

RISELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 18 June 2026 at 7.15pm

Village Hall Lounge, Riseley

Public Open Forum

A resident requested an update regarding Brook House. Members confirmed that no further information had been received.

A resident enquired about the progress of the Community First Responders. Councillor Davies provided a detailed update following recent meetings with Richard Fuller MP. It was explained that a two-month trial would commence using O2 SIM cards alongside the existing EE SIMs within the responder units to assess whether network coverage and reliability improve.

A resident raised concerns regarding significant badger activity at Ross Meadow, advising that the damage caused should be investigated.

A further request was made asking whether the Parish Council's Handy Person could undertake some maintenance works within the village. This will be considered under the appropriate agenda item.

01. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Wady.

Councillors Felce and Wallis arrived at 7.46pm having advised the Clerk in advance that they would be arriving late.

02. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

03. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 May 2026 were considered.

It was noted that Item 8 should record a contribution of £1,200 from the Football Club rather than £12,000.

Subject to this amendment, it was **proposed, seconded and RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

04. Correspondence

There was no significant correspondence received after publication of the agenda.

05. NIL

06. Planning

a) Planning Applications

Application	Proposal	Decision
26/00686/FUL - The Forge, Keysoe Road, Riseley	Construction of an agricultural barn and access track off Keysoe Road	The Parish Council resolved to raise no objection.

Councillors Wallis, Brown and Toseland abstained from the vote.

b) Planning Decisions

Members noted that Riseley had received its first planning approval relating to the installation of Gigaclear infrastructure in a Listed Building.

c) Planning Appeals

Bedford Borough Councillor Towler provided an update regarding the Maggie B development.

The proposed development is understood to have been reduced to 34 dwellings, comprising one, two and three-bedroom properties and the Hill Group has revised plans but they have not yet been formally submitted and it was understood that no development will now be proposed on the in the area in the front of the site.

The Parish Council will await receipt of the amended plans before commenting further.

07. Administration and Finance

a) Monthly Accounts

Members considered the monthly financial report together with the schedule of payments.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that all payments be approved.

b) Approval of the AGAR

The Council considered the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) following completion of the Internal Audit by Mr Mark Hindley.

It was **proposed, seconded and RESOLVED** that the AGAR be approved for submission to the External Auditor.

The Chairman signed the AGAR in the presence of the Council.

Councillor Gell thanked the Clerk for the considerable amount of work involved in preparing the year-end accounts and audit documentation.

c) Flood Group Grant Funding

The Council considered expenditure in advance of receipt of the Riseley Flood Group grant funding.

It was **RESOLVED** that the required equipment be purchased prior to receipt of the grant, noting that grant funding will not arrive until after the purchase have been made.

Riseley Community hub request of **£4,000**, approved within the 2026/27 budget will be paid in 2 parts £2000 in July and the second payment of £2000 in September once the second part of the precept has been received.

d) BATPC AGM

Members noted that the BATPC AGM will take place on **14 October 2026**.

e) Zurich Insurance Renewal

Members considered the renewal quotation.

It was **proposed, seconded and RESOLVED** to renew the Parish Council's insurance with Zurich.

It was further agreed that a review of the Council's asset register should be undertaken to ensure all recently acquired equipment is adequately insured.

f) Parish Council Elections 2027

Members noted the anticipated increase in election costs for the 2027 Parish Council elections.

08. Riseley Village

Car Parking - Dag Lane / Rotten Row / Gold Street

Members noted that vehicles are increasingly parking on Dag Lane, affecting visibility at the junction.

It was agreed that Bedford Borough Highways be asked to investigate whether bollards or other parking restrictions could be introduced to improve road safety.

09. Riseley Recreation Association (RRA)

There were no updates.

The Council continues to await receipt of the hard copy ROSPA inspection report.

10. Old School Playing Field

a) Grass Cutting

Councillor Davies reported that Graingers had been approached regarding providing a quotation for grass cutting.

Any new contract is unlikely to commence until next season.

In the meantime, Councillor Towseland will continue cutting the grass to maintain the site.

b) Project Update

Councillor Davies summarised progress regarding suppliers and quotations received for the development of the Old School Playing Field.

Members also noted reports of dogs being exercised within the field.

The Council reiterated that the Old School Playing Field remains a dog-free area.

11. Rights of Way

Councillor Jowett advised that a meeting had been arranged with the new Rights of Way Officer.

12. Tree Warden, Ross Meadow and Allotments

a) Tree Warden

Nothing to report.

b) Ross Meadow

Members noted concerns raised during the Open Forum regarding badger activity. The matter will be investigated further.

c) Allotments

Councillor Wady submitted a written report advising that all allotment tenants have now received their Welcome Packs.

The Clerk reported that allotment invoices had been issued and will provide an update on payments received at the next meeting, together with details of any outstanding accounts.

13. Children and Youth

No report.

14. Brook

Members noted that grant funding has now been approved.

15. Highways and Footways

a) Overgrown Hedges

Following correspondence from a resident, it was agreed that Brook House be approached regarding maintenance of the overgrown hedges.

b) Meeting with Bedford Borough Council

Members received an update following the recent meeting with Andrew Prigmore of Bedford Borough Council regarding hedge maintenance.

c) Village Green Tree

Members considered concerns regarding overgrowth from the tree located on the Village Green, Keysoe Road.

Following inspection by the Parish Council's Tree Warden, it was **RESOLVED** that no works are currently required.

The tree will be reviewed again in 12 months' time.

The Clerk will write to the resident advising of the Council's decision.

16. Street Lighting

Nothing to report.

17. Village Hall

Members noted that Gigaclear has now been installed within the Village Hall.

18. Grass Cutting

Members noted that the grass outside the bungalows on the corner of Paulson's Close (has reached knee height – delete) needs cutting by BPHA

Councillor Davies continues to pursue the matter with BPHA.

19. Newsletter

Members noted that the latest newsletter has now been distributed.

Councillor Wady, attending remotely, asked when copy is required for the next edition.

The Clerk confirmed that the submission deadline is 27 July 2026, as published on the rear page of each newsletter.

Newsletter Delivery

Councillor Brown reported that a new volunteer has been found to assist with newsletter deliveries.

20. Website

Councillor Brown advised that the Parish Council website will be updated with new photographs and refreshed content.

21. Environment and Village Appearance

Nothing to report.

22. Bedford Borough Council

There were no additional matters to report.

Outstanding Actions

Reference Action		Responsible
12/23	Review of Parish Council procedures and protocols	Councillors Davies, Felce & Clerk
Ongoing	Children's Community Hub	Councillor Wady
Ongoing	Helen's Meadow	Ongoing updates
Ongoing	Village Handy Person	Ongoing works as required
2026	Scribe accounts housekeeping	Clerk / Chairman

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 16 July 2026

Closing Forum

No matters were raised.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at **8.29pm**.