

Riseley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on **Thursday 19th February 2026 at 7.15pm**

Venue: Riseley Village Hall Lounge

Open Forum

A resident raised a question regarding the outline planning application, 26/00200 expressing concerns about how foul water would be considered when the item is discussed later in the meeting.

A resident, who is also a committee member of the children's Community Hub charity, explained that the charity has recently begun distributing its own leaflet to the village. It was clarified that this was not intended as a lack of support for the Village Newsletter, but rather due to the timing of the newsletter distribution not always aligning with the dates when information needs to be circulated. The resident suggested that if a forecast schedule of newsletter publication dates could be provided, the organisation would be happy to continue supporting it.

The resident also conveyed Cllr Brown's apologies.

No further matters were raised.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Brown, submitted via a third party.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2026 were considered.

Cllr Felce requested clarification regarding a planning application described as relating to "*the Bungalow*". It was noted that the application actually refers to land adjacent to the bungalow, with the description having been provided by the Borough Council.

It was proposed and **AGREED** to approve the minutes subject to this minor amendment.

4. To Report Any Late Correspondence Received After Publication of the Agenda

An email had been received regarding a fence erected on Church Lane.

The Parish Council agreed that boundary disputes or planning matters are not the responsibility of the Parish Council, and that the resident should raise any concerns directly with the Borough Council.

It was also reported that the insurance claim for the streetlight has been approved.

5. Matters Arising

Nil.

6. Planning

a. Planning Applications

26/00199/S73A – Retrospective Application

Retrospective application for the temporary siting of a static caravan for non-residential purposes for a period of 18 months.

It was proposed and **AGREED to OBJECT** to this planning application.

26/00200/OUT – Outline Application

Outline application for the erection of up to 7 dwellings, comprising 5 bungalows and 2 houses (all matters reserved).

It was proposed and **AGREED** to raise **NO OBJECTION**, subject to a written response outlining the Parish Council's concerns.

Cllr Wallis abstained from voting.

Cllr Felce will draft the response to the Borough Council for the Clerk to submit.

26/00181/S73A – Retrospective Application

Change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage (development already carried out).

It was proposed and **AGREED** to raise **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application.

b. Planning Decisions

One Tree Preservation Order (TPO) application has been approved.

c. Planning Appeals

No planning appeals were reported.

Administration and Finance

a. Monthly Financial Report and Invoices

The monthly financial report and invoices were reviewed.

It was proposed and **AGREED** that the invoices be paid as presented.

b. Asset Register Review Meeting

The Clerk, Cllr Wady, Cllr Felce, Cllr Wallis and Cllr Jowett will arrange a date to undertake the Asset Register review prior to the next meeting.

7. Riseley Village

a. Bus Stop Window Replacement

The replacement of the bus stop window has been completed by the village handy person.

b. Water Congestion – Lowsden Lane

An email had been received regarding water congestion at the bottom of Lowsden Lane.

This issue has been reported to Highways, and the Borough Council is also aware.

The Clerk will respond to the resident.

8. Riseley Recreation Association (RRA)

A meeting was held on the 16th of February 2026 the RRA committee confirmed they are happy to support the Parish Council wherever possible in the development of the Old School field.

It was noted that the playing field fence near the brook requires repair, as there is currently a gap.

Cllr Davies advised he would be willing to assist and support the RRA in the Process of being a Registered Charity, The RRA could assist funding stream overall to the Parish Council.

9. Rights of Way

Cllr Jowett has not yet been able to inspect Footpath FP8 regarding a resident's request to consider installing a kissing gate.

Once weather conditions improve, Cllr Jowett will visit the site as this remains on his to-do list.

10. Tree Warden, Ross Meadow and Allotments

a. Tree Warden

Two quotations had been received for the removal of the Cherry Tree, one from a local contractor and one from the Parish Council's contractor.

It was agreed to proceed with the quotation from Jo Heast, although the Parish Council welcomes future quotations from other contractors.

b. Ross Meadow

Ross Meadow was reported to be looking well maintained.

c. Allotments

Cllr Wady will send an email to allotment holders asking them to confirm whether they wish to continue their tenancies so that rent invoices can be issued in April.

11. Children and Youth

Nothing to report.

12. Brook

A meeting had been held regarding the brook and associated flooding issues.

The bank alongside the brook is being considered for reinforcement. The Borough Council will also write to residents whose properties back onto the brook, as it is believed that the brook bank should be closer to the properties; however, over time it has gradually shifted towards the road.

A multi-agency group has also been formed to review the ongoing issues in Riseley relating to sewerage and surface water, which are believed to combine during heavy rainfall. The aim is to identify solutions, reduce the impact, and potentially combine funding streams to deliver the necessary works.

In the longer term, public awareness and education on household water usage may also be introduced.

13. Highways and Footways

a. Bowers Lane – Seasonal Hedge Trim

The Clerk will follow up as this work has not yet been completed.

Cllr Wallis has visited homeowners regarding hedges which overhang the footway. This will be reviewed at the next meeting, and if the hedges have not been addressed the matter will be escalated to the Borough Council and Highways.

14. Lighting

The lighting repairs have been completed.

The day burners have been replaced.

15. Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee has agreed to implement Gigaclear internet at the hall.

16. Grass Cutting

The Borough Council has issued its grass cutting contribution.

It was proposed and AGREED to accept the contribution.

17. Newsletter

The Parish Council expressed its appreciation for the continued production of the Village Newsletter.

18. Website

It was noted that the **official Parish Council website** is now:

www.riseleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

19. Environment and Village Appearance

Nothing to report.

20. Bedford Borough Council

Borough Cllr Towler summarised the Borough Council report, which is available on the Riseley Parish Council website.

Outstanding Items

- **02/22 – CIL Payment:** To remain on the agenda.
 - **12/23 – Review of Parish Council Procedures and Protocols (DJ/CF & Clerk):** To be arranged following completion of the Asset Register and Risk Assessment, as several meetings will be required.
 - **Children’s Community Hub / Helen’s Meadow (LW):** Ongoing updates.
 - **Old School Field (GD):** It was agreed this item should now appear as a separate agenda item and be removed from Outstanding Items.
 - **Helen’s Meadow:** Legal processes are still ongoing.
 - **Handy Person:** To remain on the agenda for future works.
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21. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Riseley Parish Council will be held on: **Thursday 19th March 2026**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.18pm

