

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

2026/3

DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 29th June 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele.

Participants: Cllr D Carter (in the chair), Cllr A J Dempsey, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr R Munn and Cllr Mrs J Sanderson

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

1. Election of Chairman for the Meeting

The Clerk called for nominations for the office of Chairman for this meeting; Cllr Carter was proposed by Cllr Dempsey and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.

2. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were apologies for absence from Cllr B Friar due to illness. and there were no Declarations of interest.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 18th May 2026

The Minutes of the Council meeting on 18th May 2026 were approved, subject to a small amendment. The Minutes of the AGM on 18th May were approved also, subject to a small amendment. Proposed by Cllr Dempsey and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 18th May 2026

There were no matters in general arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

5. Report on SpeedWatch

Cllr Munn spoke to his tabled report. At their session on 9th June 2026 at the A425 Lewis Road junction, 170 vehicles were detected and 8 excessive speeders were recorded. The highest speed was 45mph. Warning letters are sent to drivers who have been reported by SpeedWatch but there does not appear to be a set procedure as to when and how this is done. There has been a change of Police contact responsible for co-ordinating SpeedWatch in Warwickshire; he hopes to hear in more detail from the new person who had previously sent him an imperious email. He attended a Rural East Councillors meeting on 22nd June and Minutes of that meeting will be produced in due course. PC Ed King's envisaged session on crime analysis has a confirmed date on 7th November 2026.

6. Warwickshire County Council – update

WCC Cllr Edwards spoke briefly to his update:

- a. He had a meeting with the Head Teacher of the Village school regarding issues of the traffic control at setting down and picking up times. The question of installing dropped kerbs to facilitate the movement of prams and pushchairs is being discussed. It appears that there may have been double yellow lines painted on the road adjacent to the School but these have been subsequently painted over – he is investigating this.
- b. A decision on the planning application by Taylor Wimpey is still awaited; Highways Department have made it clear that they are not happy with the scheme as originally put together but it may be that Taylor Wimpey will now seek to modify the scheme to get it through.

7. Warwick District Council – update

WDC Cllr M/s Davidson said she had spent a considerable amount of time in consideration of the layout of the public area at The Cricketers; in particular, the amount of trees on that site and wildflowers too. The South Warwickshire Local Plan in draft is to be reviewed by the WDC Scrutiny Committee on 13th July; she does not know whether the Committee will challenge it or not but the eventual decision will be with national government. She is also looking at the quality of advertising standards in public spaces, e.g. in the streets and wants to

incorporate provision for this in the Local Plan. She reported that the Covent Garden carpark refurbishment is due to open in July.

8. Financial Matters

- 1) The Clerk reported that the balance on the community account at today's date is approximately £26,000; this is artificially created due to transfers by him of significant amounts from the investment account in order to meet outstanding liabilities, in particular a large bill for the playground repairs of £13,668.00. The balance on the investment account is accordingly £76,300 approximately after adjustments. He explained that he had set out a slightly different format to the reconciliation statement on this occasion as he has incorporated suggestions prepared by Cllr Friar. Cllr Friar is of the view that instead of having a generalised balance for general reserves over and above restricted reserves, aspects of the general reserves should be identified for specific purposes. Currently the only restricted reserve is the sum allocated in respect of The Cricketers (derived from the terms of the Section 106 agreement which has already been put in place). The Clerk suggested that it should be given further thought; when Cllr Friar is available, he can elaborate on it, possibly at the next meeting. This was agreed.
- 2) A number of payments on the circulated schedule were approved, proposed by Cllr Dempsey and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.
- 3) The Clerk reported that AGAR documents had been lodged with the External Auditors, who had in the last day or so had sent a requisition with some queries; he is in the process of preparing a response to this, given Cllr Friar's current indisposition.

9. Items of current relevance for review

- a. No further communication had been received or heard concerning James Nelson
- b. The Clerk had received notice NALC/WALC that Cllrs need not disclose their private addresses.
- c. The hedgerow issue in St Nicholas Road, raised by Ms Mortimer, had now been resolved by Paul Rawlings volunteering to cut back the hedge.
- d. Cllr Mrs Sanderson is still waiting for a fixture for the meeting with the MP and Stagecoach.
- e. The Clerk awaits a response from Joe Northorp of Highways Dept concerning the Village gates; the last email from him was to the effect that he had the matter in hand.
- f. The Clerk drew attention to a media note from WDC to highlight the new Renters Rights Act 2025; this is recent legislation designed to protect tenants in rented properties and gives them a number of rights in particular summary removal at notice has now been banned.
- g. WDC have issued a note to flag up their new Community Fund – the Clerk has referred this to Cllr Mrs Sanderson.

10. Current Planning Matters

Cllr Carter spoke to his tabled report and the individual items discussed were:

1. W/25/1716 Taylor Wimpey proposed site – a revised highway proposal had been put forward by Taylor Wimpey and developments are awaited.
2. W/25/0130 Land at the rear of 38-44 Offchurch Lane; a decision is still awaited where there had been modifications to the proposals.
3. Update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan – The draft proposals indicate the development sites relating to the Village – land south of The Cricketers with an indicative capacity of 119 units and land south of Southam Road with indicative capacity of 200 units. In addition, the draft proposal indicates an area of restraint to the west of the Village and another of restraint to the north of the Village.
4. Update on Bellway Homes application – He had had no update on them seeking to discharge foul water into the Whitnash Brook.
5. W/26/200 - 2 The Greswoldes; a decision is still awaited.
6. W/26/380 - 7 Chance Fields; this planning application has been granted.
7. W/26/0394TP – 4 Radford Hall; this application was refused.
8. W/26/0503 – 22A Southam Road; a decision is awaited.

9. W/26/0522 – 12 Offchurch Lane; this planning application has been granted.

10. W/26/0576 – 48 Offchurch Lane; a decision is awaited.

11. W/26/0613 – 3 Hallfields; a decision is awaited.

12. W/26/0755 – 7 Lythall Close; a decision is awaited

11. Playing Field Report

Cllr Dempsey spoke to his tabled report:

- a. Following the RoSPA report in September 2025 where a number of playground safety matters required attention, the necessary repairs and refurbishments have now been completed by Clark Playground Repairs.
- b. Following consultation with Severn Trent Water regarding repairs to the drainage system in the Playing Field, the repairs took place in May.
- c. There has been recent concerted correspondence with a resident in a house adjacent to the Playing Field saying they had a lack of privacy as they could be observed from the upper part of the climbing frame structure. It has been agreed that the structure is to be changed with which they are now content.
- d. He tabled three quotations from Paul Rawlings for different items of work: clearing the ditch and path in Spring Lane at £200, grass seeding in the goalmouths of the Playing Field at £280 and refurbishing the goalposts at £370. The three quotations were agreed by Council.
- e. The agreement with the football club will be renewed in August 2026, the wording will follow the previous version.

12. Community Hall and Sports & Social Club report

Community Hall - Cllr Mrs Malin spoke to her tabled report. They have been very busy with 19 events this week and for the year they have had 120 events in the Community Hall which represents 188 hours of activity.

Sports & Social Club – Cllr Mrs Malin said that there have been no committee meetings in April or May; there is a lack of comprehensive management of the Club, although a new committee was created on a formal basis at the beginning of the year, it is not proactive and frequently meetings that are anticipated do not take place because members do not attend. Members do not want to take on committee responsibilities. Nick Dhillon is currently the secretary, and Stephen Foster is the treasurer. It should be noted that no rent has been paid by the Club to the Community Hall since October 2025.

This led to a wide-ranging discussion by Council arising out of the correspondence received recently by the Clerk from several residents complaining about noise, disturbance, shouting, bad language and generally disorderly behaviour that they had to suffer to their privacy in the evenings. This originates from club members using the outside seating particularly in good weather. The Licence Agreement drawn up by the Clerk and former Cllr John Sudbury in April 2021 bars disorderly behaviour and that the use of the seating be discontinued after 9pm. These two particular conditions are not being observed and the position of the residents was to the effect that the Licence should now be revoked because the issues concerning the outside seating had been going on for several years without remedy.

Council noted that in 2024 there was an in-depth meeting between Club representatives and the Parish council because of complaints by residents; the point was made at that meeting that it was a final opportunity for the Club to be considerate towards residents. On 5th July 2025, the Clerk issued a letter to the Club pointing out that it had not responded to the previous discussion and indicating that the situation must be corrected. This has had no effect. The terms of the Licence allow for it to be revoked at any time without prior notice. Cllrs observed that part of the problem is the lack of committee management and the fact that the individual members of the Club are not prepared to take responsibility for good order and discipline. Accordingly, Council decided that the Licence should be now revoked and the Clerk was instructed to give written notice of revocation. The Clerk was authorised to notify PC Ed King of the situation in case he is drawn into any public order issue. Also to notify the Licensing Dept of WDC as the Club has an alcohol licence from WDC which allows for the 24 hour sale of alcohol on or off the premises.

13. Report on Environmental Matters

Cllr Mrs Sanderson spoke briefly to her tabled report. She has been in contact with Helen Hancox at WDC concerning numerous dead trees and missing hedges on The Cricketers estate and the fact that the estate needs refurbishment. She is waiting to hear from her. She has reached an accommodation Duane Wagstaff to accommodate the corner plot of the Playing Field for wildflower development. In conjunction with former Cllr Henry Marriott and Cllr Dempsey, she is reviewing the position over the birch tree in the corner of the Playing Field alongside the oak tree in Lay Gardens which is now covered in ivy. The Scouts made an excellent display for the month of June to go in the Community Telephone Box.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

15. Date of next Council meeting

The date of the next meeting is 27th July 2026 at 7.30pm. This meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Council Meeting

Date July 2026

Counter signed.....
Clerk

Date July 2026