

**Purley on Thames Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 10th February 2026**

In the Small Hall at The Barn, Goosecroft

Commencing 6:00pm and concluding at 7:08pm

Present: Councillors G. Rolfe (Chairman), M. Abrams, P. Beddoes, J. Evans, L. Grady, J. Langford, G. Nyamie, G. Sillitoe, R. Wallace.

In attendance: Sharon Way (Clerk)

P 26/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Benedict, Grindley and White.

P 26/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

With respect to agenda item P26/22-2 – Cllrs Evans, Abrams, Beddoes declared an interest in the Mapledurham Lock grant, and Cllr Rolfe expressed an interest in the Memorial Hall and Sue Ryder grants.

P 26/19 PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public raised matters including the future use and condition of Blount's Meadow, vegetation maintenance near the car park, concerns regarding the primary school roll, parking pressures in the lower village, and AONB signage.

P 26/20 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2026

Cllr Rolfe invited comments on the minutes of the council meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2026. No comments were made.

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

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 13th January was AGREED with one abstention.

The minutes of the meeting, Monday 13th January were duly signed by the Chairman.

P 26/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th January 2026

None.

P 26/22 MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION

P 26/22-1

Cllr Rolfe discussed the background to the resolution. The Clerk noted that Aubergine have created and host the websites of numerous parish councils in Berkshire and other counties. Cllr Rolfe noted that the proposed cost of hosting is less than the current provider. Cllr Langford questioned whether there would be an issue moving the website in the future. Cllr Nyamie stated that due to the simplicity of the website it should not be a problem to relocate it in the future. Cllr Rolfe noted that additional documents were required to be placed on the new website.

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

RESOLVED: To approve the commissioning of a new council website with Aubergine, designed to meet WCAG 2.2 AA (W3C) accessibility standards was AGREED.

P 26/22-2 Cllr Beddoes requested clarification regarding grant allocations. The Clerk confirmed that, as the grants budget was oversubscribed, it was not possible to fund all applicants in full.

Cllr Rolfe stated the proposed grants stated in motion paper P26/22-2.

Cllr Grady declared an interest in the Tennis Club.

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

RESOLVED: To approve the recommendations of the Grants Working Group regarding grant awards for the 2025/26 financial year as set out in motion paper P26/22-2 was AGREED, with 5 abstentions due to declared interests.

P 26/23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

Cllr Rolfe stated that a survey is being conducted by the Government. Although West Berkshire is not within the invited group, the leader of WBC has confirmed to Cllr Rolfe that residents of West Berkshire are able to complete the survey. This is an opportunity for residents of Purley on Thames and Tilehurst to state their preference and needs to be publicised by the council. A link to the survey has been provide on the parish council website.

The Clerk stated that emails with updated parish council survey results had been sent to Olivia Bailey MP and Lord Sharma; to date no responses have been received.

Cllr Rolfe noted that Reading Borough Council have stated that they will retain parish councils following any reorganisation, however noted that it was unclear how the precept for the retained parishes would be administered under the new arrangements, and that this additional cost could cause issues with existing Reading Borough residents.

It was agreed that social media would be used to publicise the Government survey link on the parish website.

P 26/24 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

None.

P 26/25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that guidance had been circulated to members regarding their obligations under Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct.

P 26/26 CLERK'S REPORT

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

The Clerk stated that the poor weather had delayed the water main improvements works. Additionally, exploratory works had required a redesign of the service distribution pipework. The Clerk noted that the extended access restrictions had presented difficulties.

The Clerk stated that the internal auditor will be on site Friday 17th April.

The Clerk stated that the pavilion loft is scheduled to be boarded on 19th February and the barn windows are scheduled to be fitted on 23rd February.

The Clerk stated that the Tennis Club has submitted an application to WBC for the proposed floodlighting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Barn and Burial

None.

B. Finance and Governance

None.

C. Allotments and Village Amenities

Cllr Abrams stated that discussions are ongoing with respect to the fenceline of the southern boundary of the allotments. A site meeting to formally mark-out the boundary will be held when the weather improves.

Cllr Abrams expressed concern about an increase in fly-tipping at Pikeshaw. The Clerk confirmed that a quotation had been obtained for removal of the waste in this area.

D. Planning

None.

E. Recreation

Cllr Evans stated that a meeting of the Goosecroft Development Working Group had been held and fund raising had been discussed. A second Working Group meeting will be held week commencing 16th February and Cllr Evans will report back to council.

Cllr Evans stated that the secretary of the Cricket Club had written to council seeking permission to carry out minor improvement and decorating works to the female changing rooms in the pavilion. This matter will be discussed at the next Recreation Committee meeting. Cllr Evans stated that the pavilion will receive a deep clean. Cllr Evans also noted that the Cricket Club can apply for a grant of between £1000 and £1500 for pavilion improvement works.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

A. Emergency planning

Cllr Wallace stated that a flood warning is currently in place and there may be some flooding. The use of Goosecroft for car parking in the event of flooding was discussed.

B. Goosecroft Project

None.

C. Grants

None.

D. Human Resources

None.

E. Neighbourhood Plan

None.

F. IT

None.

G. Purley Outreach Post Office and Shop

None.

H. Community Award

None.

P 26/29

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. AWE Liaison

None.

B. BALC / NALC

None.

C. Friends of Purley Barn

Cllr Langford stated that the Friends of Purley Barn are in discussions with a number of organisations about potential sources of funding.

D. Memorial Hall

Cllr Beddoes stated that the Warm Hub coffee mornings continue to go well, with over 30 people attending the last coffee morning.

E. Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr Beddoes stated that the neighbourhood police team would be outside the Tesco Express that evening and residents could raise any issues with them. Cllr Beddoes stated that someone appeared to be kicking doors in the local area and this would be raised with the police.

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 the club had recently held a sell-out fish and chip night. It is anticipated that this will be held every month. On 9th May a comedy night will be held with an award-winning comedy group.

H. Purley Sports and Social Club

None.

I. Purley Sustainability Group

Cllr Evans stated that 54 residents attended a successful wassailing event at the newly planted orchard in Bucknell's Meadow. This will become an annual event. A local artist has painted a plaque for each of the trees and 13 more trees will be planted in the Autumn.

On 29th March PSG will carry out a spring litter-picking event. Litter pickers will be borrowed from the council.

On 15th April PSG's AGM will be held in the Memorial Hall.

J. Trentham Bowling Club

None.

K. Other Ad-Hoc Councillor Reports

None.

P 26/30 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 26/31 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th March 2026 Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting was formally closed at 7:08 pm.

Signed:

Date: 10th March 2026