RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

2025/12

DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 18th May 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 R Munn and Cllr Mrs J Sanderson
In attendance:	WCC Cllr Ben Edwards, Mr David Leigh-Hunt (Clerk). There were two members of the public present.

1. Election of Chairman for the Meeting

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

2. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr O Lloyd-Davies and WDC Cllr Rebecca Davidson and there were no Declarations of interest.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 27th April 2026

The Minutes of the Council meeting on 27th April 2026 were approved; proposed by Cllr Dempsey and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 27th April 2026

There were no matters in general arising from the Minutes of the last meeting but the Clerk mentioned the issues surrounding Mr James Nelson, referring to the specific minute on the subject set out in the Minutes for the 27th April 2026. the Clerk had received some more copy emails addressed to various people casting aspersions on others, including Cllr Carter. The Clerk had not yet heard a definitive response from the Monitoring Officer, nor had he received any approach from Mr Nelson in respect to the Minutes in 2025/26 that the Clerk had available; . The Clerk expressed the view that the best course for this Council at present was to take no action on the correspondence.

5. Report on SpeedWatch

Cllr Munn spoke briefly to his tabled report. He is pleased to welcome to his SpeedWatch team Ms Sharma who attended this Council meeting.

6. Warwickshire County Council – update

WCC Cllr Edwards spoke briefly on the following matters:

a. WCC have recently held their AGM which had revealed a disparity between the political parties in their approach to managing affairs.
b. He has taken up the request forwarded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson on behalf of the proprietors of the Village Shop in their request for permanent street lighting during darkness to be maintained outside their shop following the recent attempted burglary. His information was that the lights would be maintained for the time being, but he did not think it would be a permanent arrangement. The argument from WCC Highways is that if they maintained lights for one location they would end up being requested to maintain the lights at all different kinds of locations.
c. His study of the response given by Taylor Wimpey to the objections by Highways Dept on their proposed traffic scheme indicates it is not impressive.
d. He understands from the Highways Dept that the restoration of the Village signs on the A425 is being undertaken, subject to budget and manpower availability.
e. He is pursuing an enquiry into the outstanding issues concerning the Bovis site; ultimately the roads and lighting should be adopted but he thinks this is not due until 2027.

f. At the invitation of the Chairman, he reported on his enquiry into monitoring/controlling the traffic around the School at the time of setting down and picking up pupils, he is going to pursue the installation of bollards on the pavements adjoining the School and an extension of double yellow lines. Thought had been given to closing the road completely at school times but the conclusion was that this is impractical for the overall volume of traffic circulating in the Village.

7. Warwick District Council – update

In the absence of WDC Cllr M/s Davidson, there was no report.

8. Financial Matters

1) The Clerk reported that on the balance on the investment account was approximately £97,000 (having been boosted by receipt of the first instalment of the Precept of £21,894) and the balance on the community account was approximately £2,400.
2) A number of payments were authorised to be made as per the circulated schedule, proposed by Cllr Munn and seconded by Cllr Dempsey.
3) The Clerk and Cllr Friar outlaid the current position concerning the Internal Audit, this leads to the lodgement of documentation known collectively as AGAR to be reviewed by the External Auditors. The report from the Internal Auditor, Mrs Best, had been circulated. The Chairman asked for confirmation that the report was accepted, and this was proposed by Cllr Dempsey and seconded by Cllr Carter. Cllr Friar said her report highlighted the need for Council to review the Data Protection policy and Assets Register together with the GDPR. More pressing was the review of the Risk Assessment, in the last year former Cllr Sabin and himself and the Clerk had put together the basis of a Risk Assessment, but more work needed to be done to it. Therefore he and the Clerk had taken the view that the question on the AGAR form as to whether the Risk Assessment was up to date was to carry a statement (which he had drafted) accepting that there was non-compliance and this outstanding matter would be dealt with. He read out his draft note for the governance statement for the approval of the meeting which was agreed. The Chairman then asked for the approval of the meeting to the annual governance statement as a whole and that it should be forwarded to the External Auditors, approval being proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson. Mrs Best's fee for the report was approved for payment; proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Munn.

   As previously discussed between them, the Chairman and the Clerk proposed that Council's February meeting should be identified as a suitable date to review the policies including Risk Assessment (as there is less likely to be meeting business at that time of the year).

9. Items of current relevance for review

a. PC Ed King had indicated his wish to have a crime prevention event using the Community Hall; it was AGREED to reserve the Hall for 7th November 2026 for the event – proposed by Cllr Mrs Sanderson and seconded by Cllr Dempsey. Cllrs Mrs Sanderson will deal with the booking arrangements (in the absence of Cllr Mrs Malin at this meeting).
b. Following discussion, it was AGREED to cease subscription to the Open Space Society.
c. The Clerk said that someone had expressed an interest in becoming a councillor; the Chairman said he had a concerted enquiry from a particular gentleman, but he had not heard further from him.
d. The Clerk had received an email enquiry from Ms Chandler seeking assurance that this Council was active in opposing the planning application by Taylor Wimpey; it was AGREED that the Clerk would advise her that this was very much the case.
e. The Clerk had received an email from a local resident, Diane Mortimer, who raised a complaint again concerning the hedgerow at 13 St Nicholas Road (which is near to her own property); it was AGREED that the Clerk would contact the Highways Dept to raise their attention to the matter.

10. Current Planning Matters

Cllr Carter spoke briefly to his general report on planning:

1. W/24/1404 Fosse Way Solar Farm – Cllr Carter read a brief extract from the decision from the Planning Inspector to allow the appeal of this project; he emphasised the need for the country to have renewable energy and it was clear from the wording (which he read out) that she was sensitive to the Government's view that solar farms should be encouraged.

2. W/25/1716 Taylor Wimpey proposed site – he was hopeful that this planning application will be defeated because Highways Dept will not accept the proposals currently put forward for dealing with the traffic on the A 425

3. W/25/0130 Land at the rear of 38-44 Offchurch Lane; there is no update on this planning application.

4. Update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan – this is due to be published at the end of June or beginning of July. A special meeting of Cllrs is going to be necessary to deal with the publication at speed; it was AGREED to pencil in a date for a special meeting on this topic of 20th July 2026. We have no idea of the timescale for the responses which will be allocated by the report when it comes out.

5. W/26/ – 2 The Greswoldes, a planning application for an extension has been submitted to which there is no objection.

6. W/26/ - 15 Offchurch Lane, a planning application for an extension has been submitted to which there is no objection.

7. W26/ An interesting application has been noted on the planning portal; this is an application for permitted use for the householders who have a habitable caravan in their garden to be used in conjunction with the house; as this is not a mainstream planning application, there is no scope for this Council to give a response.

8. On the Clerk's enquiry as to the current position concerning Bellway Homes application to discharge foul water into the Whitnash Brook, he did not know the current position.

11. Playing Field Report

Cllr Dempsey spoke briefly on this item:

a. Reviewing the position of the trees, he saw no need to instruct Paul Rawlings at this stage.
b. On 27th May 2026, work is to be started on renovating the drains in the Playing Field.
c. He reviewed the complaint by a householder concerning the climbing frame and circulated photographs to the Council; and he is aware that about 12 years ago there was an issue which was smoothed over because family's children were relatively young; it seems that now they are teenagers they are seeking privacy as clearly the windows in their house are overlooked from the climbing frame. He is looking into the potential cost of altering the climbing frame or changing its location. He said that it would be impractical to increase the height of the garden fence of the property as if this was done then it would be necessary to increase the height of the fence for all the properties adjoining the Playing Field. The feeling of the meeting was to relocate the climbing frame rather than getting alterations to reduce its height.

12. Community Hall and Sports & Social Club report

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Malin, there was no report.

13. Report on Environmental Matters

Cllr Mrs Sanderson spoke briefly to her tabled reports, one was her general report and the other to the specific issue of dead trees (approximately 40) noted on The Cricketers estate. There appears to be an issue of ownership of the land on which these trees are situated; a better view is that it belongs to WDC following disposal by the developers, A C Lloyd, in 2025. It was AGREED that she should pursue this project in the hope that she gets assistance from FoRGE in replanting the hedgerow and general maintenance.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

15. Date of next Council meeting

The date of the next meeting is 29th June 2026 at 7.30pm. This meeting closed at 8.42pm.

Signed………………………………………………. Date ……………… June 2026
Chairman of the Council Meeting

Counter signed……………………………………. Date ……………… June 2026
Clerk