

**Purley on Thames Parish Council
Minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting
Held on Tuesday 23rd June 2025**

In the Small Hall, The Barn, Goosecroft

Commencing 6:00pm and concluding at 7:01pm

Present: Councillors M. Bishop (Committee Chairman), R. Wallace, M. Abrams, J. Evans.

In attendance: Sharon Way (Clerk), Mr R. Farrow (PJFC), Mr P. Neal (Cricket Club), Mr Trevor Marshall and Mr Ray Stevens (Trentham Bowling Club)

R25/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr G Rolfe.

R25/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Bishop declared an interest in the Cricket Club.

R25/18 PUBLIC FORUM
Following a proposal from Cllr Wallace and seconded by Cllr Abrams it was:
RESOLVED: Suspension of standing orders was AGREED.

R25/19 REPORTS FROM RELEVANT CLUBS
Trentham Bowling Club

Mr Marshall provided a report on behalf of Trentham Bowling Club. Mr Marshall stated that there was a problem with the yew trees on the northern boundary of the club which back onto the A329. These trees are becoming very tall and dragging water out of the green and dropping material which appear to be damaging the grass. There also appears to be an issue with tree roots going below the installed root barrier. Cllr Bishop noted that Stuart Bee has previously looked at tree issues and made proposals for appropriate measures.

Mr Marshall also stated that the Trentham club secretary had written to the council regarding an increase in council maintenance funding. Cllr Bishop acknowledged receipt of this letter.

Mr Stevens stated that the club currently had 139 bowler members of which 101 bowled regularly. The club also had several associate members.

Purley Jubilee Football Club

Mr Farrow stated that a report of the 2024/25 season had been posted on the parish council newsletter and Purley Parish News. Mr Farrow noted that the club had had a successful season overall.

Purley on Thames Cricket Club

Mr Neal provided a report, and stated a copy of the report would be sent to the Clerk. Mr Neal stated that three teams play in the Thames Valley League. The club's first team are currently top of Division 3. The second team is second in Division 6. The third eleven are third in Division 9. All three teams are therefore in promotion positions. The season runs to September. Mr Neal then reported on the performance of the other club teams.

There are currently 39 senior men club members and there are thriving women and girls teams. Approximately 150 children play cricket at Goosecroft. Girls cricket is increasing in popularity, and improvements in toilets and changing facilities to accommodate this would be welcomed. The club also has a walking cricket team with both men and women members.

There is increasing concern regarding the behaviour of some children in front of the PSSC on match days (Saturday and Sunday) and training days (Friday). There is concern regarding the children's safety, disruption to matches caused by play on or around the pitch boundary, and there have also been incidents of vandalism. There appears to be situations where children are subject to little or no supervision. Mr Neal noted that signage is displayed when matches are on, barriers have been installed around the screening, and protective netting had been installed around the play area.

Mr Neal noted the recent letter sent by PSSC to its members. Mr Neal noted the generally good relationship with the PSSC and looked forward to this continuing in the future.

Tennis Club

The Clerk read out the report prepared by Mr Moses. The club has held two open days and is still looking to increase membership, particularly juniors, having recently placed advertising on club sites, Facebook etc. The planning application for the proposed floodlights has yet to be completed.

R25/20

OPEN DISCUSSION FORUM FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

Cllr Bishop stated that an ear marked reserve has been set up for resurfacing of the tennis court.

Regarding Bucknell's Meadow, Cllr Bishop stated that the climbing frame is reaching the end of life.

Regarding the Goosecroft Extension, Cllr Bishop stated that significant progress has been made with lease negotiations. Fund raising for this project will proceed when the lease is in place. Cllr Bishop noted that major works have been approved by the council to improve the water supply at Goosecroft.

Regarding the pavilion improvements, Cllr Bishop confirmed that the council is working on a ten year plan.

Regarding the orchard project, Cllr Bishop stated that a cost is being obtained for moving the goal posts at Bucknell's Meadow; this work has been approved by council and will proceed once costs are received.

Regarding the pavilion, Cllr Bishop stated that the council is looking to increase the safety of the ladder and loft access. A price is being sought for boarding-out the loft. Members noted that changing the orientation of the hatch was potentially difficult and expensive. Cllr Bishop stated that labels should be made for the ladder to remind users that the feet of the ladder must be on the floor before the ladder is used.

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

RESOLVED: Reinstatement of standing orders was AGREED.

R25/21 MINUTES OF MEETING

Cllr Bishop referred members to the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2025. No comments were made.

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

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 4th February was AGREED.

The minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 4th February were duly signed by the Chairman.

R25/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

Cllr Bishop stated that all matters arising would be discussed in the parish office report or under the resolutions.

R25/23 MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION

R25/23-1 To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Committee

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

RESOLVED: The election of Cllr Evans as Vice-Chairman was AGREED.

R25/23-2 Cllr Bishop provided a brief overview of the proposal.

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

RESOLVED: To set a budget of £2,000 for the installation of a 4-bay litter and recycling unit at Bucknell's Meadow, replacing the three existing open basket bins, the budget to cover supply, groundwork, and removal of the existing bins, was AGREED.

R25/24 TRENTHAM BOWLING CLUB – ANNUAL GREENKEEPING ALLOWANCE

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

RESOLVED: That item R25/24 would be moved to a confidential discussion at the end of the meeting was AGREED.

R25/25 BUCKNELL'S MEADOW – CLIMBING FRAME AND TEENAGE HANGOUT

Cllr Bishop stated that safety reports from RoSPA and Reading Borough Council have indicated that the wooden framework at Bucknell's Meadow is reaching end of life. It is therefore appropriate to consider replacing this frame.

Cllr Bishop stated that there had also been a suggestion to install a 'teenage hangout'. A discussion followed during which members noted that teenagers often use bus stops as a 'safe place' to meet. Members also noted that suitable structures should provide shelter but be open and in accessible locations. Members also suggested that the local community, particularly young people, should be asked for their views on this proposal. Members also suggested that an article on this proposal is included in the parish newsletter, and the matter is raised at the next NAG meeting to establish the views of the police. Members noted that there was no electricity in Bucknell's Meadow that could provide lighting to the area at night. It was agreed that the siting would be critical.

R25/26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bishop stated that the solar panel protective screen had been installed.

Cllr Bishop stated that the playground safety reports are up to date.

Cllr Bishop stated that the PSSC meeting had not been arranged but that this was being progressed.

Cllr Bishop reported that the new grounds contractor was working well, with no issues to date.

Cllr Bishop noted that discussions on future projects had fed into the agreed earmarked reserves.

R25/27 PARISH OFFICE REPORT

The Clerk referred to the parish office report, circulated to members prior to the meeting and noted that all the matters had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

In response to a question from a member, the Clerk stated that there was currently no bin at the end of Mapledurham Drive, the red bins having been removed by a third party. Cllr Abrams noted that there had been complaints about litter in this area over the previous weekend.

R25/28 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.

R25/29 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting – Monday 24th November 2025.

Following a proposal from Cllr Bishop 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.

R25/24 Members discussed the request from Trentham Bowling Club for an increase in the annual greenkeeping allowance.

**(MOVED BY
RESOLUTION
ABOVE)**

The meeting was formally closed at 7:01 pm.

Signed:

Date: 24th November 2025