

**COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**Held in the Community Room on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.30pm**

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**PRESENT:** Cllrs. H. Pleming (Chairman), L. Austin, L. Tull, E. Bune, M-L. Kellaway.

**Also Present:** Mrs. D Kanthi (Clerk)

No members of the public or press were present.

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**1. Apologies**

Cllrs. A-L.Regan, B. Perry, M. Brar, J. Edwards and M. Howard.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

These were unanimously **agreed**.

**4. Update on proposals relating to grass cutting and hedge maintenance at the Cookham Cemetery extension field**

There was no further update on this. It was noted that the hedge cutting should happen before and outside of the nesting periods. This item to be carried forward to the next General Purposes meeting in April.

**Action: Clerk**

**5. To approve revised hire cost of cemetery chapel from £50 to £100.**

Following discussion, it was **unanimously agreed** that the hire cost of the Chapel should be raised to £100.00 to help cover increasing costs of cleaning amongst other things. The Clerk was asked to monitor the application of this decision.

**Action: - Clerk**

**6. Agenda items 6 and 7-To approve the expenditure of £366.00 in order to repair the fence in Alleyns lane grazing field and 7. To agree the costs of works needed regarding removal of brambles and improved fencing at the Alleyns Lane Grazing field**

The Clerk reported that she had received one quote of £1085.00 for the above works but there were insufficient funds in the General Purposes budget for this year for the whole work to be undertaken. The quote was **approved** with a view to the majority of the spend being deferred to the next financial year. However, it was **agreed** that an urgent repair to part of the fence amounting to £178.00 could be undertaken this financial year from the General purposes budget.

**Action: -Chairman and Clerk**

**7. To approve subject to available budget/or consider recommending to Council the costs of levelling the track at Sutton Road Allotments. Max £600.00**

The Clerk reported that a single quotation in the amount of £600 had been obtained. Given that the quoted amount was deemed excessively high, it was proposed that a working group be established in conjunction with representatives from the Allotment Association to level the track. The Chairman and Cllr. Edwards are to confer with the members of the allotment holders during the meeting scheduled for March 2025 to

discuss this matter.

**Action: - Chairman and Cllr. Edwards**

**8. To consider the installation of a new hedge alongside the new chestnut palings at Sutton Road allotments**

The Chairman reported that the material costs for this work will exceed £500, in addition to the labour costs. Given that no funds remained within the GP budget and the job is not required to be completed until November 2025, it was resolved to carry this item forward to the GP meeting scheduled before November.

**Action: - Clerk**

**9. To consider the survey of bins and signage at Alfred Major Recreation Ground (AMRG)**

As per the resolution taken at the last meeting, it was agreed that a report should be prepared detailing the necessary works on the grounds. However, this report has not yet been completed. Additionally, it was resolved that the Chairman would engage with Cllr. Howard to assess the feasibility of engaging Cookham Waste for consultancy on the required tasks. This matter is to be deferred to the next GP meeting.

**Action: Chairman and Clerk**

**10. To consider/approve installing a tap and pipe to the Sutton Road Orchard**

A quotation in the amount of £680 was obtained for the installation of a 100-metre underground water pipe and the erection of a post with a tap near the Orchard. It was **agreed** that the tap would be installed in proximity to the Orchard and that the expenses for this project would be allocated from the Orchard funds.

**Action: Clerk**

**11. Notice boards at Allotments- Yellow and Black- £40**

The Clerk provided an explanation of the current situation concerning the tracks along Alleyns Lane allotments. It was decided to order and display new notices Alleyns Lane and Sutton Road allotments explaining the allotment users do so at their own risk.. A budget of £80.00 was approved to make and install the signage from the next financial year's General Purposes budget.

**12. To consider increasing the deposit for the allotments from £50 to £100**

This was **agreed unanimously**. Additionally, it was resolved to introduce an option to make the deposit payments more affordable by allowing the deposit to be paid over a period of two months.

**13. To consider future projects for AMRG**

The Clerk was asked to put on the next meeting agenda the need to evaluate the commencement of two projects at the beginning of the next financial year in April. The projects include the tidying up of the entrance from Hillcrest and the provision of signage at AMRG.

**14. Any other business for which no decisions may be made at this meeting.**

The Chairman reported Cllr. Edwards's suggestion of inviting a member of the Royal family for the opening of the Sutton Road allotment. It was discussed that, in the event this does not materialise, various alternatives were proposed in lieu. It was resolved that The Chairman would liaise with Cllr. Edwards and extend invitations to these alternatives.

**Action: - Chairman and Cllr. Edwards**

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm.