

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at the Community Hall on 18th May 2026 at 8.40pm

- Present:** Parish Councillors: Cllr B Friar (in the chair), Cllr D Carter, Cllr A J Dempsey, Cllr R Munn and Cllr Mrs J Sanderson
- Also present:** WCC Cllr Ben Edwards, Mr David Leigh-Hunt (Clerk). There were two members of the public present
- Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr O Lloyd-Davies and WDC Cllr Rebecca Davidson
- Minutes:** The Minutes of the last Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2025 had been approved by Councillors at a Council Meeting on 30th June 2025.
- Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
- Correspondence:** There was no correspondence to hand.
- Content:**
1. Cllr Friar, in his capacity as Chairman of the Council's Finance Committee, presented his annual Financial Report (tabled). He outlined the nature of the expenditure undertaken in the financial year, in particular £41,146 to the Canal & River Trust re the canal access (a project instigated by FoRGE, the installation of substantial gates to the Playing Field to prevent unauthorised access (occasioned by a previous incident with travellers), also installation of adult gym equipment had been undertaken. Overall, the Parish Council's finances were in good shape.
 2. Council were pleased to have the contribution generally of WCC Councillor Ben Edwards in his new term of office and he had been most helpful to the Council.
 3. Written reports had been tabled by Cllr Munn in respect of SpeedWatch, Cllr Dempsey in respect of the Playing Field, Cllr Carter in respect of planning matters and Cllr Mrs Sanderson in respect of environmental matters. The reports had also been filed on the website.
 4. Particular issues were the large amount of time and energy expended contesting a planning application to install the Fosse Way Solar Farm; it was recognised that Cllr Carter has spent a vast amount of time on preparing a case for this Council in conjunction with others who lodged objections resulting in a public enquiry on 14th and 15th April 2026. It was disappointing to note that the Planning Inspector's decision to uphold the developers' appeal that had the objective of encouraging solar farm development; it had the disappointing result of decimating the environment around Radford Semele due to the size and extent of the proposed solar farm. It was noted that Cllr Dempsey had spent a considerable amount of time and energy with issues concerning the Playing Field, in particular the defects in the drainage system. Cllr Mrs Sanderson had expended a great deal of energy on environmental matters, in particular the telephone box renovation to a high standard and combatting the perennial problem of flooding in The Valley and Valley Road.
- Any other business:** There was no other business; the formal meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed Chairman Date

..... Clerk