

COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Cookham Parish Council
Held in the Community Room of the Library on Tuesday 1st July 2025

PRESENT: Cllrs. L. Austin, C. Aisladie, N. Bedwell, M. Brar, T. Caen, J. Edwards, M. Howard, R. Kellaway, J. Moore and A-L. Regan.

Also Present: Mrs. Deepa Kanthi (Clerk) and one member of public present- Christian Franke

Open Forum

Mr. Christian Franke attended the meeting and addressed the Council, he said that he had previously submitted written correspondence to the Council Office expressing his interest in the vacant Councillor position. Mr. Franke informed the Council that he resides on Vivian Close, having recently relocated to the area, and is enjoying living in the area. He further stated that he wished to better understand the roles and functions of the Council and Councillors. Cllr. Howard thanked Mr. Franke for his attendance and participation.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Chairman B. Perry

As Chairman Perry was not present, Vice Chairman Cllr. M Howard took the Chair.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs. Howard and Brar declared an interest in item 11.

3. To approve minutes from Council Meeting on 3rd June 2025. *

Cllr. Edwards stated that she was under the impression, following the June Council meeting, that she had been requested to contact MP Mr. Josh Reynolds to provide information regarding the crematorium application, despite no formal action being recorded in the minutes. She apologised for any misunderstanding and confirmed that she had since written to Mr. Reynolds in this regard.

Cllr. Moore came at 7.35

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS – To note the minutes of the following meetings:

- i. **Planning Committee – 10th June 2025.** These were **noted**.
- ii. **General Purposes Committee – 17th June 2025.** These were **noted**.

5. FINANCE:

- i. **To approve payments/receipts in June 2025. – Approved Unanimously**
- ii. **Ratify - £44.00 spent on printing and £40.00 spent for refreshments for the Scout fair.** Cllr Howard explained that several large Q boards were printed for the Scout fair which costed £44.00 and as it was a very hot day some refreshments were bought which cost £40.00. Both these expenses were **approved**.
- iii. **To approve the cost for changing the expired alarms at Cemetery Lodge.** The Clerk had circulated a quotation of £165.00 prior to the meeting and at the meeting explained it is a legal requirement. This was **approved**. **Action: Clerk**

6. To set a date to consider applications to fill the casual vacancy for Councillor.

Cllr. Howard informed the Council that, following the vacancy arising from the death of Cllr. Bune, the process for filling the vacant Councillor position had been initiated in

accordance with prescribed procedures. He reported that two residents had submitted applications for consideration. The Council resolved to proceed with interviews of the eligible candidates, with the interviews scheduled to take place at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd September, immediately before the scheduled Council meeting. **Action: Clerk**

7. To present Cookham Parish Council Annual Report 24/25. *

The Clerk had circulated the draft Annual Report prior to the meeting. Cllr. Howard expressed gratitude to all individuals who had contributed to the preparation of the report, and the Councillors collectively extended their thanks to the Clerk for compiling the document. It was **agreed** that the Council would promote the Annual Report by placing QR codes on all official notice boards, library and in local Churches, with the codes directing users to the Annual report hosted on the Council's website. **Action: Clerk**

8. To consider Wing Day Cookham 2026 to be held on the Moor outside the Crown.

It was noted that the organisers had submitted a written request to Chairman Perry seeking permission to hold Wing Day 2025 on the Moor. Following discussion, it was agreed to request the Chairman kindly to write to the organisers requesting written confirmation that the event is a community-focused, free-of-charge gathering; that it will not contravene any existing byelaws; that appropriate parking and traffic management plans are in place; that provisions have been made for charitable donations; that post-event clean-up arrangements are confirmed; and that the event will conclude no later than 8:00 p.m. Subject to satisfactory confirmation of these conditions, the Council indicated its willingness to grant permission for the event.

Action: Clerk And Chairman Perry

9. To consider marking of VJ Day 80th anniversary.

After consideration the Council resolved to lay a commemorative wreath at each War Memorial in observance of VJ Day. It was **agreed** to procure poppy wreaths from the British Legion, with an authorised expenditure not exceeding £100.00. It was further **agreed** to request that the Chairman liaise with local Churches to coordinate the arrangements for the laying of the wreaths at the respective memorials on 15th August.

Action: Chairman Perry

10. To discuss and consider designating Cookham as a town.

Cllr. Howard explained that at the moment Cookham is described as 'large built up area' in RBWM's Edge of Settlement Analysis. Cllr. Edwards explained it would be helpful to understand the advantages and disadvantages in declaring Cookham as town. She further explained this may or may not be useful with the Crematorium application, as this application might go in front of the Planning Panel, RBWM for decision in July or later. Cllr. Edwards further advised that the estimated cost of obtaining professional advice on the proposed designation of Cookham as a town would be approximately £2,000 plus VAT. She noted that it was her understanding the Cookham Society had agreed in principle to contribute fifty percent of this expense, resulting in a net cost to the Council of approximately £1,000 plus VAT. Cllr. Edwards also highlighted that the information derived from such advice would be valuable in the context of current and future planning applications and the new Borough Local Plan. Cllr. Edwards formally proposed that the Council proceed with securing the professional advice, and the motion was seconded by Cllr. Regan. It was **unanimously agreed** to seek advice on this matter.

It was agreed that the Council should write to the RBWM to ask the Panel date on the Crematorium to be pushed back after 17th July, after the Neighbourhood Plan referendum. Cllr Edwards was requested to write to RBWM on the Council's behalf.

Action: Chairman Perry to instruct Bill Perry Law (provided that this firm acts at no

cost to the Council) to instruct a barrister to provide the advice at around £2,000 + VAT, and to ensure that the Cookham Society support is still available for this.

11. To receive an update and decide on the Verges Contract.

Cllr. Howard circulated correspondence outlining the proposal for Cookham Parish Council to assume responsibility for the Verges maintenance contract from the RBWM. Both Cllrs. Howard and Brar formally declared an interest in this agenda item. Cllr. Howard presented had circulated a map identifying the designated rural and urban areas subject to maintenance and clarified that the Council would also oversee maintenance of Library Car Park, the Small Car Park located within Cookham Village, and the ongoing maintenance of Bell Rope Meadow.

He further advised that RBWM had agreed to allocate an annual payment of £21,000 to Cookham Parish Council, subject to inflationary adjustment each year, to support the execution of these responsibilities. Professional advice obtained from Holdford estimated the total annual cost of service provision at approximately £26,600, resulting in a projected shortfall of £5,400 to be borne by Cookham Parish Council. It was confirmed that the contractual arrangement, if approved, would commence in April 2026 and remain in effect for a term of nine years. Following deliberation, a vote was taken and with a vote of 7 to 2 was **resolved** that the Parish Council would proceed with the application to take over the Verges.

Action: Clerk

12. To consider buying the library building.

This item was deferred for next two months

13. To consider whether Pinder Hall should be registered as an asset of a community value.

This item was deferred till next Council meeting.

14. To consider/approve the revised AMRG rules.

The Clerk had circulated the revised AMRG Rules prior to the meeting. Upon review, the revised rules were **unanimously agreed** and adopted.

15. To consider/investigate better security at the allotment at AMRG.

This item was deferred till the next Council meeting.

16. Consider having a bin at AMRG near the skateboard area.

It was **agreed** that a Big Belly bin would be installed, adjacent to the skateboard ramp, in order to improve waste management in the area. A budget allocation of £1,000 was approved for this installation, to be drawn from the AMRG Projects budget.

17. To consider request for Support in Extending Double Yellow Lines on Maidenhead Road.

It was **agreed unanimously** to support Extending Double Yellow Lines on Maidenhead Road. It was **agreed** Cllr. Edwards would write to RBWM.

18. To receive any update on the planning application by Elegy Ltd to build a crematorium on Long Lane and to decide any appropriate further action.

It was **agreed** that Cllr. Edwards would write to the RBWM to request a one-month deferral of the decision date.

19. To receive a report from the Chairman regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. *

The Clerk had circulated the Chairman's report on Neighbourhood Plan prior to the meeting. It was noted that there were no further updates to report other than confirmation that the date for the referendum had been set for 17th July 2025.
His report was **agreed**.

20. To consider whether or not to complain about the conduct of RBWM planning team in relation to the Turkey farm application of 2022.

It was **agreed** that the Chairman should write to the RBWM to complain about the conduct of the turkey farm application. Clerk to liaise with the Chairman.

21. To receive a report from Patient Participation Group.

Cllr. Howard reported that the PPG had conveyed the decision that Medical Centre would no longer be submitting their bi-monthly articles for the local parish magazine. The Medical Centre considers that they have a number of other ways in which they communicate with their patients which are a more appropriate. The PPG also said that PPG may submit contributions independently.

22. To consider a list of projects.

This item was deferred till the next meeting.

23. Outside Bodies and Borough Councillors' reports.

None

24. Any other business (by permission of the Chairman and upon which no decisions may be made).

None

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Next meeting Tuesday 5th August 2025 at 7.30pm in the Community Room at Cookham Library.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Dated.....