

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

In the Small Hall at The Barn, Goosecroft

Commencing 6:00pm and concluding at 7:05pm

Present: Councillors G. Rolfe (Chairman), M. Abrams, P. Beddoes, A. Benedict, A. Grindley (until 6:52pm), J. Langford, G. Nyamie.

In attendance: Sharon Way (Clerk), one member of the public.

P 26/32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Clrs Evans, Sillitoe, Wallace and White.

P 26/33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

P 26/34 PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public reported that PJFC has received a PitchPower report on the condition of the football pitches at Goosecroft, which were rated as 'poor' following an inspection by Berks and Bucks FA. The report recommends applying for Football Foundation grant funding to improve the pitches over a six-year period.

The total cost is estimated at £49,920, with £33,280 potentially available through grant funding. It was noted that the Parish Council's current maintenance budget would broadly cover the remaining costs. The proposed works largely involve increasing the frequency of existing maintenance activities, with grass cutting not covered by the grant.

It was further noted that this application would act as a precursor to a future funding application for works on the Goosecroft Extension land.

P 26/35 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10th FEBRUARY 2026

Cllr Rolfe invited comments on the minutes of the council meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 2026. No comments were made.

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

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Tuesday 10th February was AGREED with one abstention.

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

P 26/36 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10th FEBRUARY 2026

None.

P 26/37 MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTION

P 26/37-1 Cllr Rolfe discussed the current agreement with the Purley on Thames Cricket Club and noted that a similar agreement is not in place for PJFC. Cllr Rolfe suggested that the cricket club agreement may form the basis for a new agreement with the football club.

Following a proposal from Cllr Abrams and seconded by Cllr Nyamie it was:
RESOLVED: To agree in principle to extend the hire agreements with Purley on Thames Cricket Club and Purley Jubilee Football Club to 25 years, to support the clubs' applications for grant funding in connection with the Goosecroft Extension Project, subject to agreement of detailed terms and completion of the necessary legal documentation, as recommended by the Recreation Committee at its meeting on 23 February (resolution R26/09-1) was AGREED.

P 26/37-2 Following a proposal from Cllr Langford and seconded by Cllr Abrams it was:
RESOLVED: To permit Purley on Thames Cricket Club to undertake the minor internal works to the pavilion, as set out in the accompanying report, during its volunteer weekend on 11 – 12 April 2026, with any works outside those specified requiring further Council approval, as recommended by the Recreation Committee at its meeting on 23 February (resolution R26/09-3) was AGREED.

P 26/37-3 Following a proposal from Cllr Rolfe and seconded by Cllr Langford it was:
RESOLVED: To approve an expenditure of £4921.65 to Jack Mintern Plumbing & Heating Ltd for the final building connections associated with the Goosecroft water main upgrade, as detailed in estimate 1006 and to ratify the 50% deposit already paid to enable procurement of materials and avoid delay to the project was AGREED.

P 26/37-4 Following a proposal from Cllr Langford and seconded by Cllr Rolfe it was:
RESOLVED: That:
a) **The tenancy of the Council owned bungalow be permitted to continue on a periodic (rolling month-by-month) basis from 1 May 2026, in accordance with the provisions of the Renters' Rights Act, was AGREED.**

Cllr Langford expressed concern that the rent is not proposed to be increased, given the current rate of inflation and possible future rises. The Clerk stated that Winkworth had recommended that the rent is not increased and referred to the email from Winkworth circulated to members.

Following a proposal from Cllr Rolfe and seconded by Cllr Nyamie it was:
RESOLVED: That:
b) **The current rent remains unchanged at this time, in line with the professional advice received from the Council's appointed managing agency, Winkworth, was AGREED, with one abstention.**

P 26/37-5 Following a proposal from Cllr Rolfe and seconded by Cllr Beddoes it was:
RESOLVED: To adopt the following policies was AGREED, with one abstention:
a) **IT Policy**
b) **Data Protection Policy**
c) **Data Retention Transfer & Disposal Policy**

P 26/37-6 Following a proposal from Cllr Rolfe and seconded by Cllr Langford it was:
RESOLVED: To adopt the updated Accessibility Statement and publish it on the Council website was AGREED.

P 26/38 **GOOSECROFT WATER MAIN UPGRADE**

The Clerk provided an update on the water main upgrade works. Most of the heavy works have been completed. Unfortunately, Thames Water have prevented the 63mm mains from being connected to the existing cricket pitch irrigation system, as they are concerned that there maybe backflow of contaminated water into the mains water supply. In order to provide water to the cricket square a potential solution agreed with the Ground Manager is to add a bib tap to the pavilion, to which an irrigation hose can be connected. The estimated cost of this work is circa £1000.

The Clerk noted that it was disappointing that this issue had not been identified by Thames Water and Natta at the design stage, and that there appeared to be a lack of co-ordination between Thames Water's design and site inspection teams, which caused this issue to be identified late in the works.

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

RESOLVED: To make a motion with the following wording 'To note the update from the Parish Clerk regarding the water main upgrade and agree to the additional costs' was AGREED.

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

RESOLVED: To note the update from the Parish Clerk regarding the water main upgrade and agree to the additional costs was AGREED.

P 26/39 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Langford stated that WBC is seeking to borrow a significant sum from the government to meet its costs, and that it was unclear how this borrowing would be paid back. It is therefore likely that responsibilities currently held by WBC would be devolved to the parish councils.

P 26/40 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Rolfe requested that committee chairs provide their submissions for the Annual Report by 20th March, to enable the finalised report to be submitted to the Clerk by 28th March.

P 26/41 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk stated that an internal audit will be carried out on 17th April.

The Clerk stated that Jack Minton will be on site 23/24th March to make the connections between the new water main and the properties at Goosecroft.

The Clerk stated that grant letters had been issued to all applicants, and all successful applicants had been paid their grant.

The Clerk stated that boarding of the pavilion loft had been completed. The pavilion had been used as the contractor's hub during the water main works and therefore requires a deep clean which will be carried out on 30th March at a cost of £550.

The Clerk stated that C&D will returf the scorched areas of Bucknell's Meadow. With the agreement of Cllr Abrams, the costs for this work will be allocated to the Allotments and Village Amenities budget.

The Clerk stated that from 1st April officers will receive a one increment increase in pay, in accordance with their contracts.

The Clerk stated that the cyber insurance for 2026/27 will be renewed to a package recommended by Gallagher, at a cost similar to the current year.

The Clerk raised the matter of the suggested new public car park, south of the railway line. It is understood that WBC requires the council to submit a formal application for a new car park. Members noted the increasing problems with parking in the village and discussed possible sites for a new car park. Cllr Abrams referred to Englefield car park as an example of the type of car park the council may wish to consider. Members agreed that in principle it would be desirable to have a new car park in the lower village.

P 26/42

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Barn and Burial

Cllr Langford stated that new double glazing had been installed in the Barn.

B. Finance and Governance

None.

C. Allotments and Village Amenities

None.

D. Planning

None.

E. Recreation

The Clerk noted that the Recreation Committee has agreed to apply for the grant to improve the football pitches, as discussed in P 26/34.

P 26/43

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

A. Emergency planning

None.

B. Goosecroft Project

Cllr Nyamie noted that to comply with the conditions of planning permission the works must commence before the end of March 2027 and that commencement of works comprised the installation of a permanent element of the final works, for example a foundation. Members suggested that hedging, fencing or a gate may satisfy this requirement.

C. Grants

Cllr Rolfe stated that grant awards have been publicised in the Parish News.

D. Human Resources

Cllr Abrams stated that the code of conduct will be discussed at the next meeting.

E. Neighbourhood Plan

None.

F. IT

None.

G. Purley Outreach Post Office and Shop

None.

H. Community Award

None.

P 26/44 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. AWE Liaison

None.

B. BALC / NALC

None.

C. Friends of Purley Barn

Cllr Langford noted that lots of good work is being carried out by the group.

D. Memorial Hall

Cllr Beddoes stated that the coffee mornings continue to go well, with 34 people attending the last coffee morning. An Easter sale in support of the Duchess of Kent Hospice will be held on 28th March.

E. Neighbourhood Action Group

None.

F. Pangbourne Volunteer Group

Cllr Beddoes stated that the PVG meetings have been moved to Stoneham Grove Care Home. An AGM will be held on 31st March. New drivers are needed to provide transport from Purley. Cllr Rolfe suggested the group place an advertisement for new drivers in the Purley Parish News.

G. Purley Riverside Club

Cllr Nyamie stated the fish and chip van had been a great success and more catering events of this type are being planned. A comedy event will take place on 9th May.

H. Purley Sports and Social Club

None.

I. Purley Sustainability Group

The PSG AGM will be held on 15th April.

J. Trentham Bowling Club

None.

K. Other Ad-Hoc Councillor Reports

None.

P 26/45 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 26/46 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19th May 2026 Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting was formally closed at 7:05 pm.

Signed:

Date: 19th May 2026