

**Purley on Thames Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 11th February 2025**

In the Small Hall at The Barn, Goosecroft

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

Present: Councillors J. Langford, P. Beddoes, A. Benedict, M. Bishop (left meeting at 6:50pm),
J. Evans, L. Grady, A. Grindley (left meeting at 6:50pm)
In attendance: Sharon Way (Clerk)

Since neither Cllr Rolfe nor Cllr Nyamie were present a short discussion was held, following which Cllr Langford agreed to chair the meeting.

Following a proposal from Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Benedict it was:

RESOLVED: That Cllr Langford would be Chairman for the meeting was AGREED.

P 25/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs M. Abrams, G. Rolfe and R. Wallace.

P 25/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bishop declared an interest in the cricket club.

Cllr Grindley declared an interest in Friends of Purley Barn.

P 25/17 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were in attendance.

P 25/18 MINUTES OF MEETING

Cllr Langford invited comments on the minutes of the council meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2025. No comments were made.

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

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 14th January was AGREED.

The minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 14th January were duly signed by the Chairman.

P 25/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 14th JANUARY

None.

P 25/20 MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION

P 25/20-1 Cllr Bishop provided an overview of the tender process and the basis of the recommendations given in the motion paper circulated with the agenda.

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

RESOLVED: To award the contract for the maintenance of the Goosecroft Recreation Ground for a one-year period as recommended by the Recreation Committee on 4th February (R25/08-01) was AGREED.

P 25/20-2 Cllr Bishop provided an overview of the motion paper circulated with the agenda and noted that the proposal addresses the technical issues raised at the Recreation Committee meeting. Cllr Bishop stated that if there proved to be a problem with roosting birds suitable preventative measures would be retrofitted. Cllr Bishop noted that channels will be cut into the frame to enable rain flow across the roof.

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

RESOLVED: To agree the installation of a protective mesh framework around the solar panels on the Pavilion roof within a budget of £2000 was AGREED.

P25/20-3 Cllr Bishop stated that the motion was presented because the Tennis club was required to seek approval from the Parish council for any increase in fees. Cllr Bishop noted that there had been no fee increases for several years.

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

RESOLVED: To agree to the Tennis club increasing the hire fee charged to the public from £5 per hour to £7.50 per hour for juniors and £10 per hour for adults / family was AGREED.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.08pm and relocated from the Large Barn to the Small Barn. The meeting resumed at 6.20pm.

P25/20-4 Cllr Evans stated that she had attended a meeting in Pangbourne at which the Pang Valley Flood Forum had provided an overview of flooding in Pangbourne. Cllr Evans stated that the group would be willing to organise a similar meeting for the residents of Purley. This would probably be organised through PSG. Cllr Evans agreed to keep members informed.

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

RESOLVED: The adoption and use of the flood information dashboard and the £100 donation to the Pang Valley Flood Forum, as recommended by the Emergency Planning Working Group was AGREED.

P25/20-5 Following a proposal from Cllr Bishop and seconded by Cllr Beddoes it was:
RESOLVED: To adopt the co-option policy and application form, as recommended by the Finance and Governance Committee on 6th February (resolution F&G 25/09) was AGREED.

P25/20-6 Cllr Bishop stated that there was a need to improve the water pressure on the site, and also to improve the water supply in preparation for the Goosecroft Extension. Cllr Bishop stated that the motion was for the element of work that had to be completed by Thames Water, namely the connection into the existing water main on Beech Road.

Following discussion it was agreed that the work was required irrespective of whether the Goosecroft Extension went ahead. Members noted that the works would facilitate separate meterage of the supply to each location on site. The Clerk noted that the current tender on Contract Finder is for the provision of a new main to the end of Goosecroft Lane and that a separate contract for the provision of local supplies to the recreation ground facilities would also be required.

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

RESOLVED: To approve payment to Thames Water for the non-contestable work related to the water main upgrade, at a cost of £13,180 excluding VAT, as agreed at the Recreation Committee meeting on 4th February was AGREED.

P 25/21 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Langford stated that a report had been prepared and distributed to members by the Clerk. Cllr Langford invited questions; no questions were raised.

P 25/22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None.

P 25/23 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk summarised the content of the report circulated to members.

The Clerk stated that the precept request form had been sent to WBC for the precept agreed at the January meeting.

The Clerk stated that the council's financial regulations were being reviewed by Cllr Wallace following receipt of NALC's new model financial regulations.

The Clerk stated that web hosting should be fully transferred to ASAP in March.

With respect to the fire in the public toilet, the Clerk stated that there had been no response from the police, and that an insurance claim is being made for the refurbishment works. Members discussed options for securing the toilet whilst maintaining accessibility for the public.

With respect to the bungalow, the Clerk noted that the current tenants are due to vacate the property on the 8th April, and that the property managing company will therefore need to remarket the property. The Clerk discussed monthly rental rate proposed by the property managing company and asked whether members had any strong objection to proceeding on this basis. Following discussion the consensus was that the proposed rate was acceptable.

P 25/24

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Barn and Burial

Cllr Langford noted that the Amenities Officer will put up a small notice informing hirers about the location of the brooms. Cllr Langford requested that the Amenities Officer is informed immediately of any poor housekeeping by hall hirers, so that action can be taken with respect to their deposit. Cllr Evans thanked the Amenities Officer for the deep clean, which had been appreciated by hirers.

B. Finance and Governance

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

C. Goosecroft Development

Cllr Bishop stated that there had recently been communication with Sulham Estate, and that this was positive with respect to progression of the lease.

D. Allotments and Village Amenities

Cllr Beddoes stated that an allotment holders meeting had been held the previous week, with 30-35 attendees. The meeting was appreciated by those who attended.

E. Planning

None.

F. Recreation

Cllr Bishop stated that a recreation project list had been created and noted that a suggestion had been made for the use of a shipping container for equipment storage at Lower Goosecroft.

P 25/25

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

A. Climate change

None.

B. Emergency planning

A short report was circulated before the meeting.

C. Grants

Members discussed grant funding, following the decision at the January meeting.

D. Human Resources

None.

E. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Grady stated that the neighbourhood plan was at the scoping stage.

F. IT

None.

G. Purley Outreach Post Office and Shop

None.

H. Tennis

None.

I. Villager of the Year (Award Replacement Group)

None.

P 25/26 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. AWE Liaison

None.

B. BALC / NALC

None.

C. Friends of Purley Barn

None.

D. Memorial Hall

Cllr Beddoes stated that the coffee mornings were proceeding well. Cllr Beddoes stated that the Memorial Hall had been hired by Olivia Bailey (new MP for Reading West and Mid Berkshire) to meet the people of Purley on Thames, and that the meeting was well attended by local residents.

E. Neighbourhood Action Group

None.

F. Pangbourne Volunteer Group

None.

G. Purley Park Social Club

None.

H. Purley Sports and Social Club

None.

I. Purley Sustainability Group

Cllr Evans stated that the date of the PSG AGM was yet to be agreed. With respect to the Orchard, the conveyancing company will visit the site in late March / early April.

J. Trenthan Bowling Club

None.

K. Other Ad-Hoc Councillor Reports

None.

P 25/27 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18th March 2025.

P 25/28 MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Cllr Langford requested that a discussion on the date and time of the council meetings be added to the agenda of the next full council meeting.

The meeting was formally closed at 19:00 pm.

Signed:

Date: 18th March 2025