

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

2025/10

DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 30th March 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele.

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

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

1. Election of Chairman for the Meeting

The Clerk called for nominations for Chairman for this meeting; Cllr Friar was nominated, proposed by Cllr Mrs Malin and seconded by Cllr Carter.

2. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were apologies for absence from Cllr O Lloyd-Davies and there were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 23rd February 2026

The Minutes of the Council meeting on 23rd February 2026 were approved, subject to a paragraph alteration requested by Cllr Carter; it was AGREED that the Minutes be approved subject to the item being retyped by Cllr Friar. Proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 23rd February 2026

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of 23rd February 2026, not covered by other items on the Agenda.

5. Report on SpeedWatch

Cllr Munn spoke briefly to his tabled report. Cllr Mrs Malin, himself and a further member of the SpeedWatch team had attended the SpeedWatch event at Old Shire Hall on 19th February 2026; PowerPoint notes of the presentation were subsequently circulated to Cllrs and published on the RSPC website. There is to be a WRE Cllrs meeting on 23rd March 2026 and Cllr Dempsey plans to be in attendance.

6. Update on traffic management issues

WCC Cllr Edwards reported that:

- a) He had been continuing with a review of the traffic movement on the A425 to the east of the Village. He was privy to preparation of a number of objections raised by Highways Dept to the Taylor Wimpey planning application for the development of the south side of the A425 opposite the existing Bovis Estate. Currently the traffic position as regards Bloxham Way is unsatisfactory; there are no speed limits on the estate roads and the junction with the A425 is unsatisfactory. The proposals by Taylor Wimpey have the potential to make this worse. The existing speed limit at the location of 40mph needs to be reduced to 30mph but there are difficulties in getting this changed.
- b) He has spent some time on reviewing the traffic movements around the School at putting down and picking up time; he has been with PC Ed King on observation. Following that, he has put in a proposal to WCC that vertical posts be imposed on the kerb next to the School to prevent cars being parked on the pavement in the vicinity of the School. PC King will continue to keep observations on the situation.

7. Warwickshire County Council – update

WCC Cllr Edwards spoke as above.

8. Warwick District Council – update

WDC Cllr M/s Davidson reiterated her concern that there are no speed limits on the new estate and enforcement of reasonable driving practice is therefore a challenge. She continues to work on the promotion of a cycle track being formed for Offchurch Lane across the railway viaduct to link up with the Greenway; this is subject to repair of the viaduct. Railtrack have indicated that they will carry out these repairs to the bridge and parapet to allow safe pedestrian access although clearly the cost will be an item low in their budget.

9. Financial Matters

- 1) The Clerk reported that on the balance on the investment account is approximately £82,000 and the balance on the community account is approximately £4,000. This latter figure being created by transfers made by him to ensure liquidity.
- 2) A number of payments identified on the circulated schedule were approved, proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.
- 3) At the Clerk's behest it was AGREED that Mrs Louise Best be instructed to be the Internal Auditor again this year.

10. Correspondence

A number of items had been given attention and instead of going through the list of correspondence as such, the Clerk had provided Cllr Friar with notes of the salient items:

- a. A copy of the Electoral Register has now been obtained.
- b. The Clerk spoke briefly to his tabled report on a presentation concerning AI which he had attended virtually; it had been presented by the consultant to WCC developing AI for them. The Clerk said he learned a lot from the session and two points made by the consultant in particular were worthy of attention:
 - i) Despite peoples' fantasy, an AI machine is similar in operation to a PC or a photocopier – it does not have a brain of its own. This means that it must be programmed in a systematic fashion otherwise it is liable to produce answers which are either incorrect or not what was sought by human operator.
 - ii) Because the device is only a machine, a lot depends on the programming and the presenter made the point that if, as a recipient, one thinks that the material received is unsound then it should be challenged. The mere fact that it had been produced by AI does not mean that it is automatically foolproof.
- c. The Clerk had not yet had a response from WDC on using high pressure jets to clean out the bus shelter; the degree of filth was too much for the capability of Mr Ingall. Cllr Ms Davidson said she would endeavour to contact the appropriate department of WDC and get some response to the Clerk.
- d. The Clerk has written once again to Joe Northorpe at WCC Highways requesting the reinstatement of the Village gates and signage on the east side of the Village which have been pending for months; he has sent another reminder.
- e. Cllr Mrs Sanderson's proposed meeting with the MP and Stagecoach on 5th March was put off – she is waiting for a new date.
- f. PC Ed King is seeking to arrange new dates for walkabouts of the Village and has asked Council to suggest some dates. It was agreed that Cllr Friar and Cllrs Mrs Sanderson would contact PC King offering some dates for this.
- g. The Clerk highlighted an article that he had recently read in the SLCC magazine concerning Hillsborough Law; this is the short name for new legislation which comes into force later in 2026. The public inquiry into the Hillsborough football disaster was underway when it was found that a number of people and institutions failed to cooperate with the inquiry; this new law seeks to make that cooperation compulsory and this Council could receive requisitions for information in a similar situation.
- h. The Clerk highlighted another article in the SLCC magazine seen recently concerning the 2025 Data Use Access Act; this new legislation last year governs the way in which data holders use the data which they have; this needs to be studied by this Council in advance of being challenged on its use of it.
- i. The Clerk held up a copy of a paper recently received from the West Midlands CALCS Joint Working Party; this is a combined group of local councils in the West Midland such as WALC who have got together to produce templates on devolution issues.

11. Current Planning Matters

Cllr Carter spoke briefly to his general report on planning:

1. W/24/1404 Fosse Way Solar Farm – His main focus is the preparation for the appeal by way of public enquiry concerning the solar farm on 15th and 16th April 2026. He confirmed that our two experts, Andrew Towlerton and Richard Hodgetts have been booked to attend and he himself will present the case for RSPC. It appears that the Inspector, Diane Cragg is contemplating not listening to lengthy presentations or detailed evidence, having gleaned what she wants to know from the written material, she proposes (see her note) to conduct the enquiry by firing questions at the relevant witnesses
2. W/25/1716 Taylor Wimpey proposed site – this item is still pending; it remains to be seen whether Taylor Wimpey will be required to make a CIL payment if they were granted planning permission.
3. W/25/0130 Land at the rear of 38-44 Offchurch Lane; a decision on this planning application is still awaited.
4. Update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan – still pending
5. W/25/1294 – Leasowe House; a decision is awaited on this application.
6. W/25/1789 – 14 Hallfields Road; this application for a single storey extension has been approved.
7. A further matter has come to hand since preparation of papers for this meeting, namely an application by Bellway Homes to discharge foul water into the Whitnash Brook; this Council have not been given notice of the planning application presumably because the brook is regarded as being in the area of Whitnash Town Council. The Brook is in fact the boundary between the parishes. Some objections have been raised by various parties and Cllr Carter has lodged an objection on behalf of this Council.

12. Playing Field Report

Cllr Dempsey spoke briefly to his tabled report:

- a. With particular reference to the drainage problem, major work is required to rebuild the drains in the light of the serious blockage suffered earlier this year. A survey is shortly to take place, organised by a contractor recommended by Severn Trent (at a fee of about £585, previously agreed by this Council). In the light of that survey, a significant amount of work will be required, and it is estimated that the cost of it will be £8,000 and £10,000 all in.
- b. Signage for the Playing Field, commissioned by Cllr Dempsey, had been delivered but was found to be unsatisfactory; he is engaged in correspondence with the suppliers accordingly. It was agreed to accept the material and see how it develops.
- c. Cllr Dempsey said some trees need to be trimmed but this is to be done in October and he has arranged for Paul Rawling to undertake this.
- d. It seems that the football pitch is ok and he has not received an adverse report from Steve Hitchcox recently.

13. Community Hall and Sports & Social Club report

Cllr Mrs Malin spoke briefly to her tabled report. The Club appears to be ticking over following the agreement made between them and the management of the Community Hall. The Hall itself has been redecorated and classes have expanded and she is pleased to report the formation of a new art group amongst others. The Committee have had the thought of indoor markets during the year on Saturday mornings perhaps in September or December. They calculate that these have done well elsewhere. It appears that the markets would concentrate on food stalls.

14. Report on Environmental Matters

Cllr Mrs Sanderson spoke briefly to her tabled report. It was noted that a submission had been received from Judy Steele asking the Council to change its decision on disposing of the flower meadow within the Playing Field. After discussion, it was AGREED to let the element of long grass continue which will encourage meadow flowers and invertebrates.

15. Emergency Planning update

There was no report.

16. Any other business

There was no other business. Cllr Friar reiterated the need to recruit new Cllrs and canvassing the population. The Clerk is in the process of obtaining an up-to-date edition of the Electoral Register and in particular, Cllr Friar, proposes to canvass the areas of Bloxham Way and The Cricketers to see if interest can be created amongst some of the residents to take on the post of Cllrs. There are currently three vacancies on this Council.

17. Date of next Council meeting

Cllr Friar said he would not be in attendance at the next meeting on the 27th April 2026. This meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

There then followed a presentation to former Cllr Stan Sabin who had been asked to attend in recognition of his service to the community; he was presented with an engraved tankard in recognition of his service to the community together with a supply of beer to go in it, subscribed to by the Councillors and Clerk. Cllr Friar gave a brief presentation thanking him for all his time and energy which he had put into the Council, firstly as an ordinary member and recently as Chairman.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Council Meeting

Date April 2026

Counter signed.....
Clerk

Date April 2026

