

# RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

2025/7

## DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 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 Mrs J P Malin and Cllr R Munn

**In attendance:** WDC Cllr Rebecca Davidson, WCC Cllr Ben Edwards, Mr David Leigh-Hunt (Clerk) and Henry Marriott

### 1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were apologies for absence from Cllr A J Dempsey, Cllr O Lloyd-Davies and Cllr Mrs J Sanderson and there were no Declarations of Interest.

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Cllr Carter had, by earlier email, proposed a number of amendments to paragraph 11 of the Minutes and they were duly considered. The Minutes in their amended form were then approved, proposed by Cllr Friar and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.

### 3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025

There were no matters arising.

### 4. Update on SpeedWatch

Cllr Munn spoke to his tabled report. He said his team had had an incident of verbal violence. It was too early to know what the fallout will be from the Government's decision to do away with Police and Crime Commissioners; our Commissioner, Philip Seccombe, is holding a meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025. Cllr Munn will be unavailable to represent this Council at that meeting but it was agreed that Cllr Dempsey would go in his place. WCC Cllr Edwards asked to be copied in on reports of incidents of speeding that came to the attention of Cllr Munn's team. Cllr Edwards is particularly involved on behalf of WCC into aspects of traffic management which involved speed and flow of vehicles.

### 5. Update on traffic management issues

Cllr Sabin said there was little to report and he pointed out that it was two years that he had been campaigning for bus drivers to adhere to the layout of the new bus stops. The bus timetable still remains inconvenient but WCC Cllr Edwards said he is involved in a working party looking at a revision of the timetable (as mentioned at the previous meeting of this Council). The project is ongoing.

### 6. Update on Section 106 and CIL current issues

The Clerk reported that he had not had a response from Helen Hancox at WDC with the go ahead for payment of the Section 106 fund held by this Council for the benefit of the Canal & River Trust. The passage of time was embarrassing. WDC Cllr Davidson said that she would investigate internally at WDC with a senior member of the department in which Helen Hancox operates with a view to speeding matters up. The Clerk said he would also be writing to the same senior officer.

### 7. Warwickshire County Council – update

WCC Cllr Edwards said:

- a) He was continuing a review of the bus services for this Village and its environs; he was particularly focussed on the Stagecoach bus which visits this Village and then Offchurch and then Cubbington as its program and timings need reorganising.
- b) In the absence of Cllr Sanderson, the Clerk expressed his disappointment on her behalf and of his own that it was impossible to make headway on the funding from HCAF. Cllr Edwards had reported earlier by email that he had learned that the funding scheme expected a substantial contribution from the Parish

Council and also a ceiling of any likely grant of £25,000. He estimated that the likely cost of creating the tarmacked pathway to the Canalside would be about £100,000. Cllrs expressed surprise at this amount but it was pointed out the usual public highway arrangements would be made by WCC Highways Dept which involved traffic management and traffic cones etc and all this added to the cost. Cllr Edwards will however investigate whether any funds under Section 106 are available in order to contribute to the cost.

## 8. Warwick District Council – update

WDC Cllr M/s Davidson reported:

- a) On 28<sup>th</sup> November, WDC will formally resolve/file a recommendation for reorganisation of local government in Warwickshire. Together with the other District Councils in the area, the recommendation will be for two Unitary Authorities; one comprising Warwick and Stratford in the south and the other comprising Nuneaton and Bedworth in the north. These two Unitary Authorities will exist instead of Warwickshire County Council; it appears that Rugby District Council have stood out of this arrangement and are presenting their own viewpoint.
- b) She reported on the view of speeding in the district; it appears that 85% of drivers apprehended all denied that they were speeding. She said that 93 warning letters had been sent out recently and a further report was that no review of lighting is to be undertaken.
- c) The Clerk confirmed that, following discussion at the last Council meeting, he had written to the Clerk at Offchurch who had confirmed that Council is active on the issue of the railway viaduct over the Canal. Cllr Davidson said that she is continuing enquiries in the matter and is waiting for a positive response from British Rail. Former Cllr Henry Marriott was in attendance at the meeting and explained that the potential opening up of the Viaduct pathway which would be an asset if it was linked to the Greenway on the other side of the Canal was a problem because an adjoining landowner objected to a footpath running across his land. Part of the land under review was owned by Mr Marriott and basically he had no objection provided it was properly managed. This matter is to be kept under continuous review by Cllr Ms Davidson.

## 9. Financial Matters

- 1) The Clerk reported that on the bank reconciliation the amount on the investment account was approximately £137,650 and the amount on the community/treasurers account was approximately £1,858.
- 2) A number of payments were authorised as per the circulated sheet; in particular it was noted that a hire charge of £292,50 had been authorised and paid prior to the meeting to expedite the hire of a roller which had now been applied in the Playing Field successfully. The payments were approved, proposed by Cllr Friar and seconded by Cllr Carter.
- 3) The Finance Committee had recently met to consider variations of a potential budget to be put forward; three drafts had been prepared by Cllr Friar and reviewed by the Committee. Details of these with a covering report had been circulated by Cllr Friar prior to this meeting; the three draft versions were reviewed by Council. The thrust of the information presented by Cllr Friar, Cllr Carter and the Clerk is the risk of heavy expenditure having to be met by this Council in the coming year. Cllr Carter pointed out that substantial costs might have to be met in respect of arguments presented by this Council against the Fosse Way Solar Farm application and furthermore the risk of a lot of work being involved in dealing with the outcome of the South Warwickshire Local Plan (which inherently threatens that this Village with hundreds of new houses). The discussion identified the difficulty that this Council has in procuring sufficient funds through the Budget/Precept for the work it may encounter but at the same time keeping an increase in the amount that Council Tax payers have to make to a reasonable level. It was noted that Cllr Dempsey, although absent from this meeting, was present at the meeting of the Finance Committee and in broad terms concurred with the views expressed by Cllr Friar. The discussion today concluded with Cllr Carter proposing that 'option 2' be adopted; this gives a total annual Precept increase of 12.35% and it is marginally better than this Council standing still on its finances but it was felt not to be such a heavy increase that residents would be unhappy. The motion was supported by Cllr Munn and PASSED by all Parish Cllrs presents (five in all). In passing, Cllr Friar had circulated an extract from a comparative study of local parish and town council Precepts in the past year and it could be seen from a variety of figures from local parishes in the area that this Council's figure is relatively low on the scale.
- 4) Cllr Friar and the Clerk were authorised to prepare to the Precept application on the back of the Budget when the Tax Base for the forthcoming financial year was received from WDC; usually this is issued around 30<sup>th</sup> November but was not yet to hand.
- 5) The Clerk reported that the VAT reclaim application had recently been submitted with the reclaim for 2025.

## 10. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on a number of items of correspondence:

- a. Our MP, Matt Western, had recently sent a copy of a letter which he has submitted to the Government Ministry for local government reorganisation indicating the preference for the two Unitary Authorities of south and north Warwickshire.
- b. An enquiry had been received concerning thermal imaging cameras; it appears that this resource can be obtained from WDC and Cllr Davidson will look into.
- c. The Clerk had received a letter from a resident in The Valley on the perennial issue of flooding; this engendered a discussion about potential remedies; former councillor Mr Marriott gave some technical advice on how to deal with the culverts involved. The narrow construction of culverts in combination with detritus which comes off the fields belonging to the Gibbs Farm are significant cause of the flooding. Thought is to be given to regular maintenance of the culvert if WCC Highways will not get involved.
- d. The Clerk had received a WDC circular on the issues of fly tipping and disposing of rubbish other than at an organised recycling centre; he has put a copy of this notice on the noticeboard for the public.
- e. A letter had been received from the Open Spaces Society asking for further fighting funds to support the legal expenses; it was decided to take no action on this.
- f. The Clerk had received from the Chief Executive of WDC a newsletter confirming that a WDC submission will be sent to Government in favour of having two district councils as Unitary Authorities to replace the current county council system.

## 11. Current Planning Matters

Cllr Carter spoke briefly to items 4,5,6 and 7. Cllr Carter's main focus at this meeting was developments in the appeal lodged by the promoters of Fosse Way Solar Farm.

1. W/24/1404 Fosse Way Solar Farm – He had been in touch with our specialist advisor who deal with the matter earlier, Andrew Towlerton; he proposed that Cllr Carter prepares a draft submission to go to the planning Inspectorate to be submitted in draft to Mr Towlerton initially. An objection will be filed by WDC by their Planning Officer, Andam Walker, although it is known that he is an enthusiastic supporter of the planning application. Objections presented by this Council will be alongside those of the District Council. Cllr Carter and the Clerk emphasised that this Council must be ready to incur some legal and other costs in the presentation of the matter. At present it is envisaged that there will be fees to pay to Mr Towlerton for documentation and for his attendance at the Inspectors hearing. This will be a face-to-face event. It is known that Kate Pittell and her action group are presenting objections as well. They are to hold a meeting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November which Cllr Carter will attend.
2. W/25/0130 – Land at the rear of 38-44 Offchurch Lane; there had been further developments on this application and he was aware that they had raised objections.
3. Update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan – He had had a response from the Head of Planning Services, Philip Clarke at WDC, with an update on the SWLP. He had received somewhat inconsequential details concerning the land west of Offchurch Lane from Mr Clarke. It is apparent that from communications from Mr Philip Clarke that the details of the Local Plan have not been finalised. He will submit a Freedom of Information application to put pressure on Mr Clarke to respond in detail.
4. W/25/1109 – 12 Offchurch Lane – pending
5. W/25/1243 – 12a Lythall Close – pending
6. W/25/1264 – 49 Slade Meadow – pending
7. W/25/1294 – Leasowe House – pending
8. W/25/1447 – 20 Godfrey Close – pending
9. W/25/1506 – 7 Williams Road – pending
10. 56 Southam Road – An observation of its endless state of construction of a new dwelling and an examination of the planning records for this property indicate that the application for planning permission was originally made in September/October 2015. The eyesore that this building is yet to be resolved; it appears that a number of revisions of the planning consent have not been observed but no enforcement action against the developer has been taken. It is a matter for concern.

## 12. Playing Field Report

In the absence of Cllr Dempsey, his tabled report was briefly considered. Particular projects to refurbish green maintenance and arboreal management are under way.

**13. Community Hall Report**

Cllr Mrs Malin spoke to her tabled report. It was noted with sadness that the recent illness of Debbie Gulliver had slowed up the administration but it seems that the surgery that she has had has been successful. Her husband has assisted Cllr Mrs Malin in refurbishing the Hall ready for Christmas.

**14. Update on the Sports & Social Club**

In the absence of Cllr O Lloyd-Davies, there was no report.

**15. Environmental Matters**

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Sanderson, her detailed report was reviewed. In particular the issues of the flooding in The Valley and Valley Road and the funding for the Canalside footpath have already been noted. She reported on the assessment from Warwickshire Conservation Volunteers as to potential improvements to the Village pond. She asks in her report whether the Council think it would be useful for the Village to be part of the thermal imaging scheme in which case she will contact WDC and ask for the Village to be included in WDC's considerations.

**16. Telephone Box**

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Sanderson, her brief note in her report was noted that shelving has been made to go with the brackets in the box and recently there has been a display for Remembrance and the Poppy Appeal.

**17. Emergency Planning update**

There was no report.

**18. Any other business**

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the next one on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 will be the last occasion in which Cllr Sabin will act as Chairman so Cllrs must give concentrated thought as to an election of a successor. Cllr Munn raised the question of how nominations should be presented; the Clerk said he was available at any time for discussion with individual Cllrs as to their thoughts and would give such advice as was appropriate.

**19. Date of next Council meeting**

The next meeting will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026. This meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed.....  
**Chairman of the Parish Council**

Date ..... January 2026

Counter signed.....  
**Clerk**

Date ..... January 2026