

**RISELEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 17th JULY 2025 AT 7:15PM
VENUE: VILLAGE HALL LOUNGE**

Registered Parish Council Office –
129 High Street, Riseley, Beds, MK44 1DJ
Tel. 07977 828153

Open Forum

A resident noted the upcoming presentation re the former Margaret Beaufort Site and requested that the Parish Council ensure any proposals comply with the Riseley Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Davies explained that while adherence to the Plan is important, the site in question is a Borough Council site and outside the Settlement Policy Area (SPA), and therefore the Neighbourhood Plan may not carry much weight. He advised the application is likely to go to Planning Committee, at which point comments can be raised.

Another resident queried trees within the village and whether Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) could be applied. Councillors advised that anyone could request a TPO by contacting Bedford Borough Council directly.

AGENDA

01. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Jowett, Cllr Jones, and Cllr Brown. Cllr Toseland had advised he would be joining shortly.

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

None declared.

03. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th June 2025

It was proposed and AGREED that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

04. Correspondence – Report of any important items received after the agenda was published

None received.

05. Lower School Working Group Update

The lease is currently under review following amendments from Bedford Borough Council. The Parish Council has requested that future installation of a structure be permitted within the lease. Once resolved, the revised lease will be circulated for agreement.

Cllr Davies, on behalf of the working group, proposed renaming the site from “Lower School Playing Field” to “Old School Field” – this was AGREED.

Vegetation clearance is required, and the zip wire may need repositioning to allow better access. The group also proposed installing bollards instead of a gate to mirror the open access of the current playing field. Picnic benches were also suggested to encourage social use of the space.

06. Planning

a. New Planning Applications

- **25/01354/FUL** – 17 College Drive, Riseley – Single-storey rear extension and alterations. It was AGREED to make no comment.
- **25/01184/TPO** – The Lodge House, High Street, Riseley – T1 Maple (remove), T2 Ash (remove). It was AGREED to make no comment and leave the decision to the relevant authority.
- **25/00712/FUL** – 144A High Street, Riseley – Replace conservatory with timber-framed tiled roof. It was AGREED to make no comment.

b. Planning Decisions

Noted: Refusal on the Forge application on Keysoe Road.

c. Planning Appeals

No appeals to report.

07. Administration and Finance

a. To agree the monthly financial report and approve payments

It was AGREED to approve the financial report and all payments listed.

b. Draft Minutes

Following discussion, and referencing the recent training session, it was AGREED that draft minutes would be published on the website. These will be clearly labelled as 'Draft' and remain subject to approval. The Clerk will aim to publish the drafts promptly after meetings and will endeavour to keep them concise.

08. Riseley Village

a. Litter Bin Update

A new bin has been installed outside the shop and will be monitored by Cllr Davies.

b. Village Open Day

The Parish Council and Clerk expressed support for this event. A date is yet to be confirmed but a Sunday is considered most suitable.

09. Riseley Recreation Association (RRA)

a. ROSPA Report

Quotes to be sought for works identified, including repair of the rubber surface.

b. Willow Tree

Following an email from a resident, the Council confirmed that all required tree works at the playing field would be carried out by the Parish Council's approved contractor, Joe Heast. No works will be done solely at the request of neighbours.

10. Rights of Way

Nothing to report.

11. Tree Warden, Ross Meadow & Allotments

A resident shared photos of trees potentially requiring TPOs. The Council will support a TPO request and refer this to the Borough Council planning team.

Ross Meadow – The bench, formerly a stile, has been removed and will not be replaced.

Allotments – All plots are now fully let. The posts and gates are deteriorating; Cllr Wallis will inspect.

12. Children and Youth

Nothing to report.

13. Brook

No updates. A floodplain survey was circulated, It was noted to be produced by Delft university.

14. Highways & Footways

- The footbridge has now been repaired.
- Road sweeper is scheduled for the following morning.
- Anglian Water is currently investigating water loss in the village estimated at 2 litres per second.

a. SID Battery Replacement

No longer required; item removed.

15. Lighting

a. Damaged Lamp Post – Kings Close

It was AGREED to obtain three quotes for replacement in line with Standing Orders. The Clerk will check if this can be claimed through insurance. Cllr Wallis and the Clerk were authorised to proceed due to no scheduled August meeting.

16. Village Hall

Nothing to report.

17. Grass Cutting

The Borough Council's contribution has been received. Cllr Davies will liaise with Graingers following a letter from the football manager.

18. Newsletter

Nothing to report.

19. Website

The .gov.uk domain is now functioning. Leo has begun setting up the new email system.

20. Environment & Village Appearance

Plans remain in place for Bedford Borough Council to address the leaning railings.

21. Bedford Borough Council

Cllr Towler summarised his report, including discussion on the proposed Universal Studios development.

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 18th September 2025 at 7:15pm

APPROVED