

**Purley on Thames Parish Council  
Minutes of the Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

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

Commencing 6:00pm and concluding at 7:36pm

**Present:** Councillors G. Rolfe (Chairman), M. Abrams , P. Beddoes, M. Bishop, J. Evans, A. Grindley  
(left meeting after P25/80E), J. Langford, G. Nyamie, R. Wallace.

**In attendance:** Sharon Way (Clerk), one member of the public.

**P 25/69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs A. Benedict, L. Grady and V. White.

**P 25/70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**P 25/71 PUBLIC FORUM**

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

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

A member of the public requested an update on current parish council projects such as the Goosecroft Extension, the community shop, car park in the lower village, and projects at Bucknell's Park.

The member of the public raised the matter of the fence line at the allotments and stated that it appeared that no progress had been made to resolve this issue.

Cllr Wallace stated that, regarding the fence line, plans had been obtained, measurements had been made at the site and that a report would be prepared.

Cllr Wallace clarified that the parish council was not responsible for the community shop.

The member of the public referenced plans for a cycle track, and stated that there was too much emphasis on developing Goosecroft and more projects should be undertaken in the lower village.

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

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

**P 25/72 MINUTES OF MEETING**

Cllr Rolfe invited comments on the minutes of the council meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025. No comments were made.

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

**RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May was AGREED.**

The minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May were duly signed by the Chairman.

**P 25/73 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 13<sup>th</sup> MAY**

None.

**P 25/48-1      MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION**

**P 25/48-1a      a) To resolve to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25**

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

**RESOLVED: Approval of the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 (AGAR section1) was AGREED.**

**P 25/48-1b      b) To resolve to approve the Annual Accounting Statement 2024/25**

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

**RESOLVED: Approval of the Accounting Statements 2024/25 (AGAR section 2) was AGREED.**

- c) To note the receipt of the Annual (Final) Internal Audit Report - circulated.  
Cllr Wallace stated that the report was positive and showed that the administration of the council is under control. The small number of minor points raised would be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance and Governance committee. Cllr Wallace thanked the Clerk and Officers for their efforts in achieving a successful audit.

**P 25/48-2      Barn Double Glazing**

Cllr Rolfe stated that a £10,000 grant had been received and that a resolution was required to formally approve that the work can be undertaken. Cllr Rolfe stated that the total cost of the project is £12,000, with £2000 to be funded from the Barn & Burial Ground budget.

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

**RESOLVED: To proceed with the installation of double glazing at the barn, funded by the £10,000 grant already secured, with the remaining cost to be met from the barn budget was AGREED.**

**P 25/48-3      Earmarked Reserves**

Cllr Rolfe referred members to the reserves position as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, circulated with the agenda.

Cllr Rolfe noted that only £28,000 of reserve remains unallocated.

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

**RESOLVED: That the Ear Marked Reserves, as circulated with the agenda, following the Chairman's meeting on 5 June and recommended by the Finance & Governance Committee (F&G 25/42-3) was AGREED.**

**P 25/48-4      Water Upgrade Local Supply**

Cllr Rolfe stated that a previous resolution had agreed the mains extension works, however it was necessary for additional works to be carried out to connect the local Goosecroft facilities to the new water main. Cllr Rolfe explained that the whole site is currently supplied by a single domestic pipe which is insufficient for the current needs of the site, causing a restriction in supply to local facilities, e.g. the bungalow, during periods of high water demand. The new works will also provide separate metering of the facilities which will facilitate appropriate recharging to tenants. The Clerk stated that the proposed budget of

£45000 for this work included a 10% contingency. Cllr Rolfe noted that £50,000 remained in the Goosecroft Extension earmarked reserve to cover this amount. Cllr Rolfe stated that due to the extended period of time taken to resolve the Goosecroft Extension lease, it would be necessary to confirm the level of legal fees as this may be higher than the £2000 originally quoted.

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the additional works and associated costs to connect the facilities to the upgraded water supply, as set out in backing paper P25/48-4 and recommended by the Finance & Governance Committee (F&G 25/42-4) was AGREED.**

**P 25/74**

**MEETING DATE SCHEDULE**

Cllr Rolfe referred to the meeting schedule circulated with the agenda and noted that a number of the full council meetings were now scheduled for Mondays, with the remaining scheduled for Tuesdays. Councillors were asked to check the schedule carefully each month to ensure attendance on the correct day.

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

**RESOLVED: The meeting date schedule was AGREED.**

**P 25/75**

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr Langford referred members to the circulated report. Cllr Langford stated that an EGM of the District Council had been recently held, at which the current administration put forward a Local Plan for West Berkshire which they did not like but which they stated was the best that could be done within the period they had been in office. Due to the administration's majority the local plan was approved and, although Purley on Thames is not significantly affected by the plan, there is discontent in several areas of West Berkshire.

Cllr Langford stated that Purley Rise had been resurfaced and that this was the result of a lot of hard work by District Cllr Langford and District Councillor Kander following safety concerns raised by local members of the public. Minimal disruption was caused because the work was undertaken overnight.

**P 25/76**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Rolfe congratulated those involved in the refurbishment of the village milestone.

**P 25/77**

**CLERK'S REPORT**

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

The Clerk noted that financial matters had been covered earlier in the meeting and stated that the VAT return for the Q4 of 2024/25 had been received and work was ongoing on the submission for Q1 of 2025/26.

The Clerk stated that electricity and gas contracts had been renewed with British Gas at slightly lower rates, as agreed at the last Finance and Governance Committee meeting.

Regarding the Goosecroft Extension, the Clerk stated that the council's solicitor has received a response from the Sulham Estate solicitor, which represents positive progress in the lease negotiations. The council's solicitor is incorporating amendments agreed at the last Goosecroft Development Committee meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Barn and Burial**

Cllr Langford referred members to the circulated report. Cllr Langford noted improvements to the barn including the new notice board, dado rail, signage and lights. Cllr Langford also noted that the bins around Goosecroft had been tidied up, and that the barn can now be let out on Sundays, which will be done with caution and consideration for neighbours. Cllr Langford stated that a meeting had been held with regular barn hirers to discuss the standardisation of hire rates and that the aim was fairness for all hirers. Cllr Langford noted the new large shed behind the barn which will prove useful for barn storage. Cllr Langford also thanked the Clerk for ensuring that the Barn and Burial Committee meetings will be held on Mondays.

**B. Finance and Governance**

Cllr Wallace referred members to the finance report circulated prior to the meeting.

**C. Goosecroft Development**

Cllr Bishop stated that the water improvements will be undertaken this year and also noted that progress is being made with the lease negotiations.

**D. Allotments and Village Amenities**

Cllr Abrams stated that at the allotment holders' meeting held in March, safety and security concerns had been raised regarding the height of the fence. In response to this, in July, a new 2m high gate will be installed. Additionally, the lock code has been changed.

Cllr Abrams stated that a strip of road near the entrance to the allotments had been in a poor state of repair and that the Amenities Officer has organised for this to be resurfaced. Contractors will shortly be going into the allotments to cut the grass and carry out a general tidy-up. Cllr Abrams thanked the Amenities Officer for organising this work.

**E. Planning**

None.

**F. Recreation**

Cllr Bishop stated that the next Recreation Committee will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Cllr Bishop also stated that the new maintenance contractor is performing well so far.

**WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

**A. Climate change**

None.

**B. Emergency planning**

None.

**C. Grants**

Cllr Grindley stated that a meeting will be held soon to prepare for the September rollout.

**D. Human Resources**

None.

**E. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Rolfe stated that there was a significant problem getting volunteers from the village to take part in preparation of the neighbourhood plan. It has been proposed that key leaders of village groups will be lobbied, with the aim that they will then encourage participation within their groups. Cllr Rolfe stated that the need for volunteers had been publicised in the parish newsletter and on social networks. Cllr Langford stated that, following discussion with Cllr Grady, it had been suggested that the council could produce its own document which would form the basis for engagement and by the local community. A starting point for this document might be a councillors' 'brainstorming' meeting. Cllr Nyamie stated that it was important that the Neighbourhood Plan is driven by the residents, so care needs to be taken that the ideas put into the document are representative of parishioners' opinions. Cllr Rolfe stated that an informal meeting will be organised involving all councillors and any residents who have expressed an interest in participating.

**F. IT**

Cllr Rolfe noted ongoing problems with the telephone system. The Clerk stated it was hoped the matter would be resolved by 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**G. Purley Outreach Post Office and Shop**

Cllr Wallace stated that progress was dependant on the status of the Pangbourne post office. Cllr Wallace stated that the current business operating the Pangbourne post office is being sold, so its future and that of any outreach operations is currently unclear. Regarding the shop, a productive meeting had recently been held with Sulham Estate and the project is moving forward.

**H. Recognition Group**

None.

**P 25/80**

**COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**A. AWE Liaison**

Cllr Wallace stated that the next liaison meeting would take place in November.

**B. BALC / NALC**

None.

**C. Friends of Purley Barn**

Cllr Langford thanked Cllr Grindley and Friends of Purley Barn for their hard work in preparation for the Christmas Market to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**D. Memorial Hall**

Cllr Beddoes stated that the Warm Hub continues to be well attended, with regular attendance between 20-30 people.

**E. Neighbourhood Action Group**

None.

**F. Pangbourne Volunteer Group**

Cllr Beddoes stated that there was a shortage of drivers and residents are encouraged to volunteer.

**G. Purley Park Social Club**

Cllr Nyamie stated that repair and redecoration work was being carried out to try to encourage increased membership. A happy hour was also being introduced. New members have joined the club's committee.

**H. Purley Sports and Social Club**

Cllr Bishop stated that there were increasing incidents of unsupervised children which has increased the risk of an accident occurring. Members noted that the PSSC have a duty of care to the children of those using the club. Cllr Bishop also noted the increased use of food vans, with short notice being given to the parish office. The Clerk stated that the parish office was trying to arrange a meeting to discuss these issues. It was agreed that the matter had to be progressed and that a meeting date would be set by the council and the PSSC asked to attend.

**I. Purley Sustainability Group**

Cllr Evans stated that PSG are meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June and that the Clerk would be informed of any matters arising from this meeting.

Cllr Evans stated that the Future Nature survey had been completed which concluded that the orchard could go ahead in principle, however it has not been decided whether the project will proceed.

Cllr Evans stated that the Repair Café continues to be a great success with 600 items repaired since the café was started.

Cllr Evans stated that the flyers for the outdoor community lunch on 6<sup>th</sup> September in the Memorial Hall will soon be distributed and that a batch will be brought to the parish office for distribution.

**J. Trenthan Bowling Club**

None.

**K. Other Ad-Hoc Councillor Reports**

Cllr Beddoes reminded members that Olivia Bailey MP had referred in Parliament to her visit to the Project Purley VE Day celebration, which had been held in the Barn. A copy of the parliamentary record referencing the good work of the Project Purley group in connection to this event had been sent to Cllr Beddoes, and this would be retained in the Project Purley archive.

Cllr Beddoes stated that the Project Purley committee would like to thank the anonymous donor who covered the cost of barn hire for this event.

Cllr Wallace stated that a member of the Action for Pangbourne Toilets Community Trust (APTCT) thanked the Parish Council for their support.

**P 25/81      DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025 Parish Council Meeting

**P 25/82      EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Following a proposal from Cllr Nyamie and seconded by Cllr Abrams 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.

**P 25/83**      Members discussed a confidential matter regarding a future potential policy position.

**P 25/84      MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Cllr Rolfe requested that any items for the agenda are submitted to the Clerk a minimum of 14 days before the meeting.

**P 25/85      The meeting was formally closed at 7:36 pm.**

Signed: .....

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025