

**Purley on Thames Parish Council  
Minutes of the Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

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

Commencing 6:00pm and concluding at 7:50pm

**Present:** Councillors G. Rolfe (Chairman), M. Abrams, P. Beddoes, A. Benedict, M. Bishop, J. Evans, J. Langford G. Nyamie, R. Wallace  
**In attendance:** Sharon Way (Clerk), one member of the public.

**P 25/92 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs V. White, A. Grindley, L. Grady, and G. Sillitoe.

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

**RESOLVED: To formally accept Cllr White's apologies for absence on personal grounds, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, covering the period of absence to date and for up to six months from 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025 was AGREED with one abstention.**

**P 25/93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**P 25/94 PUBLIC FORUM**

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

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

A member of the public made several statements regarding Blount's Meadow.

A member stated the council had taken all actions available to it. A planning issue has been raised with WBC regarding the buildings erected on the site. The animal welfare concerns have been raised with the RSPCA. The council has written to Olivia Bailey MP for support in this matter.

A member encouraged the member of the public to keep reporting any incidents to the police and other authorities, and for other members of the public to do the same, because action by these authorities is driven by statistics so the number of reports made is very important. A member stated that, where possible, reported incidents should be substantiated with evidence.

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

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

The member of the public left the meeting.

**P 25/95 MINUTES OF MEETING**

Cllr Rolfe invited comments on the minutes of the council meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025. No comments were made.

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

**RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June was AGREED.**

The minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June were duly signed by the Chairman.

**P 25/96      MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

Cllr Evans asked whether a report on the allotments fence line had been prepared as stated in P 25/71. Cllr Rolfe stated that site measurements have been made and that a report is being finalised. Members discussed the width of the access strip and the documentary evidence of any agreement. Cllr Rolfe stated that a response to the landowner's claim would be sent following completion of the report.

**P 25/97      MINUTES OF THE EGM HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025**

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

**RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the EGM, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 was AGREED with three abstentions.**

**P25/98      MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF EGM HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025**

None.

**P 25/99      MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION**

**P 25/99-1      Appointment of Internal Auditor**

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

**RESOLVED: To approve continuing with Auditing Solutions Ltd as internal auditor for the 2025-26 financial year was AGREED.**

**P 25/99-2      Goosecroft Development Lease**

Cllr Rolfe stated that this motion was tabled in order to prepare for the finalisation of the lease. It is proposed that the agreement is delegated to the Finance & Governance Committee of which the chairmen of all standing committees except Allotments and Village Amenities, and chairman and vice-chairman of the council, are members. Cllr Rolfe stated that any member who wished to review and comment on the lease is welcome to do so. The Clerk noted that the current draft had been circulated with the agenda and stated that the main outstanding issue related to agreeing which party is responsible for erection of stock fencing.

Cllr Rolfe stated that it was proposed that the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Recreation Committee are authorised to sign the lease, in order to avoid the delays that may occur if it is necessary to authorise this at a subsequent council meeting.

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

**RESOLVED: That the agreement of the lease, following the Goosecroft Development recommendation, be delegated to the Finance & Governance Committee and that the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Recreation Committee be authorised to sign the lease on behalf of the Parish Council, with the Clerk to act as witness, was AGREED.**

**P 25/100      LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – BOUNDARY PROPOSALS AND PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

Cllr Rolfe stated that the proposals from both Reading Borough Council and West Berkshire Council are now moving forward rapidly; letters have been received from both parties, and an article has been published in Newbury News. Cllr Rolfe stated that a Teams meeting had been

organised by Reading officers with the Clerks of the affected parishes. Cllr Langford suggested that the views of councillors on this matter should be established. Cllr Rolfe agreed that members could express their personal opinion and noted that it was also necessary for the council as a whole to form a view, and that it should also represent its parishioners.

The Clerk stated that both WBC and RBC proposals would be submitted to central Government in November, with a decision being made in Spring 2026. The Clerk stated that it was important for the council to establish the views of its residents. Cllr Rolfe stated that both authorities would be requested to provide a single A4 summary of their proposals, including arguments for and against, in order to provide a basic level of information that the parish council can provide to its residents. Residents would then be asked to state whether they wished to remain as part of WBC / Ridgeway or become part of RBC.

Members agreed that a simple survey should be created and Cllr Rolfe agreed to prepare a draft which would be circulated to members. Cllr Rolfe suggested that the survey would be applicable to all affected parishes, and allow the parishioner to record which parish they were in. The Clerk noted that there was ongoing communication between the parishes and that the individual parishes may wish to carry out their own public consultations. Cllr Rolfe also agreed to write an article for the Parish News.

The Clerk stated RBC's public consultation will take place in September. The possibility of holding one or more public meetings was discussed and it was noted that this would need to be carefully managed due to the number of residents that were likely to attend.

Members discussed how any information / survey would be most effectively disseminated to parishioners. Facebook, the parish newsletter, the parish council website, door-to-door distribution of paper copies, were all discussed. Members discussed the need to facilitate responses from as many parishioners as possible. The Clerk agreed to write a paper giving 'plan of action' including routes for the dissemination of information and a plan for the return of completed surveys, and that this paper would be circulated to members for comment.

**P 25/101 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr Langford stated that a report had been circulated and asked members for questions or comments. No questions or comments were raised.

**P 25/102 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Rolfe noted the planned changes in refuse bin collections and presented a schedule which would be circulated to members.

Cllr Rolfe requested anyone who had not given a contact phone number to the clerk to please do so. It was emphasised that this was for parish office emergency use only and would not be made public.

Cllr Rolfe stated that the Clerk would like to set up a WhatsApp group in order that members could be notified of any last minute changes, for example to a meeting, or on matters of particular urgency. Members were invited to provide a mobile phone number to the Clerk for this purpose. It was agreed that this would be for the use of the Clerk only, strictly for matters related to the parish council.

**P 25/103 CLERK'S REPORT**

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

The Clerk stated that the AGAR return was submitted to PKF Littlejohn on 20<sup>th</sup> June and a response is awaited. The period for the exercise of public rights will conclude on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

The Clerk stated that there had been some electrical issues in the barn. The electrician has restored power to critical areas and ensured that the installation is safe. This issue may be due to mice – a pest controller has visited site and the situation is being monitored.

The Clerk stated that ash die-back has affected trees at Goosecroft and Bucknell's Meadow, and some tree work is required that will necessitate some re-allocation of the budget.

The Clerk stated that the deposit for the water main upgrade works had been paid to Natta. The Clerk stated that Thames Water are reviewing their quote for the connection works due to the length of time taken to procure the self-lay provider, and the changes to the works. This is likely to result in an increase in cost.

The Clerk stated that the next NAG meeting will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> September and it is anticipated that a representative of the Environment Agency may be in attendance.

**P 25/104**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. Barn and Burial**

Cllr Langford noted that a committee meeting had recently been held and good progress was being made on several matters which would be reported on in due course.

##### **B. Finance and Governance**

Cllr Wallace stated that the last F&G committee meeting had been cancelled due to not being quorate.

##### **C. Goosecroft Development**

Cllr Bishop noted that the lease had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

##### **D. Allotments and Village Amenities**

None.

##### **E. Planning**

None.

##### **F. Recreation**

None.

**P 25/105**

#### **WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

##### **A. Climate change**

None.

##### **B. Emergency planning**

None.

##### **C. Grants**

None.

**D. Human Resources**

Cllr Role stated that the Clerks appraisal and counselling interview had taken place.

**E. Neighbourhood Plan**

None.

**F. IT**

Cllr Rolfe stated that the new phones had been installed and were working well.

Cllr Rolfe stated that as all files are now stored in the cloud, there were times when the internet was slow due to the bandwidth taken up accessing them. Members discussed the use of the NAS installed in the parish office. The Clerk stated that ASAP had advised that it was not possible to access the NAS remotely.

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

None.

**H. Recognition Group**

None.

**P 25/106 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**A. AWE Liaison**

None.

**B. BALC / NALC**

The Clerk stated that parish officer pay increases have been agreed by NALC.

**C. Friends of Purley Barn**

Cllr Langford stated that preparations were proceeding well for the Christmas Market, which will take place on the last Saturday in November. The PSSC will have an involvement in the Christmas Market this year and are working with Friends of Purley Barn on the plans.

**D. Memorial Hall**

Cllr Beddoes noted that the warm hub is continuing to be popular.

**E. Neighbourhood Action Group**

None.

**F. Pangbourne Volunteer Group**

Cllr Beddoes stated that new drivers were always required.

**G. Purley Park Social Club**

Cllr Nyamie stated that the name of this club is being changed and that the new name will be announced in due course.

**H. Purley Sports and Social Club**

Cllr Bishop stated that there was recently an issue with very short notice being given of a pre-arranged event. The Clerk stated that a meeting to discuss ongoing concerns was being organised for mid-September, date to be confirmed.

**I. Purley Sustainability Group**

Cllr Evans stated that a planned Orchard Group meeting had been rescheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**J. Trenthan Bowling Club**

Cllr Bishop stated that a matter relating to the yew trees bordering the club, and a possible grant request, had been discussed at the Recreation Committee meeting, and that the Clerk had written to the club.

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

None.

**P 25/107 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 25/108 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 Parish Council Meeting

**The meeting was formally closed at 7:50 pm.**

Signed: .....

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025