

RISELEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Thursday 18th September 2025 at 7.15pm

Village Hall Lounge

Present:

Chairman Cllr Jowett, Vice Chair Cllr Felce, Cllr Wallis, Cllr Gell, Cllr Davies, Cllr Wady , Cllr Toseland, Cllr Brown, Cllr Jones.

In Attendance:

Sam Langley (Clerk) and Borough Councillor Towler

Members of the Public:

A few members of the Public.

Open Forum: A resident asked if any feedback would be given regarding the new development at Lowsden land, The Chairman said that there would be and that Cllr Felce has this on his remit, A resident raised concerns regarding the sewerage plant in Riseley and that with the extra developments in the village will only cause major problems with the issues with the sewerage. The resident would like to see a meeting held with all parties involved so that this combined sewerage system issue could be resolved. Cllr Davis has had a couple of meetings with Anglian Water, and they have been very helpful, there is discussion of improvements and if there is multi agency group that could be got together this would help, Bedford borough Council are responsible for the surface water and Anglian water is responsible for the Sewerage. Cllr Wallis explained that the Lowsden Lane development is looking into providing a sewage treatment on site should it be approved, this will be a condition of the planning application. A resident and organiser of the Riseley Christmas Lunch asked if the parish council would consider covering all costs of the Christmas Luncheon. The Chairman advised that this is on the agenda to be discussed.

01. Apologies

There was none.

02. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.

Cllr Wallis and Cllr Gell declared an interest and signed the declaration book.

03. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2025.

It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate representation.

04. Correspondence

To receive and note any correspondence received since the agenda was issued.

The Clerk advised that there have been some complaints received for various issues in the village and that it is possible that some will be included in the next months agenda. Enforcement has been

involved in a structure that has caused concerns, Traffic seems to be issue on the High Street and this may be included on the next agenda. The Chairman asked the Clerk to include Parking on the next agenda.

05. Presentation – Hill Group

Update was held by a representative from the Hill Group regarding the land adjacent to Riseley CofE development proposals. The parish council asked for the Hill Group to present a plan following feedback received from the last 3 meetings with the Parish Council, the Hill group will go back and present the Council with the drainage suggestions and parking arrangements , The Pc felt the presentation was a bit vague and that its frustrating not to have the answers to the points raised before, The Hill Group has had a meeting with the School , Cllr Davies said that this is only one voice and that from previous communications with the schools leadership there is not much forthcoming and that they don't really want to be involved with the parking or development. A resident spoke and said that there is a duty of care from parents of children to drop children off in a safe manner and that it is not the school's responsibility nor the Parish council to arrange parking it is down to the individuals. The school doesn't have a legal obligation only a moral obligation being part of the village. A question was raised did the development would have chimneys as per drawing presented, this was advised that it would despite being told that they wouldn't on a previous application, the question was raised if solar would be used and the representative didn't think this would be the case. A lot of differences noted by the Parish Council from the previous presentations and information given. The Hill Group will come back on the questions and queries raised.

06. Planning

a. New Applications

- 25/01523/FUL – 163 High Street, Riseley MK44 1DR – Installation of 3 new rooflights. Parish decision due 24/09/25.

It was proposed and unanimously Agreed to make no comment on this application.

- 25/01525/FUL – 163 High Street, Riseley MK44 1DR – Proposed re-thatch. Parish decision due 24/09/25.

It was proposed and unanimously Agreed to make no comment on this application.

- 25/01678/TPO – The Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Riseley MK44 1ER – T1 Corsican Pine: remove one low limb on SE side of crown overhanging the drive.

It was proposed and agreed to make no comment on this application. Cllr Brown was not in the room during the vote.

- 25/01634/FUL – Harings Farm, Sharnbrook Road, Riseley MK44 1DA – Installation of sewage treatment package plant and associated works.

It was proposed and agreed to support this application.

Following discussions, the Parish Council voted to record its response as “support” rather than “no comment” on the above applications.

- 25/00875/FUL – Brook House, 72 High Street, Riseley MK44 1DT – Amended / Additional Plans: Replacement of single rear-facing window and raising of boundary walls. Parish decision due 17/09/25.

Noted.

- 25/01262/S73 – The Bungalow, Rotten Row, Riseley MK44 1EJ – Variation of approved plans condition 1 (09/00165/FUL) to allow design changes to Plot 2 dwelling. Parish decision due 28/08/25.

Noted.

Riseley Parish Council wishes to submit the following comments in relation to the above application. The Council did not meet during August, which is why comments as a consultee are being submitted now following our meeting last night. Although we are aware that the official consultation period has ended, we ask that our comments are taken into consideration.

The Parish Council does not support this amended plan, as it is not considered to be in keeping with the surrounding area and appears to represent an overdevelopment of the site. In particular, the proposed increase in roof size and the pitch are not in keeping with neighbouring properties.

Cllr Wallis abstained.

- 25/01354/FUL – 17 College Drive, Riseley MK44 1DZ – Single storey rear extension and associated alterations. Parish decision due 07/09/25.

Noted.

b. Decisions

To note decisions on planning.

There was none.

c. Appeals

To receive updates on any planning appeals.

There were no appeals.

07. Administration and Finance

a. To agree monthly finance report and approve invoices for payment.

It was agreed to pay the monthly payments as presented by the Clerk.

b. The Old School Field – Riseley Ward Funding.

Cllr Towler had previously Agreed to support Riseley Parish Council in the way of £500 towards the clearance and acquisition of the Old School field. A thank you went out from the parish council.

08. Riseley Village

a. Bottle bank – update from Cllr Gell.

Cllr Gell advised that the Bottle bank will continue and that there is not so much financial gain due to the heavy cost of emptying the bottle bank but nether less it is still worth continuing. There will be no immediate action to remove the bottle bank as it will remain whilst Bedford Borough council empties it.

b. Proposed changes at the Community Café (previously circulated).

The Parish Council was circulated a proposed change to the operation of the Giddy Goat Coffee shop, the Parish Council wishes them all the best and will continue to support to support them were possible.

c. Request for funding – Over 70's Christmas Dinner.

Following some discussion, it was proposed and agreed to sponsor the Over 70s dinner it was proposed and to the agreed amount at the annual precept of £1000 the parish council didn't feel comfortable with all the costs coming from the Parish Council precept under section 137, other contributions would need to come from other sources. It was discussed that the funding from the Cakebread charity would be looked into to see if there could be a draw down of this money. Cllr Davies asked if the Community café could be a source of funding supporting the Christmas dinner. The Community kindness do actively do a Christmas lunch so this may not be the best idea.

09. Riseley Recreation Association (RRA)

The cost of the remedial works to the play equipment will be presented at the October meeting.

Report from Cllr Gell on meeting with Jo Heast (Tree Surgeon).

Cllr Gell has met with Jo Heast and a report of what work is required will be sent through to the clerk. The 5 yearly pollarding of the willow tree will be included. This will be reported back at the next meeting.

10. Rights of Way

To receive updates.

The team has been out to numerous sites and has also cleared FPA 40 on request of the borough council plus a number of sites. The lawnmower is not operating as it should now so the Chairman will look into if this needs repair. Cllr Towler has offered £500 in ward funding to contribute towards a new push along strimmer that will help the volunteers. Richard Fuller has also offered some funding.

11. Tree Warden, Ross Meadow & Allotments

a. Tree Warden update

With a new Tree surgeon in the village it would be a idea for the new chap to quote on future works.

b. Ross Meadow.

Ross meadow is nice and tidy thanks to Mr Wady.

c. Allotments.

There is need of some repairs required to the fencing around the allotments, the Clerk will send a email to Cllr Towler to see if there are any funds available to help with this.

12. Children and Youth

To receive updates.

None to report

13. Brook

Nothing to report, a meeting is being held on the 23rd.

14. Highways & Footways

a. Bowers Lane seasonal clearance.

Bedford Borough Councils outstanding items on the

15. Lighting

Cllr Wallis is aware of a couple of day burners, and this will look into this with Andy Musket.

16. Village Hall

Update if available.

There are now acoustic panels in the village hall that seem to be working very well.

Gigalclear will be brought up by Cllr Brown at the next Village Hall meeting

17. Grass Cutting

Update if available.

There has been some sand put down on the grass, there has been some good comments from the Church yard cutting.

18. Newsletter

To receive update.

Working progress and articles and the deadline being this weekend.

19. Website

a. Update on Gov.uk domain.

Cllr Davies updated the Councillors that the website has now moved to the Gov. domain and that the emails should be set up shortly.

20. Environment & Village Appearance

To receive updates.

21. Bedford Borough Council

Outstanding items:

Ref	Description	Action By Waiting For Notes		
02/22	CIL Payment	All PCs	–	To remain on agenda
12/23	Review of PC procedures & protocols	DJ/CF	–	–
2024	Lower School Playing Field Working Group	All PCs	–	Report awaited
2024	40mph Zones	All PCs	BBC	–

Ref	Description	Action By	Waiting For	Notes
-	Children's community hub	-	-	To remain on agenda

22. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 16th October 2025 at 7.15pm.

For the purpose of the minutes:

Following the meeting, the Clerk signed the school playing field lease agreement on behalf of the Parish Council, which was witnessed by the Chairman Jowett.

APPROVED