

Purley on Thames Parish Council
Minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting
Held on Tuesday 12th November 2024

In the Large Hall, The Barn, Goosecroft

Commencing 6:00pm and concluding at 7:17pm

Present: Councillors M Bishop (Committee Chairman), M Abrams, J Evans, R Wallace.

In attendance: Sharon Way (Clerk), Colin Moses (Amenities Officer), Mr R Farrow (PJFC), Mr B Carter (Purley on Thames Cricket Club), Mr A Chapman (Trentham Bowling Club)

R24/27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs A Grindley, G Nyamie, G Rolfe.

R24/28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None.

R24/29 PUBLIC FORUM
Following a proposal from Cllr Bishop and seconded by Cllr Abrams it was:
RESOLVED: Suspension of standing orders was AGREED.

Cllr Bishop invited statements from members of the public. No statements were made.

R24/30 REPORTS FROM RELEVANT CLUBS

Purley on Thames Cricket Club

Mr Carter referred members to the Purley on Thames Cricket Club report, circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Carter stated that the practice nets are currently unsafe to use due to the poor condition of the ground. It was therefore necessary to consider the provision of new nets or risk the club falling behind local rivals. The club has corresponded with the council on the matter and a suggestion has been made that during the cricket season temporary nets could be sited on the grass adjacent to the football pitch.

The siting and practicalities of using temporary nets was discussed, including the need to allow suitable time for removal of the nets prior to the football season. It was agreed that the cricket club would submit a formal proposal to council which will be raised as a motion for discussion and resolution.

Purley Jubilee Football Club

Mr Farrow summarised the report submitted by Purley Jubilee Football Club (PJFC).

Trentham Bowling Club

Mr Chapman referred members to the Trentham Bowling Club report, circulated prior to the meeting.

Purley on Thames Tennis Club

Mr Moses provided a report on behalf of the Purley on Thames Tennis Club. The club is in the process of carrying out the annual registration with the LTA. The planning application for floodlighting will be submitted in the New Year, with Fields in Trust consulted at that point.

R24/31

OPEN DISCUSSION FORUM FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

Cllr Bishop discussed the follow-up on several items raised at the September Recreation Committee meeting. With respect to the tennis courts it had been proposed to earmark £4000 per year in order to build up a fund for resurfacing of the tennis courts. With respect to the Bucknell's Meadow playground, it has been proposed that the wooden climbing frame will be replaced in 2029.

A discussion was held on the plans for the path and orchard at Bucknell's Meadow. The likely programme for the works was discussed. The materials for the path surfacing and its resistance to flooding was discussed. It was agreed that funding for any works would be likely to be required in late 2025, therefore should be included in the 2025/26 recreation budget.

Cllr Bishop noted that the approval of the orchard was conditional on receiving Environment Agency approval and planning permission (if required), and that the parish office had not yet received formal confirmation of either of these matters. Cllr Evans agreed to go back to PSG to seek formal confirmation on these points.

Cllr Bishop stated that funding to move the goalposts at Bucknell's Meadow will be included in the 2025/26 budget. Mr Farrow stated that sockets for the relocated goalposts may be available from PJFC, and this would be confirmed. Mr Farrow indicated that the new location of the goalposts should take into consideration as wide as possible scope for future use. Cllr Evans stated that the goal posts should be moved in the summer, since the orchard tree planting would be carried out in the autumn.

It was agreed that the Clerk would send the backing paper for the orchard decision to Mr Farrow, as this included proposals for the future provisions for organised football at Bucknell's Meadow.

Cllr Wallace noted that a long-term plan was needed to address the inadequacy of the current changing room provision. Mr Carter noted that the condition of the changing rooms was raised in the cricket club members survey. Cllr Evans agreed that the changing rooms required modernising in order to retain the sports clubs.

With respect to the newly installed table tennis table, Cllr Evans noted that the ground at either end of the table will become worn and dipped over time and that maintenance will therefore be required to prevent a health and safety issue arising. Cllr Bishop stated that matting would be pinned down in these locations prior to the summer.

The missing sign to Goosecroft on the approach from Reading was discussed. The Clerk will follow this matter up with WBC.

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

RESOLVED: Reinstatement of standing orders was AGREED.

R24/32

MINUTES OF MEETING

Cllr Bishop referred members to the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2024.

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

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 10th September was AGREED.

The minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 10th September were duly signed by the Chairman.

R24/33 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

Cllr Bishop stated that all matters arising are covered in the Chairman's or parish office report.

R24/34 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bishop stated that the new football goals will be permanently stored by the playground.

Cllr Bishop stated that the parish council machinery servicing is up to date.

Cllr Bishop stated that the tractor has been disposed of for the sum of £600.

With respect to Goosecroft Extension, the council is still awaiting a response from the council solicitor regarding the lease negotiations. The Clerk has gone out to several contractors to obtain quotes for the water main works along Goosecroft lane. Cllr Bishop noted that the action to raise funding for the extension is contingent on signing the lease, and the council should aim to have the lease signed this year.

Cllr Bishop stated that the table tennis table had been replaced and was well received by the local community.

R24/35 PARISH OFFICE REPORT

In addition to the circulated Parish Office Report, the Amenities Officer noted the following -

Reading Borough Council have replaced the instruction notices that had worn away from the gym equipment.

The ripped carpet below the swings and slide at Bucknell's Meadow will be repaired on 14th November.

JD Drains serviced the soakaway and drains at Goosecroft and their report is awaited.

The hedges around the tennis court and burial ground are being trimmed back.

The Amenities Officer is meeting a contractor on 13th November to discuss the best method to protect the solar panels from damage.

The parish office met with the scouts to demonstrate the use of the video entry system.

The replacement of one light near the scouts' compound and fixing the flickering light at Goosecroft will both be addressed on 14th November.

R24/36 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Provisional date of the next meeting – Tuesday 4th February 2025.

R24/37 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS
Following a proposal from Cllr Abrams and seconded by Cllr Evans 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.

R24/38 BUDGET PLANNING
Members discussed the proposed increases in recreation budget lines.

Members discussed the performance of the grounds' maintenance contractor.

R24/39 AGREEMENTS
- **Cricket**
Cllr Bishop and Mr Moses declared an interest in the cricket club and tennis club respectively.

The Clerk stated that the cricket club agreement was due for renewal in January 2025. The Clerk would redraft a new agreement based on the previous agreement and circulate to members for comment.

Members discussed club rates for 2025/26.

- **Ground equipment hire arrangement**
Cllr Bishop stated that with the sale of the tractor it is no longer possible to use the gang mowers. Cllr Bishop therefore proposed that the equipment hire contract was ended and the gang mowers disposed of.

Following a proposal from Cllr Abrams and seconded by Cllr Evans it was:
RESOLVED: To table a motion with the following wording: 'To withdraw the ground maintenance equipment contract and dispose of the parish council gang mowers' was AGREED.

Following a proposal from Cllr Abrams and seconded by Cllr Evans it was:
RESOLVED: To withdraw the ground maintenance equipment contract and dispose of the parish council gang mowers was AGREED.

R24/40 MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING
Cllr Bishop requested that members give the Clerk items for the meeting agenda 14 days before the next meeting.

The meeting was formally closed at 7:17 pm.

Signed:

Date: 4th February 2025