

**Purley on Thames Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Allotments and Village Amenities Committee Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**In the Large Hall at The Barn, Goosecroft**

Commencing 6:00pm and concluding at 7:30pm

**Present:** Councillors M Abrams (Committee Chairman), J Evans, G Rolfe, R Wallace.

**In attendance:** Sharon Way (Clerk), Colin Moses (Amenities Officer), 10 members of the public

**A&VA 24/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Councillors P Beddoes and G Nyamie.

**A&VA 24/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
None.

**A&VA 24/22 PUBLIC FORUM**  
Following a proposal from Cllr Rolfe and seconded by Cllr Evans it was:  
**RESOLVED: Suspension of standing orders was AGREED.**

A member of public spoke regarding plot H1 and stated that due to ongoing issues with weeds and the condition of the soil, this plot is not considered to be suitable for growing vegetables.

The member of the public raised three proposals -

Firstly, that the plot is used as a community meeting area potentially with raised beds, a patio area, pergola, and seating.

Secondly that a composting toilet is provided to allow allotment holders to spend longer at the site.

Thirdly, that a greenhouse is installed at plot A12 to replace the polytunnel which is now in a poor condition. The greenhouse could possibly be recycled from another site and have Perspex panels if necessary to avoid the health and safety risk of glass.

Another member of the public suggested a community area may not be popular with allotment holders, citing recent incidents of antisocial behaviour. It was noted that there is anxiety related to youths loitering around the site and waiting for allotment holders to leave. Cllr Abrams noted the difficulties of dealing with trespassing at the allotments.

Cllr Rolfe outlined the questions that needed to be answered with respect to a composting toilet for example how it works, proposed location, how it is cleaned, who can use it, and how it will be emptied. It was agreed that PSG would arrange a visit to Englefield where a composting toilet has been installed.

Cllr Abrams stated that it will be necessary for the council to establish the views of the other allotment holders on the three proposals.

A member of the public stated that allotment holders should also be consulted on their suggestions for ways in which the allotment could be improved.

A member of the public asked the council to consider how the allotments could be managed as a sustainable space for future generations, as a source of resilience and long-term food security.

A member of the public noted the very poor condition of the footpath to Pangbourne parallel to the railway line before the sewage works. Cllr Abrams stated that it was the responsibility of the landowner to maintain the path and that the Clerk will write to the landowner to notify them of the issues with the footpath.

Following a proposal from Cllr Rolfe and seconded by Cllr Evans it was:  
**RESOLVED: Reinstatement of standing orders was AGREED.**

#### **A&VA 24/23 MINUTES OF MEETING**

Cllr Abrams invited comments on the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Following a proposal from Cllr Wallace and seconded by Cllr Rolfe it was:  
**RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> August was AGREED with one abstention.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August were duly signed by the Chairman.

#### **A&VA 24/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**

None.

#### **A&VA 24/25 PARISH OFFICE REPORT**

The Amenities Officer referred members to the Parish Office Report circulated with the minutes.

Regarding allotments, the Amenities Officer stated that nine tenants have not yet paid the annual fees.

The Amenities Officer stated that the salt bin audit will be carried out in the next two weeks.

Regarding noticeboards, the Amenities Officer stated that a decision was required on whether to continue to maintain or replace the Pikeshaw noticeboard, which has been subject to ongoing graffiti and it in a poor state of repair.

Regarding the milestone, the Amenities Officer stated that the current stonemason is not responding to requests for a plan and costs for the next stage of the work. This is an ongoing action for the parish office.

Regarding Pikeshaw, the Amenities Office stated that the dangerous ash trees had been felled and the office was currently waiting for feedback from the tree surgeon to confirm whether further work is needed to be carried out. The parish office is waiting to see whether the saplings from Greenham can be used to replace some of the felled trees.

The Amenities Officer stated that the blue bin at Blount’s Meadow will be emptied on a monthly basis over the winter season.

The Amenities Officer stated that there had been no further reports of speeding at the allotments, however the gate is still being left open and is not padlocked. The Amenities Officer noted that WBC had not yet recruited a speed equipment officer; action on the parish speed monitoring project will therefore be postponed until further notice.

**A&VA 24/26 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 6:00pm.

**A&VA 24/27 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Following a proposal from Cllr Wallace and seconded by Cllr Rolfe 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.

**A&VA 24/28 BUDGET PLANNING AND DEPOSIT ARRANGEMENTS**

Members discussed each budget line and agreed the budget and allotment deposit arrangements for 2025.

**A&VA 24/29 MEMBERS’ ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

None.

**The meeting was formally closed at 7:30 pm.**

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025