

Minutes of Meeting held on **Wed 18 Sept 2025** at 19:30 (rearranged from 10 Sept – inquorate)

Present: Cllr Jeremy James (Chair) Cllr Helen Smith, Cllr Sarah Evans, Cllr Chris Eldred, Boro Cllr Tim Willis, Moira Pendlebury (Clerk & RFO),

1. **Apologies and acceptance of reasons for absence** – Apologies from Cllr Sara Reilly, Boro Cllr Simon Ward Boro, Boro Cllr Derek Poole, Cty Cllr Anne-Marie Sonko were noted.
2. **Declarations of Interest (existence and nature) on items on the agenda:** none
3. **Public Participation:** none
4. **Borough and County Councillors' Reports:**
 - Unitary status – after the elections in May 26, likely to be a move towards 2 Unitary Councils: N Warwicks, comprising Nuneaton, N Warwicks and Rugby Borough Councils and S Warwicks – Warwick and Stratford District Councils. Transition year 27-28 with full status from May 28. No further information re: any possible changes to Parish Councils
 - 1000+ signatures reached for Bilton Lane footpath. Director of Highways has visited with TW and SW and funding for a feasibility study made available.
 - Rugby Local Plan consultation ended; WCC not in support of the smaller housing development proposals, continuing to favour its original proposals of 2 larger developments at Lodge Farm and Cosford, which include infrastructure. Negotiations will be held, with deadline end 26.
5. **Minutes of the Parish Council** held on 16 July 25 were approved and signed
6. **Brief matters arising**, not on agenda
 - Footpaths – concerns re Smithy Lane corner as the property through which it should go is now up for sale **JJ to email CClr AMS**
 - New rubbish bin for A428 layby – no update as person dealing with this has left post. TW suggested an alternative RBC contact **MP to contact**
 - Weeds on footpaths – SR has contacted WCC but no response **JJ to email CClr AMS**
7. **Policy Document Review** – draft Health & Safety policy. MP and JJ have not yet identified a more appropriate model from other smaller PC's. **Ongoing.**

8. **Planning** – no new applications

9. **Finance review** – the following payments were noted and approved

Date	Description	Amount	Notes
	Clerk's salary – July, Aug & Sept inc. annual pay increase backdated to April	confidential	
	Play Area checks – July, Aug, Sept	105.00	
24/7/25	HMRC tax on Clerk's salary	89.40	
	Annual contribution to Parish Newsletter	250.00	
	CPRE annual sub	60.00	DD
	Solicitor's fees (Sheila Nicholls' bequest)	1,132.80	
	Annual play area inspection, Playsafety (RoSPA)	120.00	
	Tree surgeon (play area)	180.00	

To note receipts

Date	Description	Amount	Notes
21/7/25	Grass cutting grant	1,057.00	
19/8/25	Allotment rent	22.00	BW £8 outstanding
27/8/25	Precept (second instalment)	3,440.09	

Bank balances at 16 Sept 25: **Current: £7,937.82, Deposit: £9,206.36**
Total: £17,144.18

Notification from Santander of introduction of a **monthly account fee of £4.99** from 1 Oct 25 (£59.88 p/a). All agreed that there is no point in moving the account as all banks now charge for similar accounts.

10. **Play Area**

- Annual inspection has been carried out with just a few minor remedial actions suggested – all low or very low risk. Everyone agreed that the monthly maintenance is working really well.
- JJ has had quotes from 3 tree surgeons, with differing advice. Agreed to £180 quote for removal of 2 branches and ivy at base from the company who does similar work for Long Lawford PC

11. **Gift of Land for village** (Sheila Nicholls bequest)

Positive discussion took place at the online meeting in July but JJ has yet again had to chase Ludlow Trust for progress. Confirmation received that *“the Trustees are largely in agreement with the proposed approach, most importantly regarding the location of the 1-acre site. This location is subject to the outcome of a RICS report—a detailed assessment of site suitability that will consider highways*

access, alignment with the local plan, and a soil survey...”

“Ludlow trust are waiting for their surveyors report in order to better understand requirements, but accepts that there needs to be some clearance work. They suggest that the Parish Council are better placed to locate suitable contractors”.

JJ has spoken to a local person who does hedge maintenance and it was agreed that **JJ and CE should do a site visit** shortly with a local person who knows the site and has expertise, after the undergrowth has died down, to ascertain the extent of work necessary.

Further meeting with interested village residents to be held in due course when the site location has been finalised

12. CPRE hedge laying grant

No needs identified, NFA

13. Flood Action / Skew Bridge

- Broken drain noted
- **JJ to liaise with Rianveer Mahal** (WCC Flooding Action) to convene a meeting with local farmer, SE to let him know.
- Limestone Hall Lane – concern expressed about large pool of water at main road junction. **JJ to contact Severn Trent**

14. Health & Safety / safeguarding incidents

Speeding through village.

JJ to contact Dan Perkins (WCC) for advice

15. Community and Village maintenance items

a) **Defibrillator** – all in order

b) **Grass cutting** – all in order

c) **Dog poo bag dispensers / bins** – frequent replenishment needed, clearly not just being used for when a dog walked has run out of their own by accident. No easy solutions but JJ will mention in Newsletter. Additional bin at the end of Green Lane. MP has contacted RBC, but person has now left and the forwarded email has not been responded to.
MP to try a different RBC contact

d) **Allotments** – final outstanding account has been paid in part following intervention by JJ. £8 still outstanding, despite reminder. **JJ to pursue** with the option of denying the person access to the allotments if this remains unpaid.

e) **Wildflower verge** – JJ has visited the Tump at Brinklow where yellow rattle was planted; needs ongoing maintenance to be effective

f) **Planter on Green**

JJ to ask local farmer for trough

16. Village Event

General discussion but no conclusions reached.

17. Other Items not on Agenda - none

18. Future Agenda Items:

19. Date of Next Meeting

To confirm **Wednesday 8 Oct 2025** for the next regular meeting of the Parish Council at the Village Hall at 7:30 pm

If an interim meeting is required, an agenda will be sent to Councillors and may be put on the website and on the Parish Council noticeboard three clear days before the meeting is held.

The meeting closed at 21:10

Signed:

Date: