

**Purley on Thames Parish Council
Minutes of the Barn and Burial Ground Committee Meeting
Held on Monday 21st July 2025**

In the Large Hall at the Barn, Goosecroft

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

Present: Councillors A. Grindley, J. Langford (Committee Chairman), G. Rolfe, and G. Sillitoe.

In attendance: Sharon Way (Clerk), Colin Moses (Amenities Officer)

B&B 25/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs P. Beddoes and M. Bishop.

B&B 25/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Grindley declared an interest in the Bridge Club.

B&B 25/13 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were in attendance.

B&B 25/14 MINUTES OF MEETING

Cllr Langford invited comments on the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2025. No comments were raised.

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

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, 10th March was AGREED.

The minutes of the meeting, 10th March were duly signed by the Chairman.

B&B 25/15 MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION

B&B 25/15-1 To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Committee

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

RESOLVED: The election of Cllr Grindley as Vice-Chairman of the Committee was AGREED.

B&B 25/15-2 To agree to the plastering and painting of the store cupboards in the Large Barn

The Clerk stated that if the store cupboard doors are replaced the total cost of the work would increase to £1150. The Clerk stated that the motion wording could be modified to allow this additional work to be undertaken if it was deemed necessary.

The Amenities Officer stated that comments had been made about the poor condition of the doors, and stated that there was a general desire to have the Large Barn looking as good as possible.

Cllr Langford stated that the appearance of the existing doors would be adequate given a good coat of paint. Cllr Langford suggested that a proper key lock should be installed and the doors painted white.

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

RESOLVED: To change the wording of resolution 25/15-2 to the following: *The plastering and painting of the store cupboards in the Large Barn to include painting all woodwork matt white except skirting boards, plus new door furniture, plus any door adjustments, at a cost not exceeding £900* was AGREED.

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

RESOLVED: The plastering and painting of the store cupboards in the Large Barn to include painting all woodwork matt white except skirting boards, plus new door furniture, plus any door adjustments, at a cost not exceeding £900 was AGREED.

B&B 25/15-3 To agree a revised hire rate for a long-standing regular hirer

Cllr Langford referred members to the backing paper circulated with the minutes, and asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions were raised.

Cllr Langford stated that the backing paper put forward three options –

Option A: To make a gradual increase in the regular hirer's rates by £3 per session annual increase, which would take about 4 years until the Project Purley hire rate had been achieved.

Option B: Immediately charge the regular hirer the same rate as Project Purley in one go i.e. them up to the 50% rate. This would create an immediate financial burden on the hirer.

Option C: Adopt a gentler approach to increase the regular hirer's rates by £6 per session, bringing them up to a 41% rate over 2 years.

Cllr Langford recommended that option C is adopted.

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

RESOLVED: A revised hire rate for a long-standing regular hirer, as outlined in the backing paper B&B 25/15-3, Option C, was AGREED with one abstention.

B&B 25/15-4 To resolve to agree the definition of a regular hirer

Cllr Langford stated that the purpose of the motion is to encourage regular hire. The Clerk noted that the 10% discount would be applied to the full hire rate. The Amenities officer gave an example of the Regency Ball organisation as an organisation that hires 3-4 times a year.

Following discussion it was agreed that the discount would apply after 6 hire events, irrespective of the period over which this occurred.

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

RESOLVED: To change the wording of resolution B&B 25/15-4 to the following: *Any individual or group that hires the Barn six times is deemed to be a regular hirer, with eligibility for the standard 10% discount; the discount applies to the standard hourly rate* was AGREED.

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

RESOLVED: Any individual or group that hires the Barn six times is deemed to be a regular hirer, with eligibility for the standard 10% discount; the discount applies to the standard hourly rate was AGREED.

B&B 25/15-5 To confirm that the installation of a second memorial tablet on a burial plot will not be permitted

Cllr Langford discussed the purpose of the resolution, which was to maintain a high standard of appearance in the burial ground.

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

RESOLVED: To confirm that the installation of a second memorial tablet on a burial plot will not be permitted, and that any additional commemoration must be incorporated into the existing memorial or carried out through its replacement, subject to compliance with current memorial regulations was AGREED.

The Clerk confirmed that the burial ground rules would be amended accordingly.

B&B 25/16 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Members were invited to visit the new compound. The visit took place immediately after the Parish Office Report.

B&B 25/17 PARISH OFFICE REPORT

The Amenities Officer summarised the parish office report.

The Amenities Officer stated that the barn had recently had some electrical problems involving tripped switches. An electrician attended site and isolated the problem, returning power to most of the barn. The cause of the problem may be partly due to mice – action is being taken by the pest controller. It may also be due to the recent connection of the light supply to the compound. Holes in the walls of the barn are being plugged and it is important that exposed food must not be left in the barn. The Amenities Officer suggested writing to regular hirers, requiring that all food left in the barn is stored in containers that rodents cannot get into.

The Amenities Officer stated that a quotation will be received shortly for replacement of the curtains with blinds.

The Amenities Officer stated that the trees overhanging the barn will be cut back at a cost of £200.

The Amenities Officer stated that the chairs needed to be cleaned. Cllr Langford stated that it was intended to replace the chairs, and that new chairs would need to be in compliance with fire regulations.

Cllr Sillitoe stated that the gates to the burial ground were not opening properly and that maintenance was required. The Clerk confirmed that this would be addressed.

B&B 25/18 MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

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

B&B 25/19

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting – Monday 10th November 2025.

The meeting was formally closed at 6:51 pm.

Signed:

Date: 10th November 2025