

**Purley on Thames Parish Council
Minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting
Held on Monday 24th November 2025**

In the Small Hall, The Barn, Goosecroft

Commencing 6:00pm and concluding at 7:16pm

Present: Councillors J. Evans (Chairman from R25/38-1) M. Abrams (left 6:37pm), A. Benedict (from 6:15pm R25/34 to 7:16pm), G. Rolfe, R. Wallace.

In attendance: Sharon Way (Clerk), Mr R. Farrow (PJFC), Mr P. Neal (Cricket Club), Mr Rick Hough and Mr Kevin Taylor (Trentham Bowling Club), Colin Moses (Tennis Club representative, PoTPC Amenities Officer)

R25/30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

Cllr Evans noted that Mr Bishop had resigned from the parish council and was therefore no longer Chairman of the Recreation Committee. Cllr Evans thanked Mr Bishop for the considerable time and effort he had given to both the parish council and to the Recreation Committee. Cllr Evans stated that Mr Bishop would be continuing in the role of Goosecroft Grounds Manager.

R25/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

R25/32 PUBLIC FORUM

None.

R25/33 REPORTS FROM RELEVANT CLUBS

Trentham Bowling Club

Cllr Evans thanked Trentham Bowling Club for their report, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Mr Hough stated that the current problem with respect to the yew trees will impact the club going forward and that this issue was now beyond the capability of the club to deal with. Mr Hough stated that one end of the green was now dead and cannot be used. Cllr Evans stated that any actions would need to be based on the results of a meeting to be held with the WBC tree officer.

Mr Taylor stated that on 23rd October, following the club committee meeting, letters and an email had been sent to WBC, Bowls England, and the parish council.

Mr Hough stated that the yew tree issue could potentially put the club out of business, and that this would be made clear to the tree officer. Members discussed potential options such as cutting-back or complete removal and replacement of the yew trees.

Mr Taylor informed members that there had sadly been two deaths of long serving members of Trentham Bowls club – Colin Howell and Mick Lear. Mr Taylor also noted the changes in personnel at the club, as given in the report.

Purley on Thames Cricket Club

Mr Neal stated that a full report had been prepared, and it was agreed that this would be sent to the Clerk for circulation to members. Mr Neal summarised key points from the report.

Mr Neal stated that two of the three Saturday teams had been promoted to the higher division.

Mr Neal stated that the club currently also ran Sunday games, indoor cricket, and midweek teams and noted that last season had been particularly successful for women's and girls' cricket. The junior section, both boys and girls, is thriving, with approximately 150 members. Walking cricket has also been introduced and continues over the winter in a local sports centre.

Mr Neal stated that the club had an active social side, and good relations with the PSSC.

Mr Neal stated that the club was pleased that the lease for the Goosecroft Extension had been signed and was considering plans to generate funds for the project.

Mr Neal stated that a questionnaire had been sent to members, seeking feedback on the club and any advances they would like to see. Responses received indicated two areas of improvement – firstly that there is a need for permanent nets, and secondly that improvements are required to the toilet facilities, particularly ladies' toilets. Mr Neal requested that the potential siting for the permanent nets is revisited, and ideas are put forward for improvements to the toilets.

Purley Jubilee Football Club

On behalf of PJFC, Mr Farrow thanked Mr Bishop for his service as Chairman of the recreation committee. Mr Farrow also noted that the club was pleased that Mr Bishop would be continuing in the role of Goosecroft Grounds Manager.

Mr Farrow stated that PJFC had 14 teams based at Goosecroft. Fixtures had been proceeding well, although 4 fixtures had been lost on Sunday 23rd November due to the poor weather conditions. Mr Farrow stated that it is becoming more difficult to complete all the season's home games because the milder conditions and increasing rain result in the pitches becoming waterlogged more frequently.

The teams are doing well, with age groups ranging from U8 to U17.

Mr Farrow stated that PJFC was pleased that the council had signed the lease for the Goosecroft Extension land and appreciated that raising funding is difficult. Mr Farrow stated that PJFC would be as supportive as possible and requested that the council involve the club in the fund-raising process.

Tennis Club

Mr Moses stated that membership had increased over the last season and that the main task is currently the completion of a planning application for floodlights, which is expected to be submitted in January. Floodlights will increase the time that the courts can be used. The planning application will be based on a template from Pangbourne, which was granted planning permission for floodlights in 2023. Once planning permission is granted there will be a process of fund-raising.

- R25/34** **OPEN DISCUSSION FORUM FOR FUTURE PROJECTS**
None.
- R25/35** **ORCHARD UPDATE**
Cllr Evans stated that the Purley Sustainability Group (PSG) would be planting an orchard in the lower end of Bucknell’s Meadow. The goal posts at Bucknell’s Meadow had now been relocated, which will facilitate tree planting. Cllr Evans stated that initially 13 fruit trees will be planted as a trial to assess how well the trees will establish themselves and whether the trees will be impacted by antisocial behaviour.
- Cllr Evans stated that planting will take place on 6th December and volunteers to assist with this activity would be welcomed. If the trial is successful a further 17 trees will be planted to create a significant orchard of benefit to the community.
- Cllr Evans stated that donations would be welcome and it would also be possible to sponsor a tree or have a tree planted in memoriam of a loved one.
- Cllr Evans stated that the trial planting would have labels identifying the species of tree.
- R25/36** **MINUTES OF MEETING**
Cllr Evans referred members to the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd June 2025. No comments were made.
- Following a proposal from Cllr Rolfe and seconded by Cllr Wallace it was:
RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Monday 23rd June was AGREED with one abstention.
- R25/37** **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MONDAY 23rd JUNE**
None.
- R25/38** **MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION**
R25/38-1 **To elect a Chairman of the Committee**
- Following a proposal from Cllr Abrams and seconded by Cllr Rolfe it was:
RESOLVED: The election of Cllr Evans as Chairman was AGREED.
- R25/39** **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**
None.
- R25/40** **PARISH OFFICE REPORT**
Cllr Evans referred members to the parish office report, circulated to members prior to the meeting, and asked members if they had any questions.
- Cllr Wallace requested clarification on the implications of the recent legionella risk assessment for PSSC. The Amenities Officer stated that it was the responsibility of PSSC as tenant to carry out any necessary risk assessments.
- Cllr Evans asked the club representatives whether the showers were used by members of the clubs. It was noted that the showers are used less currently than they had been in the past. Cllr Evans noted that usage of the showers would inform the requirements for a 10-year plan for the development of the pavilion.

Members noted that the showers are generally used by adult members, and that future usage levels are difficult to predict.

Mr Farrow stated that during planning for the Goosecroft Development, the authorities consulted were satisfied with the current layout of the pavilion. Although dated, the facilities in terms of changing rooms, toilets and showers are better than many in the local area and it was noted that these facilities may be a requirement of undertaking sport at Goosecroft.

The Amenities Officer stated that a quotation was currently being sought for boarding-out the attic space in the pavilion to improve the safety of this space. If undertaken the football and cricket clubs would be required to temporarily remove their equipment to allow this work to be undertaken.

Mr Taylor noted that Trentham Bowls Club owned its club building and had carried out its own legionella risk assessment.

R25/41

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting – Monday 23rd February 2026.

R25/42

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Following a proposal from Cllr Rolfe 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.

R25/43

BUDGET PLANNING

Members discussed the parish council budget for 2026/27.

The meeting was formally closed at 7:35 pm.

Signed:

Date: 23rd February 2026