

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

2026/5

DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 28th September 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
Cllr Mrs J Sanderson

In attendance: WDC Cllr Becky Davidson, Mr David Leigh-Hunt (Clerk) and
Mr Iain Metcalfe, Ms Kiran Minhas-Gill and Ms Katie Treadwell

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 Mrs Malin and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson.

2. Co-option of new Councillors

Cllr Friar welcomed to the meeting Mr Iain Metcalfe, Ms Kiran Minhas-Gill and Ms Katie Treadwell as prospective new councillors. He invited each of them to give a brief account of their background and interests and asked them to withdraw from the meeting so Cllrs could make a decision on their co-option. Unanimous approval was given by the Cllrs to co-option of all three candidates, proposed by Cllr Dempsey and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin. The three new Cllrs were then asked to return to the meeting.

Promoted by WDC Cllr Ms Davidson, three members of the team of the Book of Portraits Projects made a presentation to Council. This is a collaborative artist led community interest company who delivers events taking inspiration from original folk customs, celebrations and traditional heritage stories. They are hoping for some funding/support from this Council. In outline, there are three phases to start with – an address/talk in the Community Hall about the Project, a creative coffee morning to bring residents together, a circulatory book about the Village to engage with residents (it is not clear whether this will be a house to house process or merely engaging with residents in public spaces). The sequence would be one or more events in the Playing Field, for example a fete with a theatrical show; on enquiry from the Clerk, they confirmed that this would be an outdoor process generally so something for the summer months rather than winter months in 2027, possibly July. It was AGREED to support the scheme in principle, proposed by Cllr Mrs Malin and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson. Also it was agreed that the team would put together a paper presentation for delivery to the Chairman and the Clerk so that the Council can further consider the level of support they wish to give the scheme.

3. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There was an apology for absence from Cllr Munn (holiday) and WCC Cllr Ben Edwards (conflicting meeting), and there were no Declarations of interest.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 27th July 2026

The Minutes of the Council meeting on 27th July 2026 were approved, proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 27th July 2026

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting not covered under other headings.

6. Report on SpeedWatch

A very brief report on SpeedWatch had been tabled by Cllr Munn – he reported that there had been little activity by the team.

7. Warwickshire County Council – update

In his absence, WCC Cllr Edwards had tabled a brief report by email which Cllr Friar read out. In particular, the Village signage had been re-erected and the installation of dropped kerbs throughout the Village was continuing,

particularly those in School Lane. On the merits of the planning application by Taylor Wimpey, he stated in his report that there was a holding objection still to the arrangements proposed by the applicants regarding road safety which was not satisfactory. An audit will be carried out by a third party; it could be that an independent audit will cause Highways Dept to withdraw their current objection.

8. Warwick District Council – update

WDC Cllr Ms Davidson spoke briefly:

- a. Whilst the Government have put on hold the installation of the two new district councils, she thinks it is unlikely that the plan will be abandoned and currently officers in both Stratford and Warwick are working on the administrative side to get revamp arrangements after the Councils are created.
- b. Consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan has concluded and will now be reviewed by the two District Councils. In answer to a question from Cllr Carter as to whether the Plan is likely to be undermined, she said that she thought it was unlikely.
- c. Regarding Bellways desire to discharge contaminated water into Whitnash Brook is still proceeding; WDC has referred it to the Environmental Agency who are reviewing the scheme.
- d. She was pleased that Council had expressed a willingness to support a Book of Portraits scheme and will arrange for them to present the project to this Council for funding.

9. Financial Matters

- 1) The Clerk reported that the balance on the investment account is approximately £76,400 and the balance on the community account is approximately £4,600. That day he had received an email notice from WDC that the second part of the annual Precept had been transmitted of £21,894 but it had not reached the Council's bank account yet.
- 2) A number of payments were authorised to be made as per the circulated schedule; in particular payment of the Clerk's net salary for the last three months of £2455.42 and payment of the appropriate tax on that sum of approximately £800. The payments were approved, proposed by Cllr Dempsey and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson.
- 3) The Clerk reported that the External Audit had now been concluded; this council had been signed off successfully but the Auditors made one or two comments in their covering letter which Cllr Friar and the Clerk wished to look at further with next year in mind.
- 4) Cllrs considered a copy of the schedule of the regular donations; the same donees as last year were approved without any additions but 3% increases to the amounts were made; proposed by Cllrs Mrs Malin and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson. A copy of the Schedule was signed by Cllr Friar and placed with the Minutes.
- 5) The amount paid to the Clerk (referred to above) includes his salary for the last three months but also arrears of salary as a result of the recent professional awards organised by NALC. Cllr Friar and the Clerk had agreed to ask the external accountants, Johnsons, to calculate the amount of the arrears and this had been done.

10. Items of current relevance for review

Cllr Friar addressed briefly a few items of interest:

- a. He reminded Cllrs of PC Ed King's special event on crime to be held in the Community Hall on 7th November 2026.
- b. He had been in email correspondence with Katy Wild at WDC concerning the purchase by this Council of a replacement waste/dog bin in The Valley; the existing one was damaged beyond repair and not a pretty sight with rubbish piled up around it. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council would need to purchase and install the replacement waste bin. The collection of waste would continue to be covered by the agreement with WDC.
- c. The Clerk highlighted a memorandum issued by email by Gary Fisher at WDC highlighting that from 31st October 2026, there will be significant changes in the planning process as planning officers will decide many applications on a routine basis, save where the system provides for them to refer the applications to the Planning Committee. WDC Cllr Davidson said this is uncharted territory at the moment and confirmed what is in hand and she remains to be seen what category of allegedly more serious/heavy cases should be referred from the planning officers to the Planning Committee.
- d. A draft list of dates for future meetings in 2027 had been circulated; Cllr Friar acquired confirmation that the dates were all in order. Briefly there was a discussion as to when the AGM should be held in 2027; it was AGREED that in previous years there had been the organisation of a meeting in the Hall on a Saturday to get residents interested. The turnout recently had been poor so it was decided that the AGM in 2027 would be dealt with on the same night as the Council's ordinary meeting on 24th May 2027.

- e. The Clerk drew attention to the fact that a special meeting of Cllrs may be necessary in December to consolidate the details of the application for the Precept; Cllr Friar explained that we were required to operate in a tight window because the tax base is unlikely to be issued by WDC Finance Dept before the end of November (ie after the date of this Council's next meeting). The application for the Precept was to be lodged with WDC before the Parish Council meeting in January in advance of the February meeting of the WDC Finance Dept. In order to have our documentation approved for presentation, the special meeting in December may be necessary.

11. Current Planning Matters

Cllr Carter spoke briefly to items identified in item 11 of the Agenda:

A. Applications

1. W/25/1716 Taylor Wimpey proposed site – he reiterated what Cllr Edwards had said about this application and the objection from Highways Dept.
2. W/25/0130 Land at the rear of 38-44 Offchurch Lane; this application is ongoing.
3. Update on Bellway Homes application – he mentioned the issues concerning this case are pending with the Environmental Agency.
4. W/26/0576 – 48 Offchurch Lane – this is still pending
5. W/26/0518 – 31 The Greswoldes – this has been granted
6. W/26/1252/TCA – 1 Church End - awaiting a decision
7. W/26/1244 – 7 Leam View – for an extension to the house and it is a modification to the application previously made.
8. W/26/1240 – 6 Gillingham Way - awaiting a decision

Cllr Carter highlighted the potential challenge of coming developments on the Fosse Way Solar Farm project; a considerable number of conditions were imposed by the Planning Inspector so there could be quite a lot of negotiation/argument as to getting the developers to conform with those conditions – consequently he will be keeping a close eye on the position.

- B. Update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan - indicated above from WDC Cllr Ms Davidson

12. Playing Field Report

Cllr Dempsey spoke briefly to his tabled report.

- a. He said that a number of the projects discussed with Paul Rawlings have been reviewed; four quotations from Mr Rawlings, which had been approved and lodged with the Clerk, are still effective and we await the completion of the work.
- b. RoSPA are expected imminently on site for their review on the safety demands; their report is awaited.
- c. The main goalposts shall be renovated this coming week.
- d. He is still working on the installation of the revised signage for the Playing Field.

13. Update on Community Hall

14. Update on Sports & Social Club

Cllr Mrs Malin spoke on both items 13 and 14. There had been no administrative meetings of the Club in recent months, which was disappointing. The Hall had been particularly busy and there had been 17 events recently and 4 of them being on the same date. On 28th October 2026 they have a special murder mystery event and they keep in mind the special event on the 7th November organised by PC King

15. Report on Environmental Matters

Cllr Mrs Sanderson presented her tabled report on environmental matters without adding anything to the items set out.

16. Any other business

There was no other business save that the Clerk had issued the three new Cllrs forms for Declarations of Interest which are a statutory requirement – the forms to be completed and returned to him at the next meeting.

17. Date of next Council meeting

The date of the next meeting is 26th October 2026; this meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Council Meeting

Date October 2026

Counter signed.....
Clerk

Date October 2026