

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the PURLEY BEECHES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Wednesday 26 November 2025 at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Thames

The Chairman, Barry Kochanek opened the meeting at 8.00pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming along and hoped they had taken a drink and some nibbles kindly set up by Jill Brown, our secretary.

He said that he would go steadily through the Agenda and then onto the Chairman's report.

1. **Apologies.** Received from: David & Nancy Massie, Trish West, Roger & Marjorie Butler, John & Jenny Dimmock, Simon Jackson.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting.** Agreed as read.
3. **Matters arising.** There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairman's Report**

The predominant matter for the committee this year has been the Ash die back problem with the trees mainly situated in the wood opposite Skerritt Way. The kind donation via Good Exchange from the Greenham Trust, together with 53 generous donations, enabled us to obtain quotations from three arborists during the autumn. There were 48 trees in all to be dealt with. Contact had to be made with the tree officer at West Berkshire Council to sanction the trees' removal, all of which were subject to tree preservation orders. The quote we proceeded with was considerably lower than two others. The work was carried out quickly and in orderly fashion which included the replanting with 48 saplings. All wood was removed and a pile was left for residents to use for log burners or open fires. We have to keep an eye out to see how the new saplings progress and have had to, in the initial stages, carry out some watering. They seem to have taken hold well. Our previous arborist, Stuart Bee of Bee Trees has shown interest in caring for the woods in the future as he was unable to do the larger job of removal and replanting.

One or two more minor matters have arisen during the year one of which was an objection on behalf of a resident who found it necessary to make objection to a planning application by the trust in Purley Park. That was settled with suitable conditions. The other was a formal request by West Berkshire to attend to trees from our land which were, to some extent, obscuring the traffic lights near Theobold Drive. These were dealt with and there has been no further need for any further work. The usual clear up days have gone ahead but still without enough support to do a significant job around the woods and wall. He reminded the meeting that it is vital that people attend, otherwise we may have to dip into our limited resources.

Another topic brought up each year and which becomes more urgent each time, is the requirement for members of PBRA to come on the committee or become trustees. Sadly Anne Ritchie has moved away to Bristol so we need a replacement and we lose our treasurer, Tony Stener, who has been on the committee for many years. We have happily a replacement for Tony and we will deal with that appointment later. The Chairman asked that everyone give serious consideration to joining the committee or becoming a Trustee.

The Chairman expressed a big thank you to Tony for his hard work organising fund raising, including obtaining a £5K donation from Greenham Common and arranging an alternative bank account. He had also provided equipment for clear-up days and arranged the hall hire and set up of the hall for the AGMs. The Chairman also wanted to thank Anne for her long membership of the PBRA committee and her subs collection over the years. Tony was given a small gift from the committee members as a gesture of their thanks.

The Chairman also wanted to thank all the committee for their work over the past year and also thanked all the collectors of subs.

5. Treasurer's Report – Finance, Membership, Subscriptions (for 2025).

The final balance as at 31 October 2025 amounted to £15,150.15 The total cost of removal of Ash trees was £13,586.40. 116 subscriptions had been collected out of a potential 164. (25 had not paid and 23 were non-members).

Full accounts were available at the meeting if any members wanted to scrutinise them.

The treasurer wanted to give a special thank you to the Chairman for obtaining such a competitive quote for the removal of the ash trees.

6. Election of committee and officers.

Barry Kochanek proposed by Tony Stener, seconded by Margaret Richardson
Margaret Richardson proposed by Barry Kochanek, seconded by Anne Bolland
Margaret Rolfe proposed by Barry Kochanek, seconded by Jill Brown
Jill Brown proposed Margaret Richardson, seconded by Anne Bolland
Simon Jackson proposed by Barry Kochanek, seconded by Keith Saunders

7. Election of new treasurer.

Keith Saunders proposed by Barry Kochanek, seconded by Graham Rolfe

8. Wildlife Area + bird boxes.

Keith explained that a Bug Hotel, now named Purley Bugna, had been built during the last clear-up day. It was a chance to encourage more nature into the wooded area. The next step was to install bird and bat boxes and more bug hotels.

9. A.O.B.

There was a question from the floor regarding the possibility of 'land grab' by Reading Borough Council following any District Council Reorganisation. Graham Rolfe, chair Purley Parish Council, gave information of the current situation regarding the Ridgway or Reading solutions and details of the results of a recent survey. 88% of those who had responded to the survey were in favour of the Ridgeway Solution.

The full results of the survey and the survey itself are available on the Purley Parish Council website. The link to this website is www.purleyonthames-pc-gov.uk. Paper copies of the survey were available at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Committee Members:

Barry Kochanek Chairman)	943 3819
Keith Saunders (Treasurer)	07827922243
Margaret Rolfe (Memberships)	941 7247
Simon Jackson	
Jill Brown (Secretary)	9412 326

Trustees:

Barry Kochanek	
Margaret Richardson	942 3274