

**Purley on Thames Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 13th January 2026**

In the Small Hall at The Barn, Goosecroft

Commencing 6:15pm and concluding at 7:15pm

Present: Councillors G. Rolfe (Chairman), P. Beddoes, J. Evans, G. Nyamie, G. Sillitoe, R. Wallace.
In attendance: Sharon Way (Clerk)

P 26/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs Abrams and Grady.

P 26/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None.

P 26/03 PUBLIC FORUM
None.

P 26/04 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15th DECEMBER
Cllr Rolfe invited comments on the minutes of the council meeting held on Monday 15th December 2025. No comments were made.

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

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Monday 15th December was AGREED.

The minutes of the meeting, Monday 15th December were duly signed by the Chairman.

P 26/05 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15th DECEMBER 2025
None.

P 26/06 MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION

P 26/06-1 Budget for 2026/27

Cllr Rolfe stated that the proposed precept is £200,000 which is an increase of 6.27% on 2025/26 for a Band D household. Approximately 1% of this increase is a result of the reduction in the Purley on Thames tax base. Cllr Rolfe noted that the Barn and Burial Ground budget includes £12,000 for replacement of chairs, which could potentially be deferred.

Cllr Rolfe stated that the motion backing paper proposed that members –

- Approve the 2026/27 Budget as set out in the Council Budget 2026–27 Summary v3 and Council Budget 2026–27 Group Breakdown documents.
- Approve the Precept for 2026/27 at £200,000, resulting in a Band D charge of £98.36 (6.27% increase).
- Approve the Recreation Facility Fees for 2026/27, including a 3% increase rounded up to the nearest 50 pence, as set out in the fees schedule.
- Approve the Allotment Rents for 2026/27, as detailed within the motion paper.

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

RESOLVED: To adopt the budget for 2026/27, to set the precept for the financial year 2026/27, to set recreation facilities fees, and to set allotment rents, as set out in motion paper P26/06-1, as recommended by the Finance & Governance Committee (F&G 26/06-1) was AGREED.

P 26/06-2 Cllr Rolfe stated that a new bank signatory was required following the resignation of Cllr Bishop.

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

RESOLVED: To approve the appointment of Cllr Evans as an additional bank account signatory, as recommended by the Finance & Governance Committee (F&G 26/06-2) was AGREED with one abstention by Cllr Evans.

P 26/06-3 Cllr Rolfe stated that the Chair of each of the Committees is generally present on the Finance & Governance Committee, and it was therefore proposed that Cllr Evans, as Chair of the Recreation Committee, is now co-opted.

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

RESOLVED: To approve the co-option of Cllr Evans to the Finance & Governance Committee, in accordance with the committee's Terms of Reference, to serve as member for the remainder of the municipal year was AGREED with one abstention by Cllr Evans.

P 26/07 **APPLE PRESSING EVENT**

Cllr Rolfe stated that PSG had requested permission to run the event in Bucknell's Meadow in October 2026. The Clerk stated that this item was on the agenda for information and discussion only. No objections to this event being held in Bucknell's Meadow were raised.

P 26/08 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW**

With respect to the parish council survey, Cllr Rolfe noted that several responses had been received from residents of Tilehurst, a significant majority of which were in favour of remaining part of West Berkshire Council / Ridgeway.

Cllr Rolfe stated that 507 responses had been received in total of which 77.3 % were residents of Purley and 18.7% were residents of Tilehurst. Small percentages of respondent were from other areas, e.g. Calcot.

88.2% of respondents favoured the Ridgeway proposal, 10.3% favoured the Reading proposal, 1.6% expressed no preference.

72.2% stated that they were 'very concerned'.

Under the heading 'what matters most' the greatest number of respondents stated 'keeping local identity' (79.7%), followed by 'quality of service provided' (76.3%), followed by 'council tax levels' (66.3%).

Members agreed that the Clerk should communicate the results of the survey to the Reading Chronicle.

P 26/09 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

None.

P 26/10 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Rolfe stated that PSG is proposing to hold a community orchard Wassailing event on 26th January 4:30pm to 5:30pm at Bucknell's Meadow.

Cllr Rolfe stated that on 30th January there will be an official opening event for the lifts at Tilehurst station; Cllr Rolfe has been invited to attend and other members may also wish to do so.

P 26/11 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk noted that a report had been circulated to members.

The Clerk stated that a VAT return of £15,482 had been received for Q2.

The Clerk stated that a provisional date for start of the water main upgrade works is 19th January.

The Clerk stated that six grant applications have been received and the closing date of applications is 31st January. Cllr Wallace agreed to post a reminder on Facebook.

The Clerk stated that a quotation of £1250 had been received for boarding-out the pavilion loft. A start date for this work is awaited from the contractor.

The Clerk stated that the first meeting of the Goosecroft Development Working Group had been held on 12th January, with attendees from both the cricket club and PJFC. Potential external funding sources had been identified, including National Lottery Community Fund, England and Wales Cricket Board, and Football Foundation. At the WG meeting it had been agreed that contact would be made initially to explore eligibility and application requirements, with responsibility for making contact split between the Clerk, Mr Bishop and Mr Farrow.

The Clerk stated that the next NAG meeting would be held on 21st January at 4:30pm.

P 26/12 COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Barn and Burial

None.

B. Finance and Governance

None.

C. Allotments and Village Amenities

None.

D. Planning

None.

E. Recreation

None.

P 26/13 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

A. Emergency planning

Cllr Wallace stated that a flood alert had been issued from 21st to 25th December. Water had flooded the lower parts of Blount's Meadow but there had been no damage reports.

B. Grants

None.

C. Human Resources

None.

D. Neighbourhood Plan

None.

E. IT

Cllr Rolfe stated that there is a new requirement for AGAR called 'Assertion 10', relating to accessibility and transparency, including requirements for the council's website. This is applicable to the 2025/26 AGAR statement, and the requirements therefore need to be in place by 1st April 2026. Cllr Rolfe stated that the matter would be raised with the council's IT consultant, ASAP.

F. Purley Outreach Post Office and Shop

Cllr Wallace stated it was understood that it is the intention of the new operator to maintain the Pangbourne post office and outreach as it currently operates, but that this has to go through the post office system and the outcome is therefore uncertain.

G. Recognition Group

Members suggested that the Recognition Group should be renamed the 'Community Award'.

P 26/14 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. AWE Liaison

None.

B. BALC / NALC

None.

C. Friends of Purley Barn

None.

D. Memorial Hall

Cllr Beddoes stated that the Warm Hub coffee mornings continue to go well.

E. Neighbourhood Action Group

None.

F. Pangbourne Volunteer Group

Cllr Beddoes stated that the group was operating well and new drivers had joined the group.

G. Purley Riverside Club

Cllr Nyamie stated that club was seeking to organise an evening featuring a headline comedian.

H. Purley Sports and Social Club

It was discussed that as Recreation Committee Chair, Cllr Evans would take on the role of representative to PSSC.

I. Purley Sustainability Group

Cllr Evans noted that the next PSG committee meeting would be held on 15th January and a report would be given at the February council meeting.

J. Trentham Bowling Club

It was agreed that the appointment of a new representative would be deferred until the new committees were elected at the May meeting. The Clerk stated that the visit from the WBC Tree Officer had not yet taken place.

K. Other Ad-Hoc Councillor Reports

None.

P 26/15 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 26/16 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th February 2026 Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting was formally closed at 7:15 pm.

Signed:

Date: 10th February 2026