

**COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Cookham Parish Council**  
**Held in the Community Room of the Library on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**

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

**Also Present:** Mrs. Deepa Kanthi (Clerk), Michael Karavias

**Open Forum**

Mr Karavias spoke to explain his wish to divert the Public Right of Way (PROW) through his land at Rowborough. There had been fence damage and other vandalism along and beside the footpath. Despite a six-foot gate, fencing, and security cameras his wife becomes anxious when activity is detected while he is away. The footpath is narrow and in poor condition. He proposed realigning it to an L-shape around the outside of his garden and to create a two-metre-wide hard-surfaced path suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. He feels that the new route would have at least as good a view and be just as convenient. He said that the neighbours whose land would adjoin the new route were supportive. He requested the Council's feedback and support for his application. The Chairman pointed out that the Council's request in mid-2024 for details of incidents reported to the police had never been answered. Mr Karavias said that only the one incident of the fence damage had been reported.

Cllr Brar suggested that some Councillors may wish to visit the site. She noted that RBWM should liaise with Cookham Parish Council on the matter.

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs. T Caen, A. Regan and L. Tull

Cllr Franke had apologised for likely lateness.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr Brar declared interest in item 13. She and Cllr Perry declared a personal interest in items 15 and 19 as members of the Odney Club.

**3. To approve minutes from Council Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

Subject to a minor amendment to minute on item 10, the minutes were approved and would be signed after re-typing.

It was **agreed** that item 11 be brought forward.

**11. To consider and agree further actions in relation to the proposed diversion of the Public Right of Way (PROW) re-route at Rowborough, Cookham.**

Following discussion, it was **agreed** to defer the matter until the old documentation had been reviewed, Cllrs who wished to do so had visited the site and any other information required had been received.

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

- a. **Planning Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026.** These were **noted**.
- b. **Finance Committee-6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.** These were **noted**.

**5. FINANCE:**

- i. **To approve payments/receipts in January 2026.** These were approved.
- ii. **To ratify the spend of £1702.00 plus VAT to upgrade the office computers/laptops.** Ratified.
- iii. **To ratify the spend of £207.00 plus VAT to print 17 copies of the Cookham Neighbourhood Plan.** Ratified. It was **agreed** that the funds should be allocated from line item 27- Printing of the budget monitor.

- iv. **To approve the purchase of four further copies of the Cookham Neighbourhood plan.** This was approved. It was agreed that the funds should be allocated from line item 27- Printing of the budget monitor.
- v. **To ratify purchase of latest edition of Local Council Administration, Arnold Baker- 13th edition for the price of £149.40. Ratified.**

The Chairman noted the spend of £1350.00 in relation to advice received from Troy Planning for the Crematorium application approved by the Emergency Working Party on 23.12.25 and ratified by Council on 6.1.26 had now been made. This was **agreed**. It was agreed the funds should be allocation from the Strategic reserves of the Neighbourhood Plan line item 40 of the budget monitor.

**Action: Clerk**

- 6. **To approve renewing the procedure to fill the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr Fleming**

The Chairman's paper relating to items 6 and 7 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was **agreed** to re-advertise the Councillor vacancy with a closing date of 27 March and to return the matter to the Council meeting on 7 April.

**Action: Clerk**

- 7. **To agree to insert in Standing Order 26.8 between "shall" and "co-opt" the words "vote on whether to".**

**Action: Clerk**

In the light of the Chairman's paper, this was **agreed**.

- 8. **To consider and decide on whether to continue using Shorts for bin collection services, given the 9% price increase effective from 1 March, or to approve the increase.**

The Chairman reported that following a notification from Shorts of a proposed price increase of 9% the Clerk's effective negotiation had reduced the increase to 3%. It was **agreed** to accept the 3% increase. Councillors discussed alternative options for waste collection in view of the overall cost to the Council. It was **agreed** that the Clerk and Chairman would work on this and report back to Council.

**Action: Clerk and Chairman**

- 9. **To consider and approve a 3% price increase for AMRG's grounds maintenance service, effective from the next financial year.**

After discussion, this was **approved**.

**Action: Clerk**

- 10. **To note the expiry date for the Cookham Dean Football Club's licence to use pitches in Alfred Major Recreation Ground and decide whether to open discussions with them about any potential renewal.**

The Chairman noted that the 30-year licence to the Club expires in August 2026 and invited Councillors to consider future arrangements. Views expressed in discussion were to open discussions about a new licence; that any term should be reduced to 5 or a maximum of 10 years; that the rent should be reviewed annually; and that parking arrangements should be addressed in the discussions.

Cllr. Franke joined the meeting at 8.10pm

It was **agreed** that the Council should initiate discussions with the Football Club as discussed.

**Action: Chairman and Clerk**

- 12. **To receive a report from the Planning Working Party and to approve its recommendations and actions.**

The Clerk had circulated the Chairman's report. The PWP's actions and recommendations were **agreed**.

**Action: Chairman and PWP**

- 13. **To consider and if appropriate, agree a donation of £250 to Elizabeth House to cover the insurance excess relating to repair costs incurred from a water leak.**

After consideration, it was **agreed** to decline the request.

**Action: Clerk**

- 14. To consider the Chairman's paper and the advice from Troy Planning & Design relating to the potential new Project concerning the cemetery and chapel for the Cookham Parish Neighbourhood Plan, and to decide:**
- a. **whether or not to amend the draft Project:** the proposed amendment was **agreed**
  - b. **whether or not to approve the proposed Project (as amended if amended) for inclusion as project 13 in Appendix 8 of the Neighbourhood Plan;** the proposed Project was **so approved**
  - c. **if so approved, to implement stage 5 of the procedure.** This was **agreed.**  
**Action: Clerk and Chairman**
- 15. To consider and decide upon any appropriate action regarding the re-opening of Odney Weir in the light of the most recent communication from the Environment Agency.**  
The Chairman suggested that he should continue to pursue the matter and provide an update at the March Council meeting. This was **agreed.** **Action: Chairman**
- 16. To receive an update on the Verges Contract.**  
Cllr. Howard reported that, despite repeatedly chasing RBWM for the contract details and heads of terms, the Council had still not received a response. He noted that some of the work to be done to prepare for transfer of the contract also remained outstanding. The Clerk is unable to prepare a tender until the required information is provided. A meeting had been arranged to address this.
- 17. To receive an oral report from the Chairman on progress relating to the potential contract with 4front to enforce the Byelaws and AMRG rules.**  
The Chairman following a discussion with 4Front reported that the fees proposed in the draft contract provided by 4Front Security were apparently non-negotiable. He proposed, however, to negotiate the standard terms attached and to bring the draft to the March meeting for decision. Cllr Howard noted that the Woodland Trust had expressed an interest in working collaboratively with the Parish Council on this issue. The Chairman would pursue this with them. The Chairman reported that the National Trust had now responded were still, though rather vaguely, positive, so he would pursue this with them too. **Action: Chairman**
- 18. To receive an update on the planning application by Maidenhead Crematorium Ltd.**  
Cllr Edwards reported that the objection prepared by Troy Planning has been submitted to RBWM. She further advised that an additional objection from Cliveden has also been submitted. She said that a total of 343 objections are currently recorded.
- 19. To receive an update on the request for 'minor variation' to the Odney licence.**  
Cllr Howard noted that the application had been refused by RBWM.
- 20. To consider whether to have an annual Parish Meeting in March.**  
Following a discussion, the Council concluded that this is a statutory requirement, so it should be held. It was **agreed** to hold the Annual Parish Meeting immediately before the April Council meeting. **Action: Clerk**
- 21. To approve the Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026.**  
This was **approved.** **Action: Clerk**
- 22. To agree steps to produce an Annual Report for 2025-26.**  
The Clerk requested the Chairmen of each Committee to submit their annual report for this year before the March Parish meeting. This was **agreed.**  
**Action: Chairman and Cllrs. Aisladie, Edwards and R. Kellaway**

**23. Outside Bodies and Borough Councillor's reports.**

Cllr Howard reported that:

- (a) he has raised with Highways at RBWM the traffic impacts and associated safety concerns arising at Bellway's Spencers Farm site;
- (b) he has raised with Highways at RBWM the Copas turkey-bedding being cleared-out of the Switchback Road site and transported through the Village in breach of the relevant regulations;
- (c) he and Cllr Brar are working on the devolution of services and due to delays have referred the matter to higher authorities at RBWM;
- (d) the third runway and multiple-hotel development projects at Heathrow were proceeding. As RBWM's representative on HACAN he would report as necessary;.

Cllr Brar:

- (a) reported that complaints from residents about the mud from the Cannondown building site have been reviewed by RBWM;
- (b) reported that she has notified to RBWM the issues concerning surface water at Cannondown Bridge and that they are being pursued;
- (c) reported the launch by RBWM and the benefits of new digital Advantage card.

Local Access Form: The Chairman reported that he had circulated papers from the December meeting and is pursuing the matters relating to the PROWs.

Patient Participation Group: Following a request from the Practice, he has drafted a new constitution for the PPG, preserving this Council's automatic seat on the committee. He noted that several elements require careful consideration. Cllr Aisladie highlighted that many senior citizens had raised concerns about the E-Consult system.

Cllr Edwards reported that Maidenhead Development Management Committee had captured incorrectly several 'facts' on planning applications relating to Cookham. Representations had been made and the most affected item had been adjourned as a result.

**24. To review the Full Council action list.**

No concerns were raised.

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

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the forthcoming Mayor's Charity Event, to be held on 28 February, in support of Thames Hospice. He noted that the charity represents an exceptionally good cause and encouraged all Councillors to attend and lend their support.

Cllr Aisladie proposed that the Council hold a dedication service for the bench recently installed at AMRG in memory of the late Cllr Bune. It was **agreed** that such a ceremony should take place during the summer.

**26. 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****27. To consider a pay rise for Mrs. Kanthi.**

The proposed pay rise for Mrs Kanthi was **agreed**.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman .....

Dated.....