



**Riston Parish Council would like to invite you to a Community Meeting regarding our decisions relating to Riston Village Hall.**

**Wednesday 21.01.2026 Riston Village Hall start 6.30pm**

The Parish Council will be making a short presentation followed by a question and answers session. Below are the main points which the Parish Council will be covering in further detail.

- The Parish Council do **not** want the Village Hall to close.
- March 2025 the Parish Council (PC) reached out to the Playing Field Committee (PFC) to discuss the lawful ownership and obligation of the Village Hall.
- Legal documents and advice confirmed the lawful management committee to be the Playing Field Committee.
- The Playing Field Committee's Constitution is in place to protect the Parish Council, and the taxpayers from any liability.
- Explain the viability and current condition of the Village Hall.

To help residents understand the situation better, we would like to respond to some important points raised:

- While some parties may assert that the Village Hall should not fall under the responsibility of the Playing Field Committee, we possess restricted documents that substantiate the Committee's rightful role in management of the Hall, which we will make available for viewing.
- It has been implied that a £30,000 fund was earmarked for the Village Hall. In May 2023 when the new Councillors were elected, the minutes show the total available to the Council to be £30,413 as of mid-April 2023. No financial plan or documentation relating to ringfenced funds were in existence or shared by any of the Councillors that remained in seat from the previous Council.
- The Parish Council were unable to communicate its position to the community due to employment law implications and legal discussions that had not concluded.
- It is claimed that the Playing Fields Committee are unable to run the Village Hall under their current charitable status. The Village Hall is considered recreational, and their charitable objective is available for them to change accordingly.
- The Precept increased in financial year 2025-2026 by £1000 to support the basic running costs of a Parish Council, to ensure adherence to standard lawful governance. The Precept for financial year 2026-2027 will not be increasing based on the budget to run the Council.
- In response to allegations the Parish Council tripled the wages bill and incurred unnecessary expenditure. Lawful governance requires a capable employed Clerk. Paying salaries in line with nationally agreed rates of pay as well as Income Tax and NI contributions, GDPR mail systems and website all incurred an increased cost to the Council to comply with standards.
- The shelving in the Bus Shelter for a book swap was donated as were hampers and baubles for other events by kind residents. No funds came from the Parish Council or Precept.
- In response to a question received as to why money has not been spent on the Village Hall. We can only confirm spend since elected in May 2023. A significant sum was spent remedying some safety issues highlighted in an independent survey. Prior to this, we are unable to comment on issues relating to the Village Hall due to Parish Council documents being unlawfully withheld.

Supplementary Information can be found on our website.