

**Purley on Thames Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 8th October 2024**

In the Large Hall at The Barn, Goosecroft

Commencing 6:00pm and concluding at 7:00pm

Present: Councillors G Nyamie (Vice-Chairman), M Abrams, P Beddoes, A Benedict, M Bishop, J Evans, L Grady, J Langford (also District Councillor), R Wallace and V White

In attendance: Sharon Way (Clerk)

P 24/114 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Councillors G Rolfe (Chairman), A Grindley

P 24/115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None.

P 24/116 PUBLIC FORUM
No members of the public were in attendance.

P 24/117 MINUTES OF MEETING
Cllr Nyamie invited comments on the minutes of the council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd September 2024. No comments were made.

Following a proposal from Cllr Bishop and seconded by Cllr Abrams it was:

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 3rd September was AGREED.

The minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 3rd September were duly signed by the Vice-Chairman.

P 24/118 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 3rd SEPTEMBER
None.

P 24/119 MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION

P 24/119-1 To resolve to extend the grant deadline for the Purley Sustainability Group, allowing them to utilise the awarded funds in the next financial year (April 2025-26), subject to the specific conditions outlined in backing paper P24/119-1.

Cllr Evans noted that PSG are aware of this motion, and updated members regarding the reasons for the delay to PSG spending the grant.

Following a proposal from Cllr Abrams and seconded by Cllr Beddoes it was:

RESOLVED: To resolve to extend the grant deadline for the Purley Sustainability Group, allowing them to utilise the awarded funds in the next financial year (April 2025-26), subject to the specific conditions outlined in backing paper P24/119-1 was AGREED.

P 24/119-2

To resolve that the Clerk be authorised to open two Business Savings Accounts and transfer £60,000 into each of these accounts, as described in motion paper P24/119-2 and recommended by the Finance and Governance Committee (resolution F&G 24/76-1)

P 24/119-3

To resolve that the Clerk be authorised to apply for a debit card to be used by officers for making purchases on behalf of the parish council as recommended by the Finance and Governance Committee (resolution F&G 24/76-2)

P 24/119-4

To resolve to adopt a new procedure for making payments. This procedure will transition from cheque payments to paying invoices via BACS as outlined in motion paper P24/119-4 and recommended by the Finance and Governance Committee (resolution F&G 24/76-3)

Members noted that the three resolutions had been discussed and recommended for approval at the Finance and Governance Committee. It was agreed that these resolutions would be taken together.

Following a proposal from Cllr Langford and seconded by Cllr Bishop it was:

P 24/119-5

RESOLVED: Motions P24/119-2, P24-119-3 and P24/119-4 were AGREED.

To resolve to proceed with the cleaning of the soakaways, gulleys, and foul drains using the recommended supplier as outlined in motion paper P24/119-5.

Cllr Benedict asked whether Contractor B had provided a time estimate for the works. The Clerk stated that this had been requested but the contractor had not provided a time estimate. The Clerk noted that Contractor A had not provided a cost estimate for waste disposal. The Clerk stated that Contractor B had been used by Pangbourne Parish Council. Following discussion, it was agreed that since the issue did not fall within the remit of a specific committee the costs should be taken from General Reserves. It was agreed that this would be booked to a Recreation code in Rialtas, reimbursed from General Reserves.

Following a proposal from Cllr Abrams and seconded by Cllr Langford it was:

RESOLVED: To proceed with the cleaning of the soakaways, gulleys, and foul drains using the recommended supplier as outlined in motion paper P24/119-5 was AGREED.

P 24/120

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE COMPLETION OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

The completed AGAR for 2023-24 was received and noted.

Following a proposal from Cllr Wallace and seconded by Cllr Nyamie it was:

RESOLVED: That the completed AGAR for 2023-24 was received and noted was AGREED.

P24/121

CCSO / MEASURES TO ADDRESS ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Cllr Langford noted that this matter may be progressed at the NAG meeting to be held on 10th October.

P 24/122

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Langford referred members to the report circulated with the agenda and asked if members had any questions. No questions were raised.

No report was received from District Councillor Janine Lewis or District Councillor Paul Kander.

P 24/123 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None.

P 24/124 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk stated that a report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and asked whether members had any specific questions. No questions were raised.

The Clerk stated that delivery of the table tennis table was awaiting the improvement of ground conditions at Bucknell's Meadow due to the weight of the table and the need to access the installation site by lorry.

The Clerk referred members to the update on the Goosecroft Development project provided in the Clerk's report.

The Clerk stated that the accounts are up to date and reconciled up to 31st August 2024.

The Clerk noted that matters related to the debit card, savings account and payment procedure had been subject to agreed resolutions.

The Clerk stated that the internal auditor will be on site on 21st November 2024.

Regarding the barn and burial ground, the Clerk stated that Rain and Shine had been offered a circa 35% discount to bring them in line with other regular hirers. The bin screen has been ordered and is expected to take 4-6 weeks to be delivered.

The Clerk stated that the office refurbishment has been completed and all parish officers are now working in the back office.

The Clerk stated that the PSSC rent review memorandum has been signed by all parties and filed.

The Clerk stated that the next NAG meeting will be held on 10th October at 4:30pm.

P 24/125 COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Barn and Burial

Cllr Langford noted the ongoing matters as raised in the Clerk's report and confirmed that the burial ground registers were completed and up to date.

B. Finance and Governance

Cllr Wallace noted that matters discussed at the last meeting related to banking have been progressed.

C. Goosecroft Development

Cllr Bishop stated that progress had been made on the lease, water supply and tender exercise. Following receipt of the tenders the consultant is looking at a cost reduction exercise. Regarding the water supply, Cllr Bishop noted one of the objectives was to

meter the PSSC, however this may be very expensive, and the advice of the contractors will need to be sought. Cllr Bishop stated that routing of pipework supplies to the Goosecroft facilities will need to be carefully considered and noted that the Clerk was looking into the overall water costs. The Clerk stated that the next Goosecroft Development Committee meeting will be held on 15th October 2024.

D. Allotments and Village Amenities

Cllr Abrams stated that the next committee meeting will be held in November.

E. Planning

Cllr Nyamie stated that WBC enforcement is currently progressing several matters.

F. Recreation

Cllr Bishop stated that the zip wire and basketball hoop projects were complete.

P 24/126 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

A. Climate change

None.

B. Emergency planning

Cllr Wallace stated that the WBC consultant flood report had been received. Cllr Wallace stated that the flood wardens were currently reviewing whether additional new items would be required from the council.

C. Grants

Cllr Wallace stated that a notification that the grant application process was open had been posted on Facebook.

D. Human Resources

None.

E. IT

None.

F. Purley Outreach Post Office and Shop

Cllr White stated that the architect planning the shop had advised that the project was ready to go for planning approval but was awaiting BREEAM.

G. Tennis

None.

H. Replacement for Villager of the Year Awards

None.

P 24/127 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. AWE Liaison

None.

B. BALC / NALC

None.

C. Friends of Purley Barn

Cllr Langford stated that the Christmas Market will be held on Saturday 23rd November.

D. Memorial Hall

Cllr Beddoes stated that the last Macmillan coffee morning had raised £640. An Autumn Fair had also been held which raised £8000 for the hospice at the Duchess of Kent Hospital. Cllr Benedict stated that an apple pressing event had also successfully been held at the hall.

E. Neighbourhood Action Group

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

F. Purley Park Social Club

Cllr Nyamie stated that a fete had been held which raised £4500 for Great Ormond Steet Hospital.

G. Purley Sports and Social Club

Cllr Bishop stated that the PSSC was operating well with positive feedback from the sports clubs. Cllr Grady stated that the new PSSC committee had been very receptive.

H. Purley Sustainability Group

Cllr Evans stated that a community lunch had been held at the Memorial Hall, which had been successful, although numbers were lower than previous years due to the inclement weather. Cllr Evans stated that members of the PSG, three councillors, a construction engineer and members of the community met with the Environment Agency at the lock. The meeting was held to discuss the future development of the ground adjacent to the lock-keeper's house and on the Berkshire side of the river. The Environment Agency will provide a map to show the size of the plot of land. The site is unsafe and not currently accessible to the public. Cllr Evans stated that the meeting was positive and had been held following the PSG PowerPoint presentation to the EA on the potential development of the site. Members agreed that it would be beneficial for the PSG to give the presentation at the next council meeting in December.

I. Trenthan Bowling Club

Cllr Bishop noted that communication with the club was currently good.

J. Other Ad-Hoc Councillor Reports

Regarding the Pangbourne Volunteer Group, Cllr Beddoes, as the council's representative on this group, reported that a meeting had been attended the previous week. Cllr Beddoes noted that the group is always in need of drivers to take people to the surgery in Pangbourne, and that demand for this service is higher from Purley residents than Pangbourne residents. The Clerk stated that Pangbourne Volunteer Group would be added under the agenda item 'Councillor Representative Reports'.

P 24/128 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th December 2024.

P 24/129 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Following a proposal from Cllr Langford and seconded by Cllr Beddoes it was:

RESOLVED: To exclude the public and press, pursuant of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, section 1(2), in order for the council to discuss a confidential matter was AGREED.

The meeting was then closed to the press and public.

P24/130 CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL PAPER P24/130

Members discussed paper P24/130 and agreed the next actions.

P 24/131 MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

None.

The meeting was formally closed at 7:00 pm.

Signed:

Date: 10th December 2024