

**Purley on Thames Parish Council  
Minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**In the Small Hall, The Barn, Goosecroft**

Commencing 6:00pm and concluding at 6:51pm

**Present:** Councillors M Bishop (Committee Chairman), M Abrams, A Benedict, J Evans, A Grindley, R Wallace  
**In attendance:** Sharon Way (Clerk), Colin Moses (Amenities Officer), Mr R Farrow (PJFC), Mr A Chapman (Trentham Bowling Club)

**R25/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr G Rolfe.

**R25/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Bishop declared an interest in the Cricket Club.

**R25/03 PUBLIC FORUM**

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

**RESOLVED: Suspension of standing orders was AGREED.**

**R25/04 REPORTS FROM RELEVANT CLUBS**

**Trentham Bowling Club**

Mr Chapman referred members to the Trentham Bowling Club report, circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Chapman thanked the council for the grant award.

Mr Chapman asked for a letter describing the facilities offered by the club to be included in the March edition of the parish council newsletter. The Clerk confirmed that this was in hand.

Mr Chapman stated that the solar panels were expected to be installed in March.

**Purley Jubilee Football Club**

Mr Farrow stated that unfortunately few games had been played since Christmas due to the poor weather conditions. Mr Farrow noted that there were eight weeks remaining in what had been a good season for the club, with several teams competing for cup honours. Mr Farrow thanked the council for the grant award.

**Purley on Thames Tennis Club**

Mr Moses stated that a 21 year lease had been agreed between the tennis club and the council in 2012. Under the terms of the lease charges for the public to use the courts, which had been maintained at £5 per hour since 2012, must be agreed with the council. Mr Moses stated that the club was considering an increase to £10 per hour, which reflected the standard rate locally. It was agreed that the club would formally write to the council requesting agreement to this change.

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

**RESOLVED: Reinstatement of standing orders was AGREED.**

- R25/05 OPEN DISCUSSION FORUM FOR FUTURE PROJECTS**  
Cllr Bishop stated that this item would be discussed under the Chairman's report.
- R25/06 MINUTES OF MEETING**  
Cllr Bishop referred members to the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- Following a proposal from Cllr Bishop and seconded by Cllr Wallace it was:  
**RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November was AGREED.**
- The minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November were duly signed by the Chairman.
- R25/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
Cllr Bishop stated that all matters arising would be discussed under the Chairman's report and the parish office report.
- R25/08 MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION**  
**R25-08-1** Cllr Bishop referred members to the backing paper circulated with the minutes. The Amenities Officer summarised the content of the backing paper, and the basis for the recommendation that the contract should be awarded to Contractor D. Cllr Bishop summarised the scope of work covered by the maintenance contract and stated that the payments would be made on an equal monthly basis.
- Following a proposal from Cllr Bishop and seconded by Cllr Benedict it was:  
**RESOLVED: To award the contract for the maintenance of the Goosecroft Recreation Ground for a one-year period and recommend its approval to the Full Council was AGREED.**
- R25/08-2** The Amenities Officer provided a summary of the background to the proposal for the installation of a protective framework over the solar panels on the roof of the Pavilion due to the risk of damage from cricket balls, as presented in the backing paper circulated with the minutes. The builder who carried out the office refurbishment has provided costed proposals for the installation of a protective framework with a mesh infill that would let light pass through to the solar panels. The Amenities Officer noted the need to minimise maintenance and outlined the three proposed options and their associated costs. Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the proposals. Cllr Benedict noted that potential issues with roosting birds should be addressed as part of the proposals. Cllr Evans noted the need to facilitate water flow across the roof.
- Following further discussion it was agreed that option B, as presented in the backing paper, was preferred in principle however the motion would be deferred pending further investigations into the issues raised.
- R25/09 WATER MAIN UPGRADE**  
The Clerk discussed the non-contestable work that Thames Water is required to carry out, namely the connection between the proposed new water main along Goosecroft Lane to the existing water main on Beech Road, for which a quote has been received for £13,180 (ex. VAT). The Clerk stated that the quote expires on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and there are therefore three options: Firstly to formally accept the current quotation, secondly to request a new quotation to extend the validity of the quotation at a cost of £66, thirdly to take no action and to request a new quotation at some point in the 2025/26 financial year at which point prices may have increased significantly. Following discussion members agreed that, since the work had to be

carried out, the recommendation of the committee was that the current quotation should be accepted.

**R25/10**

### **STORAGE CONTAINER**

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

**RESOLVED: Suspension of standing orders was AGREED.**

Cllr Bishop introduced a discussion on a proposal from Mr Farrow for the installation of a 10ft storage unit, to be sited on the lower Goosecroft field, funded by a grant from the Football Foundation.

Mr Farrow stated that the proposal has been prompted by the fire in the disabled toilet, which potentially could have affected the pavilion. Currently both football and cricket clubs store their equipment in the pavilion. Additionally more storage would be required should the Goosecroft Expansion proceed.

Mr Farrow stated that grants are available from the Football Foundation for metal storage containers, with costs for a 10ft container being circa £2-3k new or £1-2k used. Mr Farrow stated that the proposal is at the feasibility stage, and additional matters still to be considered include determining the need for planning permission, potential location, visual amenity, base construction and security.

Mr Wallace suggested that it would be beneficial to consider longer term measures associated with general improvements of the site, for example improvement to the changing facilities, rather than taking short term measures to address a specific problem.

**R25/11**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Bishop stated that the winter to date had been relatively quiet, noted the positive support given to Trentham Bowls Club to improve their facilities, and stated that the parish was fortunate to have three proactive clubs.

**R25/12**

### **PROJECT LIST**

Cllr Bishop stated that a list of current and future recreation projects had been prepared and circulated to members, and this was now on issue 2. Cllr Bishop will keep this updated as projects are completed, and invited comments from members.

Cllr Bishop noted that the last meeting raised the matter of a local sports club liaison and survey, and queried the purpose of this given that the local clubs have an opportunity to raise matters at the Recreation Committee meetings. Mr Farrow stated that the 6pm start time can make the committee meeting difficult to attend for some club representatives.

Cllr Wallace suggested that the survey was to establish the clubs plans for the future, e.g. the next 10 years. Members agreed that the survey was a matter for the full council and could be taken off the recreation project list.

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

**RESOLVED: Reinstatement of standing orders was AGREED.**

**R25/13**

### **PARISH OFFICE REPORT**

The Amenities Officer referred members to the playground report prepared by Reading Borough Council and noted that all council items were at 'no' or 'low' risk, with a small number of minor remedial actions. The RoSPA annual report is also expected shortly. No outstanding repair work is needed on any play equipment.

**R25/14 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.

**R25/15 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Date of the next meeting – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.

**The meeting was formally closed at 6:51 pm.**

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025