrastructure Levy money (CIL) to create a new surface for the tennis courts at Goosecroft and replace surrounding fencing. This was completed last Summer and the tennis club secured grant funding for new nets so it all looks very smart. Purley residents can use the tennis courts at specific times or become members of the tennis club.

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2017 saw us invest money in upgrading play equipment at Bucknell's Meadow. The new Anthill Climber and Basket Swing have proved popular with children of all ages.

The Parish Council has also undertaken major repair works to existing items of play equipment in Bucknell's Meadow and will soon be installing additional seating and litter bins at this location.

## The Barn



*Christmas Market at the Barn*

The Barn has a core group of regular users and some new regular hirers too. There have also been a number of one-off function bookings. As a good venue for classes, groups, functions and training, the Barn requires a high level of management and upkeep. This year the Parish Council decided that it was time to give the Barn kitchens a 'make-over'. The new decoration, fixtures and appliances have refreshed the catering facilities. Users had complained about poor lighting in the Barn carpark so this

has been upgraded. After a spate of vandalism and anti-social behaviour around the Goosecroft site, the Parish Council felt compelled to install CCTV and this was completed in the Autumn.

Friends of Purley Barn organised three events, a Quiz Night, a Birds of Prey evening and the Christmas Market. These were all most successful and introduced new people to the Barn. Money raised will go towards improving facilities there.

## Highways and Footpaths

There have been some local improvements related to roads over the past year. New 30mph signs have been put up on the Oxford Rd towards Reading and a new pedestrian crossing installed near the Milton Park housing development. During the past year the surfaces of some of Purley's roads have deteriorated.

Unfortunately, major cut-backs at West Berkshire Council have meant that their road maintenance programme is limited. However, if you feel that a road surface is a



*Pikeshaw*

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danger to users, you can report pot-holes etc using links from the West Berkshire Council website.

Local people and ramblers continue to enjoy our footpaths. The Parish Council is monitoring the temporary closure of a footpath on Springs Farm land and Springs Farm estate management keep us updated.

The Parish Council continues to be proactive in encouraging dog walkers to clear up after their pets. Generally, dog owners are responding well and many use bags from the dog-poo bag dispensers on popular routes. Volunteers keep the dispensers stocked.

We now have 25 salt bins across the parish. Two large bins were recently installed to meet needs on our steepest hills and the existing smaller bins re-sited to other locations. All the bins have been kept stocked by the Parish Council over the Winter.

## The Future

We start the new financial year in the knowledge that West Berkshire's budget has had to be cut drastically and we may be required to take on some responsibilities for local services. We have agreed to continue to contribute to the cost of safeguarding the 143 bus service. We also resolved to make contributions to support Pangbourne Library and the public toilets in Station Rd Pangbourne. The Village Plan questionnaire has highlighted a number of issues which will form an Action Plan for the Parish Council. This will be shared with Purley residents when the Village Plan is launched later in the year. Meanwhile we welcome comments about all local issues.

Major projects for the coming year:

- Projects arising from the Village Plan
- Preparation for recreational use of the land adjacent to Goosecroft and recently acquired by the Parish Council. (This depends on consent from West Berkshire Planning Department for 'Change of Use' from agricultural to recreational)
- 'Open space' projects using CIL money
- Adoption of responsibilities devolved by West Berkshire

*We wish to thank the Parish Council Clerks and Amenities Manager, the Councillors, many volunteers and contractors, West Berkshire Council and the Police. All these people provided services or have maintained village facilities and assets.*

## Finance - how we use 'your' money

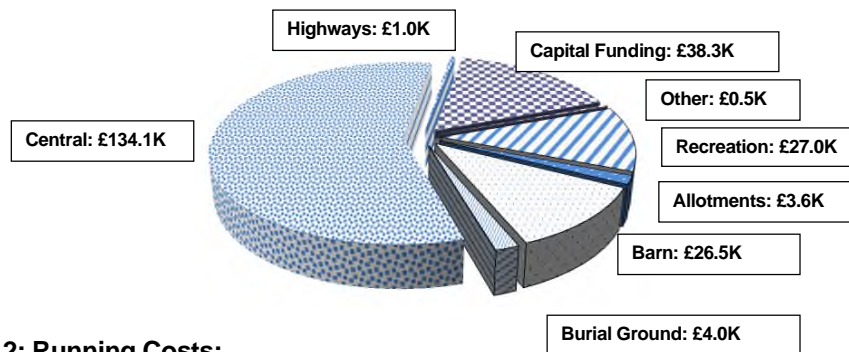
### Income & Expenditure

The Council is conscious that we are spending your money, and that we have a responsibility to spend it wisely, and carefully. Spending has increased from £160,456 last year, to around £265,350 in 2017/18. This large increase has been driven primarily by the need to maintain our facilities. This increase is made up of the following additional expenditure over last year:

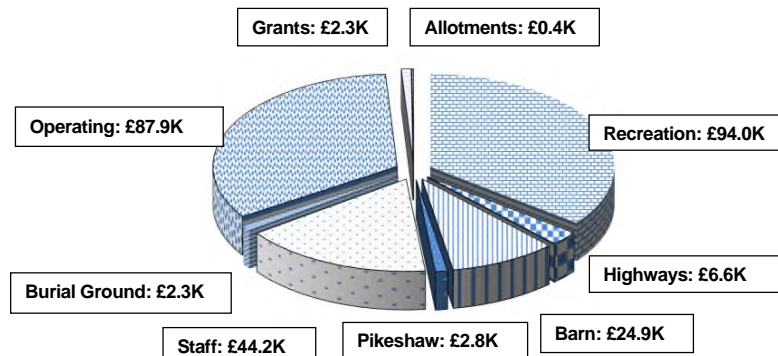
Recreation	£38.2K	Additional play equipment in Bucknell's Meadow. Resurfacing of Tennis Courts
Barn	£10.2K	Renewal of kitchen facilities
Central	£45.4K	Refurbishment of Bungalow. Installation of CCTV. Installation of security lighting.

These figures are provisional as at 27 Feb 2018, as our accounts will not be finalised until later in the year.

**Figure 1: Operating Income:**



**Figure 2: Running Costs:**



The income from the Burial Ground fell by £8000 compared with the previous year. Most of the additional expenditure on Recreation has been funded out of CIL monies and the Barn out of income. We expect that the renting of the Bungalow in the next financial year will provide a much welcome additional source of income in the order of £9000 after costs.

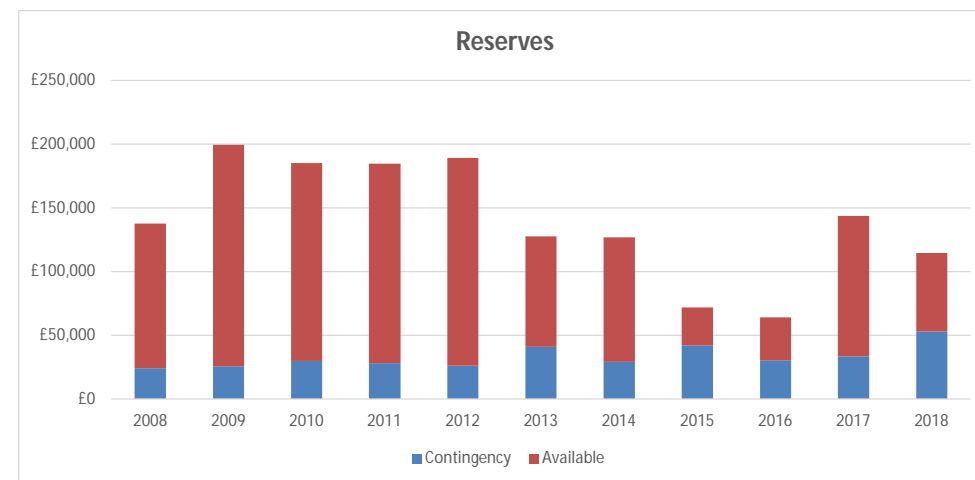
While we produce some income from hires and grants our main source of funding comes from the Precept. This is a very small element of Council Tax charged to householders in the Parish, which this year equated to £66.86 per Band D household.

Full accounts can be viewed at the Parish Office, or on the web site when published.

### Reserves

The following chart shows how our reserves have moved over the past years. Our reserves are made up of two components:

- Contingency – reserves we need to keep as a cushion against our spending which we set at about 2 ½ times our monthly average spending for the year.
- Available – this is reserves that we have available to spend. It includes monies ring-fenced for “open space” development.



Our available reserves fell last year mainly due to the refurbishment of the Bungalow.

The main project for the next year is the expansion of the Goosecroft playing area. It is expected that most of the costs of this will be met by grants with only £5000 of funding required from the Parish Council.

## How to contact us

Parish Office: Telephone: 0118 984 4507  
Email: [clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk)  
Write: Parish Office, Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road,  
Purley on Thames, Reading, RG8 8DR

Website: [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk) (lots of contacts and information)

Clerk: Christine Lamb  
Assistant Clerk: Sarah Williams  
Amenities Officer: Colin Moses

## Opening hours

The Parish Office is open to the public during the following hours:

Monday (except bank Holidays) 2.00pm to 6.30pm

Thursday 9.30am to 2.30pm

Councillors are available for consultation on Monday evenings, between 5.30pm – 6.30pm, or other times by appointment.

## Members and Staff

 <b>Sue Briscoe</b> Chairman 0118 945 6085	 <b>Graham Rolfe</b> Vice Chairman & Planning 0118 941 7247	 <b>Rick Farrow</b> Recreation 0118 962 4577	 <b>Pamela Beddoes</b> Barn 0118 941 4186	 <b>Bill Ayling</b> Highways 0118 941 9437	
 <b>Sarah Sinclair</b> 0118 984 4507	 <b>Rick Jones*</b> 0118 962 3793	 <b>John Chapman</b> 0118 942 6999	 <b>Christine Collier</b> 0118 942 2951	 <b>Martin Bishop</b> 0118 945 3117	
 <b>Neil Haughton</b> via office	 <b>Stuart Chester</b> 0118 942 2951	 <b>Jane Langford</b> via office	 <b>Christine Lamb</b> Parish Clerk 0118 984 4507	 <b>Colin Moses</b> Amenities Officer 0118 984 4507	 <b>Sarah Williams</b> Asst. Clerk 0118 984 4507

\* Also our District Councillor. Our other District Councillor is Tim Metcalfe.

## Useful Numbers

### Community Safety:

Police Non-Emergency 101  
Lock Keeper 0118 941 7776

### District Council:

West Berkshire Council 01635 42400  
West Berkshire Council emergency out of hours 01635 42161  
Streetcare 01635 519080

**Purley Barn** (via Parish Office) 0118 984 4507

**Memorial Hall** 07772 129 187

### Social Clubs

Purley Sports & Social Club 0118 984 3061  
Purley Park Social Club 0118 942 7047

### Schools

Purley C.E. School 0118 984 2384  
Long Lane School 0118 942 7187  
Denefield School 0118 941 3458  
Theale Green School 0118 930 2741  
Westwood Farm Junior School 0118 942 5182  
Westwood Farm Infant School 0118 942 6113

### Hospitals

Royal Berkshire 0118 322 5111  
West Berkshire Community 01635 273 300

### Doctors

The Boathouse Surgery, Pangbourne 0118 984 2234  
Grovelands Medical Centre 0118 958 2525  
Westwood Road Health Centre, Tilehurst 0118 942 7421  
Tilehurst Village Surgery 0118 945 2612  
Tilehurst Surgery Partnership, Tyler's Place 0118 942 7528

### Travel

Reading Buses [www.reading-buses.co.uk](http://www.reading-buses.co.uk) 0118 959 4000  
ReadiBus [www.readibus.co.uk](http://www.readibus.co.uk) 0118 931 0000  
Carebus 0118 930 4837  
First GW Trains [www.gwr.com](http://www.gwr.com) 0345 7000 125  
Thames Travel [www.thames-travel.co.uk](http://www.thames-travel.co.uk) 01865 785 400  
Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre 0118 984 4586