

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

2025/9

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 23rd February 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 O Lloyd-Davies, 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 the post of Chairman for the meeting, pointing out that it was not open for him as Clerk to chair the meeting in the absence of any nominations permanent for the post of Chairman, it was still necessary to have a chairman of the present meeting. Cllr Friar was proposed as Chairman for the meeting by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Dempsey.

2. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Mrs J P Malin and there were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 26th January 2026

The Minutes of the Council meeting on 26th January 2026 were approved for signing, subject to some amendments; it was AGREED that Cllr Friar would retype the relevant items and pass them to the Clerk for filing. Proposed by Cllr Dempsey and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 26th January 2026

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of 26th January 2026, otherwise covered by the agenda for this meeting.

5. Report on SpeedWatch

Cllr Munn spoke briefly to his tabled report. His main theme was a report on the Warwickshire CSW group workshop event on 19th February 2026 (referred to in the previous Minutes). He was disappointed at the decision on the part of the workshop as regards the enforcement of the 20mph speed limits in the county. There have been no prosecutions and no tabled reports of accidents connected with breach of the 20mph limit.

6. Update on traffic management issues

WCC Cllr Edwards reported under this item in combination with his report under item 8 (due to another commitment he arrived at the meeting late):

- a) He had been in discussion with the Police (in particular PC Ed King) concerning the local speed limits and the traffic around the School at peak hours.
- b) There were two prospective dates for a meeting with Stagecoach, organised by Matt Western MP, in which he will be involved.
- c) He has lodged an objection to a planning application by Taylor Wimpey on their proposed site on the south side of the A425 because of the serious traffic implications.
- d) WCC have now set a budget for a 4% increase in the Council Tax Rate.

7. Update on Section 106 and CIL current issues

There were no outstanding Section 106/CIL issues to consider.

8. Warwickshire County Council – update

WCC Cllr Edwards spoke as above.

9. Warwick District Council – update

WDC Cllr M/s Davidson spoke briefly in outline the following matters:

- a) Issues raised by Bloxham Way residents regarding traffic and the threat of the planning application by Taylor Wimpey.
- b) A WDC meeting to consolidate the budget following the filing of Precept applications.
- c) Parking issues in the area of the District.

10. Financial Matters

- 1) The Clerk reported that on the bank account balances were approximately £86,000 on the investment account and approximately £3,500 on the community account.
- 2) Council approved a number of payments set out on the circulated schedule, in particular a payment to AP Tree Contractors of £2,940 proposed by Cllr Friar and seconded by Cllr Munn.

11. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on a number of items:

- a. PC Ed King's report on the occurrence of a distraction burglary recently. In Hallfields Road
- b. Cllr Mrs Sanderson will attend the projected meeting with Stagecoach on 5th March 2026, organised by Matt Western MP.
- c. The Clerk has written to WDC to request cleansing facilities for the bus shelter by way of high pressure hosing as other methods were inefficient.
- d. The Clerk had written again to Joe Northorpe at WCC Highways to chase up completion of the reinstatement of the Village gates signage.
- e. The Clerk had been chasing the contractors involved with the abandoned fascia boards left in the Village.
- f. The Clerk is pursuing a copy of the updated Electoral Register.

12. Current Planning Matters

Cllr Carter spoke briefly to his tabled report:

1. W/24/1404 Fosse Way Solar Farm – A supplemental statement of objection by this Council to the Solar Farm appeal has been lodged which he drafted in conjunction with the two experts retained by the Parish council, Andrew Towleron and Richard Hodgetts. Currently the date of the appeal is to be 15th and 16th April 2026, but the date may be changed.
2. W/25/1716 Taylor Wimpey proposed site – Objection has been lodged to this Taylor Wimpey application for its proposed site on the south side of the A425 with the concurrence of WCC Cllr Edwards with particular reference to concerns about traffic movement.
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 – With reference to a number of slides issued by WDC and Stratford on Avon DC, they indicate a number of options being considered within the South Warwickshire Local Plan although they may fall in number. The preferred option is based on option 4 which reflects sustainable travel on economy and is a hybrid of two of the other options. Item 7 is not included in the list of strategic growth slides but is a different part of the housing needs in South Warwickshire and will still be led by development in and around existing settlements. It follows that all the sites put forward in the area of this Parish are still under consideration for the new Local Plan.
5. W/25/1294 – Leasowe House; a decision is awaited on this application.
6. W/25/1647 – 33 Semele Close; has been granted.

7. W/25/1789 – 14 Hallfields Road; this application for a single storey extension is pending.

13. Playing Field Report

Cllr Dempsey outlined the matters in his tabled report:

- a. Steps should be taken to rationalise the drainage system which facilitates drainage of the Community Hall and the Sports & Social Club via the Playing Field and then onwards to public sewers. Potentially this will involve regrading / replacing the existing drain and improving the intermediary access point behind the goalposts in the Playing Field. He had a meeting with engineers from Severn Trent on the 23rd February which gave him food for thought. He proposed a survey of the whole sewage system with local knowledge supplied by the Severn Trent visit. This would be placed with a local contractor; it was AGREED that he should organise that with a projected maximum fee of £500 for the contractor.
- b. Following the contractors' survey, a decision will be taken to repair or replace the equipment and/or increase water flow from the Community Hall and Sports & Social Club to prevent blockages and give a constant flow of water.
- c. To go ahead with the previous proposal to update the signage on the Playing Field; he had tabled a report containing the cost of the signage at a figure of £103.57 which was approved by Council
- d. He will consult with former councillor Henry Marriott to carry out seasonal tree husbandry to the Cubbington pear tree and the trees in the field.
- e. In light of the RoSPA report received a few months ago, the Playing Field Committee is pursuing a number of new projects including potential installation of 5-a-side goalposts as discussed with the new football team manager. Cllr Lloyd-Davies has compiled a report detailing these projects.

14. Community Hall and Sports & Social Club report

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Malin, there was no report on the Community Hall and the Sports & Social Club.

15. Environmental Matters

Cllr Mrs Sanderson spoke briefly to her tabled report; the most significant items were:

- a) WCC Highways have confirmed that they will flush through the ditch and culverts in The Valley and Valley Road as soon as they have available personnel to carry out the work.
- b) The Committee have made a decision to let the meadow part of the Playing Field return to grass for the time being as it has been set out with wildflowers. Mr Wagstaff will therefore be instructed to mow that area.
- c) She has in hand to attend the meeting on 5th March called by Matt Western MP to discuss ways to improve the local bus service in conjunction with Stagecoach.
- d) The Art Club has created a very nice exhibition in the telephone box during February and there is a project in hand for the Easter celebration period.

16. Emergency Planning update

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

17. AGM meeting in May

There was a brief discussion as to whether to arrange a special event for the AGM this year in the Community Hall on either 9th or 16th May as previously suggested. In the light of poor take up last year, it was decided not to hold this event this year, but the AGM business will be dealt with as an adjunct to the ordinary Council meeting on 18th May 2026.

18. Any 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.

19. Date of next Council meeting

The next meeting will be on the 30th March 2026. This meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Council Meeting

Date March 2026

Counter signed.....
Clerk

Date March 2026

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