

# RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

2026/4

## DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele.

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

**In attendance:** WCC Cllr Ben Edwards, two observers: Mr Greasley and Mr Metcalfe, 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 Friar was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.

### 2. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were apologies for absence from Cllr A J Dempsey and Cllr Mrs J Sanderson, and there were no Declarations of interest. From the chair, Cllr Friar welcomed the observers to the meeting as they had expressed an interest in becoming parish councillors.

### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

The Minutes of the Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026 were approved, subject to some small amendments, proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.

### 4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 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 on SpeedWatch. He explained that a new safety officer has been appointed, Simon Skip and he is responsible for coordinating SpeedWatch activities throughout Warwickshire. As detailed in Cllr Munn's report, the new officer has focussed his attention on issues of protocol and rule book matters. He has provided Cllr Munn with revised data recording sheets and stated that designated SpeedWatch sites will be reviewed with new risk assessments to be carried out. Cllr Munn welcomes the review of risk assessments, and he will solicit opinions from members of his team regarding the various suggestions by Mr Skip. The Clerk raised the matter of correspondence from Ms Josephine McCormick concerning her views on SpeedWatch activity and queried whether any immediate response was required; it was agreed to leave that issue in abeyance.

### 6. Warwickshire County Council – update

WCC Cllr Edwards highlighted briefly some issues:

- a. The SWLP plan is now to be the subject of a review by the public by closing date of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026; Cllrs must focus their attention on any observations of the plan before the due date. As regards the identification of different sites by the Plan, he is reasonably comfortable with the sites identified for Radford Semele.
- b. He has explored the issue of the missing Radford Semele sign from the Village gates on the A425 and used his endeavours to get the Highways Dept to get on with replacements.
- c. All the public land in the vicinity of Ashbourne Way has now been adopted as public highway.
- d. Pursuing the installation of bollards in the vicinity of the Village School and dropped kerbs at the entrances to road off Lewis Road, the estimated costs for these is £60,000. A Highways Dept budget will be required.
- e. The planning application by Taylor Wimpey is still pending; after comments by Highways Dept earlier, it is thought that Taylor Wimpey will be modifying their scheme to try and get it through.

## **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 the balance on the investment account is approx £76,000 and the balance on the community account is approx £8,700; This is an artificially high figure as the balance has absorbed the VAT reclaim sum which was received on the afternoon of the last Parish Council meeting.
- 2) A number of payments were authorised to be made as per the circulated schedule with addition of a late received invoice for playground repairs of £2,668.80. The payments were approved, proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Munn.
- 3) The Clerk had recently received a strangely worded letter from the External Auditors, Moore, with which they had returned the AGAR form and our original documents without signing the final sheet of the AGAR form which is the audit certificate. The implication from the letter is that they found the Clerk's recent answers to their queries satisfactory but that further communication will be sent.

## **9. Items of current relevance for review**

- a. Since the revocation of the licence granted by the Parish Council to the Sports & Social Club, there has been no further response; the Clerk has notified the WDC Licensing Dept and PC Ed King. The Clerk has received a thank you letter from one of the householders nearby who asked for the licence to be revoked.
- b. Notification has been received from WALC that the Government has approved the installation of two unitary authorities for Warwickshire to replace the County Council: North and South District Councils.
- c. The Clerk had received an email from the Severn Trent Community Flooding Officer, Rachel Woodward, offering to help with flooding issues; this was welcomed and the correspondence passed to Cllr Mrs Sanderson. Cllr R Munn raised the point that the Emergency Planning Committee may also benefit from engagement with Severn Trent and offered to liaise with Rachel Woodward after consulting with Cllr Sanderson.
- d. The Clerk had received a note from PC Ed King seeking to recruit participants for his pages on Facebook; a short discussion followed and it was observed that the Parish Council's public face update on activity was all reflected on the website and it seemed unnecessary to get involved in Facebook as well.
- e. No response had yet been received from WDC on jetting out the bus shelter.
- f. Regarding a resident's complaint about the children's climbing frame not affording his family privacy, Cllr Dempsey has resolved the issue by getting the frame altered and has received a pleasant note from the resident thanking him and the Council for helping out.

## **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 – this application is still pending, possibly with modifications.
2. W/25/0130 Land at the rear of 38-44 Offchurch Lane; this application is ongoing and currently it appears that the Planning Dept have an issue with the destruction of a number of trees.
3. Update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan – this has now been consolidated and the consultation period will run until 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026. The current paperwork identifies two sites in our area: one is south of The Cricketers covering the field area towards the vicinity of Valley Farm and the other being to the south of the A425 currently under the spotlight with Taylor Wimpey. There are a number of important points to be gleaned from the plan as it currently stands and from the area plan attached to it. This Council must consider whether to go along with the suggestions, make submissions in respect of them, otherwise, comment on the plan during the consultation period. It was agreed that Cllr Carter would prepare a confidential report for the use of Cllrs with a view to the Council meeting in the near future to discuss the details of a response to the Plan during the consultation period.
4. Update on Bellway Homes application – He has no updated information on the proposal by Bellway to discharge foul water into the Whitnash Brook.

The application items 5 to 9: these items all concern modifications to existing dwellings by way of extensions and there is no reason to object.

## 11. Playing Field Report

In the absence of Cllr Dempsey, his tabled report was considered. He confirmed approved of recent work carried out by Clarks and their invoice of £2,668 (referred to above) was merited. He said the annual RoSPA inspection of the Playing Field equipment had offered a discounted fee for their annual inspection this year. It was unclear what the precise cost would be; Cllr Dempsey recommended approval to a ceiling of £300 + VAT; the Clerk confirmed that when he settled RoSPA's account last year, the amount was approximate to that figure. Cllr Dempsey's proposal was approved; proposed by Cllr Munn and seconded by Cllr Carter.

Cllr Dempsey had also raised the annual Proludic maintenance inspection cost £375 + VAT last year and there are some items that he wishes to add to their work this year and he recommended approval to a ceiling of £600 + VAT. This was approved; proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.

He reported that goalpost repairs had been costed out; a pack of stanchions cost £108.99 + VAT and postage & packing and a set of hooks for the netting cost £34.99 inc VAT and postage & packing. These purchases and costs were approved; proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.

His report highlighted a number of other matters: green maintenance is to be reviewed in the autumn; Spring Lane path and ditch had become overgrown and needed cutting back (a quote for this work had been agreed at the last meeting). He was in discussion with Steve Hitchcox to plan a way forward for the pitch for the football teams and work is underway to install a new 5-a-side playing area – a pitch area has been identified and marked out by Steve Hitchcox.

## 12. Update on Community Hall

Cllr Mrs Malin spoke very briefly on this item; she focussed on the Nickstonbury festival that took place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July. She said it was reasonably successful and the public were well behaved.

## 13. Update on Sports & Social Club

There was no report as such, but Cllr Friar elaborated on the fact that when the Clerk had served notice of revocation of the licence in respect to the outside seating, he had had one or two conversations with the Sports & Social Club to clarify the meaning of the letter and that they fully understood the revocation of the licence to use the outside area.

## 14. Report on Environmental Matters

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Sanderson, her report on environmental matters was noted.

## 15. Any other business

Former Cllr Sabin had dropped a note to commend that the Clerk take steps to have removed a builders abandoned signage lying on the verge in Overton Close.

## 16. Date of next Council meeting

The date of the next meeting is 28<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 7.30pm and the Clerk reminded Cllrs that is the occasion when donations will be considered and approved; with any other additions that Cllrs may see fit to approve. This meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Signed.....  
**Chairman of the Council Meeting**

Date ..... September 2026

Counter signed.....  
**Clerk**

Date ..... September 2026