

COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Cookham Parish Council
Held in the Community Room of the Library on Tuesday 2nd December 2025

PRESENT: Cllr. B. Perry (Chairman), Cllrs. L. Austin, C. Aisladie, C. Blackall, J. Edwards, M. Howard, M-L. Kellaway, R. Kellaway, A-L. Regan and L. Tull.

Also Present: Mrs. Christine Hunter (Assistant Clerk), Mrs Jane Perry

Open Forum

Cllr. M-L Kellaway read a WhatsApp message from a parishioner describing erratic driving at Winter Hill. Various Councillors also made comments.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs. Brar and Franke

2. Declarations of Interest.

None

3. To approve minutes from Council Meeting on 4th November 2025.

Subject to a minor amendment to Minute Item 8, specifying that the funds are to be drawn from the strategic reserves under Line Item 117, the minutes were **approved**.

It was **agreed** to move item 6 to the start of the meeting to follow on from Open Forum.

6. To consider requesting that the National Trust closes the car park at Winter Hill to reduce the incidents of night-time noise, car racing and drug taking.

Councillors discussed car racing at night around Winter Hill and the danger and noise this was creating, including a wide-ranging discussion on possible ways to stop this.

Alternatives to closing the car park were discussed including a 20mph zone, speed humps with extra police to enforce it. Various difficulties existed with doing either.

After discussion, a vote was taken as to whether the Council would favour closing the car-park to try to eliminate the problem. The Council voted by 8 : 2 against closing the car park if possible.

It was instead **agreed** to consult the National Trust and other relevant authorities about steps to reduce or eliminate the problem. It was **agreed** that Cllr. Howard should write an email to the National Trust, TVP and RBWM to ask for them to work with CPC to resolve the night-time problems at Winter Hill. The Chairman was also asked to raise this matter in his column in the next Parish Magazine.

Action: Cllr. Howard; The Chairman

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

- a. **Planning Committee- 11th November 2025.** - These were **noted**.
- b. **General Purposes Committee - 21st October 2025.**

These were **noted**. There were no comments.

5. FINANCE:

- i. **To approve payments/receipts in November 2025.** Approved.
- ii. **To ratify change in the cost for purchasing the bin at AMRG with an increase of £38.28 plus VAT.** Ratified.

7. To consider if a 20mph zone across the built-up areas of Cookham is appropriate or desirable and if so, what steps to take accordingly.

Cllr. Regan brought to the meeting the suggestion of a 20mph zone in some parts of Cookham. There was a discussion around structure of the questionnaire, neutral questions, who would ask the questions, who to ask, just inhabitants or Cookham road users. The area covered by the speed limit was also discussed.

It was **agreed** that Cllr. Regan will prepare the questionnaire asking road-users if they favour a 20mph zone between the Montessori Nursery on Maidenhead Road and the McParland Pharmacy and a proposal for where residents should be consulted for the January or February Council meeting.

Action: Cllr. Regan

8. To consider election of Cllr. M-L. Kellaway to Planning Committee.

Cllr M-L Kellaway was so **elected**.

9. To consider election of Cllr. Blackall to General Purposes Committee.

Cllr. Blackall was so **elected**.

10. To consider election of Cllr. Franke to Finance committee as the fifth ordinary member of the committee.

Cllr. Franke was so **elected**.

11. To approve the appointment of Cllrs. Aisladie, Austin and Howard to the Cookham Planning Working Party, of Ms Nina Milner as its Administrator and the Cookham Society, WildCookham and (if appropriate) Cookhams Footprint as permanent consultees and to receive an oral report from the Chairman.

Cllr. Perry reminded the meeting that Cllr. Edwards and he were already members. He reported Save Cookham was not responding to the invitation to be a permanent consultee and Cookhams Footprint were unsure if they wanted to be involved.

It was unanimously **agreed** to appoint Cllrs. Aisladie, Austin and Howard to the Cookham Planning Working Party, Ms. Nina Milner as its Administrator and the Cookham Society and WildCookham as permanent consultees.

12. To finalise how to proceed with the planning of bulbs for the Wildflower project.

Locations and the rules to be followed were discussed. Cllr. Edwards and the Assistant Clerk were opposed to planting on RBWM (or any third party) land without express approval in advance. A letter and form issued by RBWM needs to be completed and submitted showing any areas of its land to be 'adopted' for planting with details of the bulbs to obtain approval.

It was **agreed** that the office would send the form using information sent by Cllr. Regan. The lead-time for permission to be granted is ten days, after receipt of the letter, and planting could possibly be done weekend of 20/21st December.

Planting could proceed on land owned by the Council Accordingly, it was agreed that the Assistant Clerk should ask Holfords to cut the verge outside the Sutton Road allotments, which is a possible planting site.

Action: Assistant Clerk

13. To consider a response to and otherwise deal with the application by Copas Traditional Turkeys Ltd., for a licence for year-round retail and distribution of products, including alcoholic beverages, from the farm shop (and online by telephone) including regulated entertainment.

Objections raised by councillors included:

Licence excessive in time

Proposed site covers much of the existing turkey field

Permitted events will create a noise nuisance

Existing licensing adequate for the parish

No councillors were in favour of the application.

Councillors were reminded that there were limited grounds for objection and that objections had to be made by tomorrow.

It was **agreed** that Cllr. Howard should send an objection, as should the Chairman.

Action: Chairman and Cllr. Howard

14. To discuss the latest HAGS report and decide upon any actions appropriate as a result.

Councillors noted there were no 'red items' in the report. It was noted the basket-ball hoop needed repairing even though not listed in the report.

Cllr. Perry moved to repair any items graded as 'orange'. Generally, the area needed a 'refurb'.

It was **agreed** that (a) all orange items should be actioned immediately; and (b) all green items in the report would be reviewed at the January or February Council meeting. Money to come from Strategic Reserves.

Action: Clerk

15. To agree on how to conduct 'interim' planning meetings.

Cllr. Edwards explained interim planning meetings, where required to discuss several applications should take place by Zoom. Any decisions could be ratified at the following Planning Committee meeting for the avoidance of doubt. This was unanimously **agreed**.

16. To discuss and if possible, finalise the design, wording and budget for, and location of, the new Welcome boards at AMRG.

Deferred until January's meeting.

17. To receive an update on the interim internal audit.

Cllr Perry reported that the Council has 'sailed' through the internal audit. Councillors noted the work the Clerk had put obtaining this result.

18. To receive an update on the FOI request to RBWM in respect of CIL money.

Cllr Edwards had received no reply. As the legal time limit for a response has passed, she will contact the RBWM for a response. Cllrs noted the importance of knowing the correct position.

Action: Cllr. Edwards

19. To consider and approve the cleaning of the War Memorial every October going forward, in preparation for Remembrance Day celebrations.

After discussion it was **agreed** that the War Memorial would be given a 'wash and brush up' clean, rather than a 'deep' clean, on an annual basis if required, with the Tarrystone and the Cookham Dean memorial also to be included (though it was noted that the Cookham Dean war memorial is listed so permission maybe needed to clean it).

Action: Clerk

Cllr Regan mentioned that during the VE day commemorations it had been discovered that some names of servicemen from Cookham had apparently been omitted from the memorials. The Council had resolved to rectify this. Nothing had yet been done. It was **agreed** that this should be implemented promptly. Cllr Regan will send the office a list of the names to be added to the war memorials when permission is given.

Action: Cllr Regan, Clerk

20. To receive an update on the Verges Contract.

The Clerk was running the tender process and a full update will be given at the next Council meeting.

21. To review the Full Council Action List.

This will be reviewed at the next Council meeting.

22. Outside Bodies' and Borough Councillors' reports.

Cllr. Perry had contacted Adam Bermange regarding the application for the manège due to the inappropriate way the Cookham Neighbourhood Plan had been treated in the officers' report to the Maidenhead Development Management Committee and Mr Waite had responded to his submissions about it and request to correct this.

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

(a) The 10.45am actual start compared with the 10.50am advertised start for the Remembrance Service at the war memorial was mentioned. This time meant some people, including Cllrs, missed the actual service and it was over before the 11am chimes. This has been brought to the attention of those concerned.

(b) Cllr. Edwards has responded to the proposed SANG in Bourne End.

(c) Cllr. Perry was asked to bring comments on the new Renters Bill to the next Council meeting as it may affect Cemetery Lodge.

24. Under section 1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) and under Standing order 3d to agree that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted below that the public be temporarily excluded and be instructed to withdraw.

Mrs Jane Perry withdrew from the meeting. Cllr. Tony Caen left the meeting.

25. To receive a report from the Chairman on the possibility of retaining security companies in place of the former Chief Commons Officer to act as officers of the Council to enforce the Bye-laws governing Odney Common and the Moor and/or the rules for AMRG.

Cllr. Perry reminded the Council of the reasons for the need for security. Following Mr Aisladie's retirement from the role of Chief Commons Officer, it had proved impossible to find an alternative individual or individuals to take on the role(s). He had therefore approached four companies which seemed to have a local presence. Three had responded; of those three, after discussion two had submitted proposals. The matter was being raised in Part II because of certain confidential pricing information and intellectual property in one proposal, which he explained. Of those that had replied 4Front (Mr Simon Bailey's company), seemed to be the more suitable for Cookham. The Council **agreed** unanimously that Cllr Perry should invite Simon Bailey to speak at the next Council meeting with a view to progressing the matter.

Action: Cllr. Perry

Next meeting Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Community Room at Cookham Library.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Dated.....