

COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Cookham Parish Council
Held in the Community Room of the Library on Tuesday 4th August 2026

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

Also Present: D Kanthi (Clerk), Paul Strzelecki.

Open Forum:

Mr Strzelecki raised several issues:

1. He reported that Rock the Manor would take place in two weeks' time and suggested that the Parish Council monitor noise levels and encourage residents to submit complaints to RBWM.
2. He also reported speeding vehicles and requested that the Parish Council actively monitors the issue and reports incidents to the police. Councillors highlighted persistent speeding issues on Whyteladies Lane, Lower Road, Dean Lane, Maidenhead Road, Moulders Lane and Winter Hill. Cllrs Brar and Edwards also reported incidents involving youths riding motorcycles at high speed late at night without helmets. Cllr Brar said that these incidents had been reported to the police. She suggested that the Parish Council approach a senior representative of Thames Valley Police, as concerns raised regarding speeding were not being taken seriously. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to the Police Commissioner of Thames Valley Police setting out the Council's concerns regarding speeding and road safety issues.
3. He raised concerns about the fire risk at Odney Common arising from the use of Shisha pipes and barbecues during the current extreme hot weather and suggested that the Council should ban Shisha pipes as well as already banned BBQs on the Council signage there. The Chairman said that he already intended to raise the PSPO consultation on BBQs under AOB, but the Parish Council could only enforce the Byelaws, not make any.
4. Finally, he reminded the Council of his representations on the Crematorium proposal at an RBWM meeting. He paid tribute to the Neighbourhood Plan but felt that it was better to accept that the site was grey belt. He would send the Chairman his arguments for consideration.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs. L. Austin, N. Bedwell, C. Blackall, T. Caen, C. Franke, M. Howard, H. Neale and L. Tull.

2. Declarations of Interest.

None

3. To approve minutes from Council Meeting on 7th July 2026. These were approved.

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

- i. **Planning Committee – 14th July 2026. These were noted.**

5. FINANCE:

- i. **To approve payments/receipts in June 2026. These were approved.**
- ii. **To ratify the cost of £1,745+VAT payment to Manorcott for drafting contract for the devolution of services. This was ratified and approved.**

6. To consider the need to add names to the War Memorial(s) and to delegate to Cllrs Perry and Regan, with the Clerk, powers to decide what names require addition to which Memorial and to commission works to the Memorial(s) before Remembrance Day 2026 accordingly, with spending authority up to £1,500 + VAT accordingly to be funded from General Funds.

The Chairman reported that this item was raised initially with Councillors about a year ago. Following discussion, it was **agreed** to approve the proposal with the caveat that since it was essential for the work to be completed accurately and to a high standard, while it would be preferable to complete it in time for Remembrance Day this year, should that not be possible that target could be extended.

Action: Chairman, Cllr Regan and Clerk

7. To consider and approve the creation of new project/line-item with allocation of £10,000 within the 2026/27 budget to cover the hitherto unforeseen expense relating to the emerging new Borough Local Plan.

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item 12. Following discussion, it was **agreed** to add the new line item to the 2026/27 budget to support work relating to the emerging Borough Local Plan (BLP), recognising that additional costs are likely to arise beyond those identified under Item 12 (the cost of which should come from the new line item). The new line item is to be funded from General Funds.

Councillors noted that RBWM would be placing information leaflets about the BLP in the Borough's three libraries. Cllr Brar had managed to ensure that copies would also be available in Cookham Library. It was further **agreed** that the Parish Council should undertake a social media campaign to raise awareness and encourage resident engagement. Cllr Regan **agreed** to create for this Council's leaflet a QR code linking directly to the BLP questionnaire to facilitate public participation.

It was **agreed** to instruct Troy Planning + Design to prepare and submit comments on the BLP Scoping Consultation at a cost of £2,500 plus VAT, payable from the new line item.

It was further **agreed** to instruct Troy Planning + Design to prepare the proposed resident information leaflet at a cost of £500 plus VAT, payable from the new line item. The leaflet is to include the QR code.

It was **agreed** that the leaflet design and content should be dealt with by the Chairman and Clerk and circulated to Councillors for approval before distribution since the time needed for distribution and for the; public to act on it before the consultation closed means that this cannot be delayed until the September Council meeting.

Action: Chairman, Cllr Regan and Clerk

8. To consider purchase of Spring bulbs and to decide on possible areas to plant these spring bulbs.

Following discussion, it was **agreed** that a full proposal should be presented to the September Council meeting for consideration and approval. The proposal should include details of the project scope, the amount to be spent, the proposed locations for bulb planting, and confirmation of the necessary permissions from RBWM have been obtained.

Action: Cllrs Aisladie and Regan

9. To consider a possible upgrade to public footpath 22 (Cricket Club to Jolly Farmer).

This item was differed till September Council meeting as no further information was available.

Cllr Regan left the meeting at 8.15pm

10. To receive an update on the Devolution of Services Contract with RBWM.

The Chairman reported that RBWM had sent CPC a revised draft contract only the day before. Advice was being sought on it from Jonathan Holder. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, with him and the Clerk, would progress the matter. As there was no further information, this item was deferred till September Council meeting. Cllr Brar reported that she and Cllr Howard would be undertaking a site inspection with an RBWM officer to review the work that required completion before the Council's potential taking over the Verges Contract and ensure that it was done properly.

Action: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllrs Howard and Brar, Jonathan Holder, Clerk

11. To receive an update concerning the progress on the licence agreement with Cookham Dean Football Club and to approve a new licence agreement in the terms sent to the Club on 21st July 2026.

The Chairman reported that discussions between the Parish Council and the Football Club regarding the licence agreement were ongoing. He explained that the Club had indicated that it would prefer a lease to a licence. Councillors were firmly against the exclusive possession which this would grant the Club and it was **unanimously agreed** to refuse a lease. Whilst the Council had previously expressed a preference for a shorter five-year term, the Club had requested a longer agreement to support future grant funding applications. The Council had decided its general approach to that last month, but the Club particularly needed a 7-year term due to a grant application in 2023 which needed 10 years security. At that time the Council had provided a formal note confirming an expectancy of 7 years security. Following discussion, the Council **agreed** that the licence should be granted for a term of seven years. The Chairman further reported that the current licence grants the Club priority use of the facilities on Saturdays. The

Club had requested that this priority be extended to Sundays. He felt it was fair that the Parish Council increase the licence fee pro rata in return for granting Sunday priority use as well and proposed this. This proposal was **agreed**.

Councillors also raised concerns regarding reports of players urinating in the hedges and the use of inappropriate and offensive language on site. It was **agreed** that the licence agreement should include provisions expressly prohibiting such behaviour and requiring the Club to ensure that all players, officials and spectators conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

Action: Chairman and Clerk

- 12. To receive an oral report from the Planning Working Party and to resolve to implement its recommendations including the spending on Troy's comments on BLP scoping consultation at a cost of up to £2,500 (+ VAT) and preparing a leaflet to residents about the BLP scoping consultation at a cost of £1,500 (+ VAT) (as well as printing and distribution already agreed), as notified by email from the Chairman, noting that if both commissions are instructed together the leaflet cost will reduce to £500 (+VAT) both to be paid from the line item created at item 7 of this agenda, if so created, or in lieu from General Funds.**

This item was discussed with item 7.

- 13. To receive an oral update regarding the Project to extend the cemetery and improve the chapel.**

The Chairman reported that, following the Church Commissioners' refusal to consider the Parish Council's proposal without the Council's support of its proposal for housing on the Cemetery Field, which the Council had unanimously refused, the Parish Office had sent a response on behalf of the Council. The content of the email had been agreed by both the Chairman and Cllr Howard prior to its despatch. No reply had (yet) been received.

- 14. To decide whether to make a planning application for the erection of Welcome boards at AMRG.**

After a discussion it was **agreed** to apply for planning permission to install three boards of bigger size than that for which deemed permission is available. The fees for the planning application were agreed to come out of the AMRG project, line item 67 of the budget.

Action: Clerk

- 15. To receive an update from the Local Access Forum.**

Cllr Brar reported she had attended the Local Access Forum. She reported that the Milestone statement had been circulated to the LAF members and the parish Councils and no concerns were raised.

She said that the Terms of Reference were reviewed, and youth engagement was suggested. She also reported that two footpath diversions were discussed:

1. Cookham Parish had been informed about the first Maidenhead 19 diversion.
2. A new diversion of Footpath 41 was suggested but she had expressed concern, stating the landowner had purchased the property knowing the footpath existed and that the Parish Council had no prior reports of vandalism.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Brar for attending the LAF.

- 16. To receive an oral report on a potential claim in connection with an accident on a footpath.**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received a letter from solicitors threatening legal action on behalf of an individual who had fallen on an icy footpath in January 2026. No previous notification of any kind had been received. The relevant land is owned by Winter Hill Golf Course/Get Golfing. The Clerk has notified and is working with the Council's insurers.

Action: Clerk

- 17. To receive any update on the following CPC Planning Enforcement requests to the RBWM, and any other planning enforcement matters, and to consider any further next steps.**

Cllr Brar reported she had tried to call in the Warners Hill application, but her request was refused as 'call in' is not possible for certificates of lawfulness.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Brar and R Kellaway for representing CPC at the Maidenhead Development Management Committee regarding the Crematorium application. It was very good

news that the Council's efforts had been rewarded by refusal of the application, largely on the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan.

18. Outside Bodies' and Borough Councillors' reports.

The Chairman reported that PPG meeting is scheduled for 5th August 2026.

19. To review the Council Action list.

Nothing to report.

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

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had received a formal request from the Odney Club seeking permission to cut the long grass at Odney Common due to concerns over the potential fire risk posed by the dry vegetation. Following consideration, Councillors **agreed** to grant permission.

The Chairman reported that he is still trying to set up the meeting with the officers at Pinder Hall regarding declaring Pinder Hall as a community asset. It was agreed to bring this item to October meeting.

The Chairman reported that RBWM is holding consultations on the renewal of two Public Space Protection Orders:

- a. Barbeques ban at all public spaces: it was **agreed** to support renewal.
- b. Prohibition of drinking alcohol that applies to certain areas in Cookham: it was **agreed** to support renewal and also to request that Odney Common and Winter Hill be included in the areas covered in view of the anti-social behaviour difficulties at each (and of the request of Odney Estates in respect of Odney Common).

The Chairman suggested the installation of signs to indicate and explain (and protect) the famous 'Spencer Views' which were non-designated heritage assets and important in the Neighbourhood Plan. As no provision had been made for this project within the current year's budget, it was **agreed** that the proposal should be considered for inclusion in the budget for the next financial year.

The Chairman reported that the office is trying to find owners of the Station Parade to report various issues like damaged wall, uneven pavement tiles and a broken bench. He asked whether Cllr Brar might be able to help in seeking the information from RBWM. Cllr Brar said she would do her best but confidentiality law might make it difficult.

The Chairman reported availability of a mapping programme that provides detailed information on the local area, including the identification and plotting of every land holding, Green Belt designations, and other relevant geographic and planning data. The minimum annual subscription cost for the service is £2,500 (+ VAT). It was **agreed** that the matter should be included on the agenda for consideration in budget discussions.

Cllr. Aisladie reported that she had received several emails from residents expressing concern that the field at Grange Farm was overgrown and was presenting a potential fire hazard. The Chairman advised that the office was currently attempting to obtain the contact details of the new owners to raise the issue with them. He was not aware that any local authority or fire service had relevant powers.

Cllr Aisladie reported she has received a text while in the meeting from a resident that while walking with his daughter on the Alfred Major Recreation Ground, they were approached by two teenaged boys with knife. They called the police and one of the boys was arrested. It was **agreed** to report this to 4Front Security and to the Police Commissioner as part of the report already agreed..

The Chairman agreed to add details of 4Front Security's contact number as a reminder in his next Parish Magazine column.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Next meeting Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 7.30pm in the Community Room at Cookham Library.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Dated.....