

**RISELEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 19th MARCH 2026 AT 7:15PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL LOUNGE**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Open Forum

A resident raised concerns regarding the speed of egg lorries travelling through the village in the early hours of the morning. The Chairman requested that the Clerk place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

AGENDA

01. To receive apologies

There were none.

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

There were none.

03. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th February 2026

Cllr Davies raised a query regarding whether Parish Council comments on planning applications should be published, as minutes are not immediately available. It was suggested that a caveat be added directing residents to the Borough Council's website to view the Parish Council's comments as a consultee.

It was agreed that adding a footnote to the minutes directing residents to the Borough Council's website would be best practice.

Cllr Gell advised of an amendment relating to the RRA following his thoughts and confirmed that the RRA is happy to support the Parish Council.

Subject to this update, it was proposed and agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

04. Correspondence – to report any important items received after the agenda was published

- An email regarding overgrown hedges in Bowers Close will be added to next month's agenda. Councillors will review the area in the meantime.
- Brook House has expressed interest in attending a future Parish Council meeting. Available dates have been provided.
- A donation request for the Memory Café will be added to the next meeting agenda.

05. Nil

06. Planning

a. To consider any new planning applications

Application: 26/00455/TPO – Tree Preservation Order Application

Location: The Old School House, 4 Church Lane, Riseley

Proposal: T1 Lime – Lift crown to 7m from ground level to provide clearance over the road and remove trunk suckers up to the first main fork.

Parish Decision Due: 07/04/2026

Decision: No objection (proposed and agreed).

Application: 26/00326/LBC

Location: Red Lion House, Gold Street, Riseley

Proposal: Installation of internal window

Parish Decision Due: 09/04/2026

Decision: No objection (proposed and agreed).

b. Decisions on planning applications

- The School Caretaker's Bungalow – Approved
- Dog walking field at Coldham Farm – Approved

c. Planning appeals

None.

d. Correspondence regarding application 26/00200/OUT

Following discussion, the Parish Council confirmed that its response remains accurate and its position unchanged. The comments are considered to be correctly reflected.

07. Administration and Finance

a. To agree monthly report and invoices for payment

It was proposed and agreed to approve the payments as presented.

b. To approve the updated Risk Assessment

Following circulation, it was proposed and agreed to adopt the updated Risk Assessment.

c. Update on the Asset Register

Cllr Wallis and Cllr Felce have reviewed the village assets and updated the register, including location referencing using What3Words. The Parish Council will consider formal adoption at the next meeting.

d. To agree a date and time for the Annual Parish Meeting

It was proposed and agreed that the meeting will be held on Thursday 16th April 2026 at 7:00pm, prior to the Parish Council meeting.

e. To discuss a response to the Hill Group letter

It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk will draft a response for circulation to Councillors. Cllr Towler will countersign. The response will confirm that the Parish Council has reviewed its position and does not intend to make any changes.

08. Riseley Village

a. Post box near the Police Station

Cllr Davies reported that the post box may be replaced with a “smart” box. The Clerk will contact Royal Mail to seek clarification.

b. Removal of posters from telegraph poles

It has been noted that posters advertising village events are being removed shortly after being displayed. This has been ongoing for approximately one year and is now considered deliberate and malicious. A description of an individual has been reported by a resident. The issue will continue to be monitored.

09. Riseley Recreation Association (RRA)

No update.

10. Old School Playing Field

- Cllr Toseland will attempt to cut the grass using a flail mower.
 - Archie Langley has offered to cut the field with a tractor once manageable.
 - Cllr Davies will contact the Borough Council regarding the installation of barriers/posts from Gold Street.
 - A quotation of £1,010 has been received for a 44m concrete path (1 metre wide). Potential use of CIL funding will be explored.
 - Survey feedback indicates a desire for a chill-out zone, swings, and Wi-Fi, particularly for girls.
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11. Rights of Way

Work will recommence as daylight hours increase.

12. Tree Warden, Ross Meadow & Allotments

a. Tree Warden

The Cherry Tree may have been removed; Cllr Toseland will investigate.

b. Ross Meadow

Ditches have been cleared where possible. Marker posts have been installed ahead of grass cutting.

c. Allotments

Cllr Wady will contact allotment holders and provide an update at the next meeting. Several plots remain available.

13. Children and Youth

Nothing to report.

14. Brook

No update.

15. Highways & Footways**a. Overgrown hedges adjacent to pavements**

Cllr Wallis has contacted residents requesting that hedges be cut back. While most have complied, two properties have not taken action.

Following discussion, it was agreed to escalate the matter to Highways. A meeting will be requested with Bedford Borough Council to assess whether current hedge conditions are acceptable and to seek guidance on enforcement, as this has been an ongoing issue for several years.

16. Lighting

Nothing to report.

17. Village Hall

Nothing to report.

18. Grass Cutting

The first cut has taken place.

19. Newsletter

In progress. Following a complaint, an apology has been issued by Cllr Brown.

20. Website

Nothing to report.

21. Environment & Village Appearance

The Clerk will forward contact details of the resident who raised concerns regarding overgrown areas in Bowers Close.

22. Bedford Borough Council

The new kitchen caddy waste collection service is due to commence. The Clerk will confirm the start date.

Outstanding Items

Ref	Description	Action By	Status
12/23	Review of Parish Council procedures and protocols	DJ/CF & Clerk	To be arranged
-	Children's Community Hub	LW	To remain on agenda – AGM 21st April; Open Day 16th May at the Hub
2025	Helen's Meadow	-	Ongoing – Legal stage
-	Handy Person	-	Continuing work
2026	Scribe Accounts housekeeping	Clerk/DJ	To be completed following Asset Register approval

23. Date of next meeting

Thursday 16th April 2026

Open Forum (close of meeting)

A resident commented that it is difficult to believe that lorries are speeding given the number of parked cars and obstructions within the village.

With regard to hedges and boundaries, it was noted that under common law, hedges should be planted within property boundaries to prevent encroachment onto footpaths.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.34pm