

Purley on Thames Parish Council
Minutes of the Goosecroft Development Committee Meeting
Held on Tuesday 16th September 2025

In the Parish Office, Goosecroft

Commencing 5:30pm and concluding at 6:15pm

Present: Councillors M. Bishop (Committee Chairman), L. Grady, G. Nyamie.

In attendance: Sharon Way (Clerk)

GDC 25/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Councillors G. Rolfe, V. White.

GDC 25/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Bishop declared an interest in the Cricket Club.

GDC 25/20 PUBLIC FORUM
No members of the public were in attendance.

GDC 25/21 MINUTES OF MEETING
Cllr Bishop invited comments on the minutes of the meeting held on 28th August 2025. No comments were received.

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

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, 28th August was AGREED.

The minutes of the meeting, 28th August were duly signed by the Chairman.

GDC 25/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 28th AUGUST
Cllr Bishop noted that the Goosecroft Extension lease had been signed in accordance with resolutions made at the previous Goosecroft Development Committee and Finance and Governance Committee meetings.

GDC 25/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
Cllr Bishop stated that the current work was to establish a comprehensive list of costs associated with the conversion of the land to playing fields. This would comprise the conversion of the land itself, the water upgrade works on the Goosecroft site, the extension of car parking provision, and the legal costs.

Members discussed the need to allow for increases in cost during the fund raising period.

GDC 25/24 MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION

GDC 25/24-1 To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Committee
Following a proposal from Cllr Bishop and seconded by Cllr Nyamie it was:
RESOLVED: Cllr Grady's election as Vice-Chairman of the Committee was AGREED.

GOOSECROFT EXTENSION PROJECT

Cllr Bishop stated that due to the size of the project it would be valuable to have more representation on the committee by councillors. Cllr Bishop agreed to write to council members to ask if they wished to join the committee.

The Clerk noted that the clubs could attend the committee meetings, as members of the public.

Members agreed that the following actions were required –

- Comprehensive identification of costs and evaluation of suitable contingency.
- Preparation of a ‘pitch’ or ‘bid document’ which explains the background, rationale, project plan, and associated costs.

Cllr Bishop noted that work had been carried out in previous years to identify potential sources of funding. The potential to submit an application to Good Exchange / Greenham Common Trust was discussed.

Other sources of funding identified were –

- Football Foundation,
- England and Wales Cricket Board
- Sport England
- National Lottery

Cllr Nyamie noted that there were no other projects of this nature planned for the local area, and this should be of benefit to the project. Cllr Bishop stated that the most recent similar project to be carried out in West Berkshire was the Henwick Worthy Sports Ground, between Newbury and Thatcham.

Cllr Bishop stated that WBC should be contacted to establish whether the original grant might still be available.

Members discussed whether there was potential for the council to increase income through raising fees. Cllr Bishop stated that a consistent approach to the raising of fees should be adopted across all committees.

The Clerk stated that new quotes would be required for the car park extension, and sought clarification on the plans and specifications that would be used as the basis for these quotes, for example whether the car park would be tarmacked, or have an alternative surface. Cllr Bishop stated that the detailed requirements for the car park would need to be the subject of a future meeting, and that the current cost collation exercise should focus on the extension land conversion, water main work and legal fees.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To be advised by the Clerk.

The meeting was formally closed at 6:15 pm.

Signed:

Date: