

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

2025/3

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 30th June 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele.

Participants: Cllr S Sabin (in the chair), Cllr D Carter, Cllr B Friar, Cllr O Lloyd-Davies, Cllr Mrs J P Malin and Cllr Mrs J Sanderson

In attendance: WDC Cllr M/s Davidson, WCC Cllr Ben Edwards, Mr Charles Sanderson and Mr David Leigh-Hunt (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were apologies for absence from Cllr A J Dempsey and Cllr R Munn and the Chairman declared an Interest in an item for discussion in the meeting concerning the Sports & Social Club of which he is a Trustee.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 19th May 2025

The Minutes of the meeting were approved subject to a couple of adjustments, proposed by Cllr Friar and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 19th May 2025

There were no matters arising not otherwise dealt with under Agenda headings.

4. Update on SpeedWatch

In the absence of Cllr Munn, his tabled report was noted.

5. Update on traffic management issues

The Chairman reported that there had been no movement on the outstanding queries concerning traffic management, in particular the arrangements for the use of the new bus stop. He will continue to pursue this.

6. Update on Section 106 and CIL issues

The Chairman had raised again with Janet Neale of WCC as to the amount of £95,073.91 collected on 23rd November 2017 in respect of a proposed shared cycle pedestrian route; she had reported back to say that the funds had been used to support the delivery of cycleway enhancement from Newbold Comyn through towards the canal access point. as part of the Radford Road enhancement. The fund originated from the Spring Lane development under planning application W/14/0433. She stated that she proposed to supply this Council with a full breakdown of Section 106 spend on the Traffic Management Project by the end of July 2025.

7. Warwickshire County Council – update

WCC Cllr Ben Edwards gave a brief report on his current situation; primarily he is working his way round and getting to know other Cllrs and the officers and get onboard with the different functions. Following the resignation of the Chairman of WCC, due to ill health, and the temporary installation of a teenage chairman, it has been decided that on 22nd July 2025 there will be an election of a fresh cabinet with a new chairman. He himself is focusing on chasing works outstanding for the benefit of the Village, in particular he is in liaison with Joe Northorpe. Also, he is looking for an update on grant applications for individual jobs, in particular the outstanding installation of drop curbs as requested by this Council.

8. Warwick District Council – update

WDC Cllr M/s Davidson said she was continuing the process to improve enforcement provisions in conjunction with the Planning Committee of which she is a member. In particular with regard to compliance with conditions of planning consents as much as with situations where no planning consent has been obtained. Her current main

focus is on seeking to establish the footpath from the Village across the canal to the Greenway; this necessitates opening the viaduct over the canal and incorporating it with a cycle track with a link from the Fosse Way. It was pointed out that historically British Rail have a negative view as opening up the viaduct and ownership of the adjoining land is a difficulty due to the negative attitude of an adjoining landowner. Cllr Carter emphasised the need to support her in her endeavour.

9. Financial Matters

- 1) The Clerk reported that the balance on the investment account is currently approximately £162,000 and the balance on the community account at present is approximately £5,000, a transfer having recently been made by him to ensure liquidity.
- 2) A number of payments were authorised to be made as per the authorisation sheet previously circulated, proposed by Cllr Friar and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson.
- 3) Cllr Friar and the Clerk have recently dealt with requisitions raised by the External Auditor upon receipt of AGAR; one requisition was somewhat trivial relating to a couple of boxes on the form which had not been ticked correctly and the other requisition was for a detailed explanation of how the Section 106 funds had been handled during the year. This requisition indicated that the External Audit staff did not understand the nature of Section 106 payments. It is likely that we will receive their final assessment in September.
- 4) Cllr Friar and the Clerk had had a lengthy in-depth meeting to prepare the final redraft of the Financial Regulations; these are required by legislation and the format is set by the Model Financial Regulations issued by NALC. The redraft had been circulated and recommended by them for approval. They were APPROVED; proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson.
- 5) Cllr Friar and the Clerk had had detailed virtual meeting with proprietors of SCRIBE the purveyors of a specialist accounting package. Cllr Friar had circulated a report prior to this meeting; he had explained that, in his view and that of the Clerk, the installation of an IT system promoted by SCRIBE would greatly enhance the task of keeping financial records for this Council. It would also greatly assist the preparation of ancillary issues such as the submission of AGAR and the specialist papers to the External Auditor each year. The system had been explained in the virtual meeting; in fact, the Clerk had come across representatives of SCRIBE years ago at an annual conference held by SLCC. The cost will be £488 + VAT as a one-off payment to set up the system and then an ongoing monthly support payments of £37 + VAT. It was AGREED to set this up, proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson.

10. Correspondence

- a. The Clerk had circulated a copy of a letter from the MP to the Secretary of State seeking her support on the issue of the Fosse Way solar farm; this is in anticipation that the promoters of the solar farm will seek an appeal to the Secretary of State and/or the Planning Inspectorate.
- b. The Clerk had received AGM papers from the Council for the Protection of Rural England to take place on 10th September 2025. This is open to all to attend and will be held at 6pm in Hill Close Gardens, Warwick CV34 6HF.
- c. The Clerk had circulated a copy of a letter notification from WDC Head of Development Services, Philip Clark, stating that this Council's application to have St Andrews Hall as a community asset had been refused.
- d. It was noted that Cllr Mrs Sanderson had been in correspondence with Joe Northorpe to deal with hedges in the autumn.
- e. The Clerk had received a further note from the same resident concerning the issue of double yellow lines being imposed on the road outside the School. His recollection was that several months ago PC Ed King had been brought into the matter and reached the conclusion that double yellow lines outside the School are not acceptable. He will notify the resident accordingly.
- f. The Clerk had received a written complaint as of 2nd June 2025 from a resident complaining about the serious level of noise, disturbance and bad language emanating from the seating area outside the Sports & Social Club. The Chairman withdrew from the meeting due to his declaration of interest and the meeting was chaired by Cllr Friar. A lengthy discussion on the situation then ensued, it was noted that, about a year ago, there was a meeting between representatives of the Club and this Council when the point was made that it was a final warning to the Club to put their house in order. The sanction was that this Council would revoke the licence to use the outside seating. The terms of the Licence in fact state that the use of the seating is to cease at 9pm but it appears from the complaint that the disturbance was well after that time. It appears that a band starts up at about 9pm in the Club and the ensuing noise through the open doors alongside the social banter created by the residents of the seating. It was noted that the Club Management seemed to keep a control of the situation for a while but clearly it has not succeeded. A unanimous decision was therefore made by Cllrs present at this meeting that a final warning should be issued to the Secretary to the effect that, if the situation is not brought under control, their licence will be revoked without further notice. The Clerk will deal with the warning letter.

- g. The Clerk had been engaged in correspondence with Gerald Brookes at WCC concerning the trimming of hedges in the area of St Nicholas Road at the request of a resident there. Mr Brookes had referred the Clerk to completing entries on-line with WCC but on this occasion Mr Brookes dealt with the exercise himself. The Clerk will notify the resident.

11. Current Planning Matters

1. W/24/1404 Fosse Way Solar Farm – There had been no further movement following the decision on this matter and Cllr Carter said he had tremendous support and advice from Andrew Towleron who would no doubt be further employed if an appeal was forthcoming.
2. W/25/0130 – Land at the rear of 44 Offchurch Lane; This current planning application is still pending.
3. W/25/0174 – 12 Bloxham Way; This current planning application is still pending.
4. South Warwickshire Local Plan – Cllr Carter had tabled his up-to-date report on the SWLP where the ultimate number of houses to be imposed upon our Village, if any, is uncertain.
5. The Clerk had received an approach from an agent of the builders Taylor Wimpey who are contemplating a fresh planning application to install approximately 150 houses on the agricultural land opposite the Bovis estate. The agent has invited this Council to have a preplanning meeting with him and his clients; the Clerk pointed out that this would be the third application by Taylor Wimpey for planning permission in respect of this site. A discussion showed they were disinclined to have a meeting with the developers, but it was noted that they proposed to put on some form of exhibition, locally and online, which could be studied in due course. The Clerk to write to the agent accordingly.

12. Playing Field update

In the absence of Cllr Dempsey, his tabled report was noted. There was an extended discussion about an application to facilitate a new football club as there was no guarantee that residents will be taking part in football games. It was decided to give them the facility for a trial period of two years to see how this develops, in the light of previous history of previous football teams. It was noted that was no requirement for them to become members of the Sports & Social Club and there is no current application to use the changing rooms. It was AGREED that Cllr Dempsey should continue dialogue with them and that the Clerk would draft an agreement with conditions in it similar to those previously employed in the past, excluding any reference to payment.

13. Report from the Community Hall

Cllr Mrs Malin said that all was functioning satisfactorily.

14. Report from the Sports & Social Club

Cllr Mrs Malin said that the Club's AGM will take place on 2nd July 2025 and she will see what transpires from that.

15. Environmental Matters

Cllr Mrs Sanderson had tabled her report.

16. Telephone Box

Cllr Mrs Sanderson was keen to obtain ideas for the use of the interior of the telephone box now it has been renovated. It was said that any shelving or pinboards would have to be of robust construction to avoid deterioration. It was suggested that Village organisations be given ability to use the pinboards by rotation, say every two months.

17. Emergency Planning

There was no update to report.

18. Website Migration

Cllr Friar said he was still working on the website migration; there had been a number of teething problems which were continuing. He will shortly issue a paper; the most important point from that is that no further emails are to be sent to the old radfordsemele.org.uk accounts.

19. Any other business

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2025 were APPROVED as drawn and duly signed.
2. Recent action with use of the defibrillator outside of The White Lion was noted; Cllr Friar and Cllr Lloyd-Davies had dealt with reinstatement of the equipment following its use.
3. The Chairman noted that the state of the bus shelter was deplorable; he had cleaned it out himself; he thought it needed a high-pressure hose, possessed by WDC. The Clerk advised that this had been used about a year ago under the organisation of Katy Wild at WDC.
4. A Graham Fulford Prostate Testing Session at the Community Hall is to be held on Saturday 20th September 2025 at 10am – 12 noon.

20. Date of next Council meeting

The next meeting will be on the 28th July 2025. This meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date July 2025

Counter signed.....
Clerk

Date July 2025