RISELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 16th July 2026 at 7.15pm
Village Hall Lounge, Riseley

Open Forum

No matters were raised.

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01. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from **Cllr Jowett**.

Cllr Brown was not in attendance and no apologies were received.

Cllr Wady arrived at **7.22pm**.

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02. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

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03. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th June 2026 were considered.

Following a minor amendment, it was:

Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Vice Chair.

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04. Correspondence

No significant correspondence had been received since publication of the agenda.

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05. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

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06. Planning

a) Planning Applications

Application	Address	Proposal	Decision
26/00686/FUL (Amendment)	The Forge, Keysoe Road, Riseley, Bedfordshire MK44 1DE	Construction of an agricultural barn, mesh panel fencing and access track off Keysoe Road	**Resolved:** The Parish Council agreed to make **no comment**, consistent with its previous response.

b) Planning Decisions

Members noted that planning permission had been granted for the Knotting Lane Track.

c) Planning Appeals

Members noted Planning Appeal **26/00199/S73A** relating to retrospective planning permission.

The appeal was received for information only, as the Parish Council does not comment on planning appeals.

d) Maggie B Development

Cllr Towler provided an update on the Maggie B development and the ongoing discussions between Bedford Borough Council and The Hill Group.

Members were advised that:

- the previous development proposal has now been quashed;
- Bedford Borough Council intends to market the site for redevelopment;
- any future scheme will incorporate the village car park; and
- the Parish Council expects to receive future Section 106/CIL contributions to invest in village infrastructure projects.

Members noted the update.

Administration and Finance

Monthly Accounts

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

Resolved: That the monthly accounts be approved and the invoices presented for payment.

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07. Riseley Village

Flower Bed Sponsorship Signs

Cllr Davies provided background information regarding the recent removal of sponsorship signs from the village flower beds.

Cllr Wallis explained the circumstances surrounding their removal, confirming that no offence or upset had been intended.

Following discussion, Members agreed that:

- the sponsorship signs should not have been removed;
- the Riseley Gardening Club may reinstate the signs; and
- consideration should be given to mounting the signs on shorter stakes so they are less visually prominent whilst remaining visible.

Cllr Wallis abstained from the vote.

It was further agreed that a comprehensive **Donations, Sponsorship and Advertising Policy** should be prepared.

Resolved:

- The matter will be placed on the agenda for the 17 September 2026 Parish Council meeting.
- Once adopted, the policy will provide guidance on sponsorship signage, Parish Newsletter articles, website content, village notice boards and any other Parish Council advertising or sponsorship arrangements.
- Following adoption of the policy, the Parish Council reserves the right to request amendments or removal of any signage that does not comply with the agreed policy.

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08. Riseley Recreation Association (RRA)

Members noted that:

- a future inspection of the zip wire will shortly be required;
- the Clerk will chase the outstanding hard copy inspection report; and
- the RRA AGM will be held on 14 September 2026.

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09. Old School Playing Field

Cllr Davies updated Members on the application for a Certificate of Lawfulness.

The Council is awaiting further information following the relevant deadline on 29 July 2026 before determining the next steps.

Members also recorded their appreciation for the work undertaken by Cllr Toseland in maintaining the grass cutting at the site.

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10. Rights of Way

Members noted that the hedge at **Brook House** has now been cut back following correspondence sent by the Clerk.

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11. Tree Warden, Ross Meadow and Allotments

a) Tree Warden

No update was received.

b) Ross Meadow

Cllr Toseland presented quotations for replacement fencing.

Following discussion it was suggested that three gates, rather than replacing all existing gates, would be sufficient.

The matter will continue to be progressed.

c) Allotments

Members noted that:

- the majority of allotment holders have now paid their annual fees;
- only a small number of payments remain outstanding;
- two new tenants have spent considerable time clearing overgrown plots and therefore will not be charged until the next allotment year.

The Clerk congratulated Cllr Wady on achieving the highest level of allotment income received to date.

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12. Children and Youth

No matters were raised.

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13. Brook

No update.

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14. Highways and Footways

Cllr Wallis had no report.

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15. Street Lighting

No matters were raised.

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16. Village Hall

Cllr Davies suggested installing a sign acknowledging and thanking **Gigaclear** for its support.

Members agreed this should be progressed.

17. Grass Cutting

Cllr Davies advised Members that contact had been made regarding a potential new grass cutting contract.

Resolved: The matter will be included on the agenda for the **September 2026** meeting.

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18. Newsletter

Nothing to report.

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19. Website

Nothing to report.

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20. Environment and Village Appearance

No matters were raised.

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21. Bedford Borough Council Outstanding Items

Cllr Towler provided the following updates:

- the ditch outside the garage is scheduled to be piped and filled , with drainage inspections to be undertaken beforehand;
- the next bulky household waste collection will take place on **16 August 2026**.

Outstanding Action Log

Ref	Item	Action By	Status
12/23	Review of Parish Council procedures and protocols	Cllr Jowett / Cllr Felce / Clerk	Meeting to be arranged
-	Children's Community Hub	Cllr Wady	No further update
2025	Helen's Meadow	All Members	Ongoing
-	Handy Person	All Members	Remain on agenda as required
2026	Scribe Accounts Housekeeping	Clerk / Cllr Jowett	To be arranged

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22. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Riseley Parish Council will be held on:

Thursday 17th September 2026 at 7.15pm

Please note that there is no Parish Council meeting during August.

There being no further business, the Vice Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at **8.15pm**.