

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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 Rolvenden
 Kent TN17 4LU

Please note these are draft minutes until formally approved at the next Parish Council meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th March at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room

Present:

For Bodiam Parish Council: Councillors, Richard Mitchell Chairman, Linda Stevens, Graham Peters and Clerk Christine Burgess.
 For East Sussex County Council: Councillor A Davies
 For Rother District Council: Cllr T Ganley
 2 members of the Public

45/2020 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies have been received from Cllr B Napper and RDC Cllr M Mooney

46/2020 Disclosure of Interests:

Cllr Stevens declared a personal interest as Mr Stevens is on the Board of Governors at Bodiam Primary School.
 Cllr Peters declared an interest as the Chairman of the Parker & Ashcombe Trust.

47/2020 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2020 which had been previously distributed, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

48/2020 Matters Arising

None

49/2020 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies

None

50/2020 Planning

(a) Applications

RR/2020/124/P BODIAM Bodiam Castle, Castle Hill, Bodiam TN32 5UA Installation of settlement tanks serving existing sewage plant.

Councillors heard a member of the public's concerns regarding the new plans that they have gone from an underground 20 thousand litre tank to two nine and a half thousand litre tanks above ground. They felt that at 2.51m height this would be too tall. It was also questioned that the tanks are not suitable, the spec of the tank states they are for non potable water storage rather than sewerage.

In discussion with the National Trust earlier on in this year after the original plans had been withdrawn, Cllr Mitchell stated it had been decided by the National Trust that physically burying

Minutes signed as a true record.....Dated.....

something that large in what is effectively marsh land and keeping it there would be difficult because of the water table.

After discussion the Cllrs decided to support in principle the application but add the reservations on the suitability of the tanks and the overall height on the above details

51/2020 ESCC Report

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from ESCC. ESCCllr Davies informed the meeting that after enquiries had been made regarding the sign outside the school which is still in progress. The sign shows the position of the double yellow lines. There is a meeting on the 27th March with ESCC, the School Governors and the Council to have a look at the proposed positioning of the layby. Full report can be read on the Bodiam Website.

52/2020 Rother District Council Report

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from Rother District Council. RDCllr Ganley informed the meeting that he had previously stated that the draft Revenue budget for 2020/2021 plans were to increase the Council tax by £5 on a band D property which is the maximum allowed without a referendum, this is actually £4.65.

Public and Parish Councils may now speak at Planning Committee meetings without the need to petition, you simply register with democratic services at Rother District Council. 5mins is allotted to speak and no new material must be submitted.

Full report on the Bodiam Website.

53/2020 Parish Assembly

After discussion and taking tonight's **Coronavirus** announcement by the Prime Minister into consideration the **Parish Assembly** will be **deferred**. The Clerk will notify speakers of the decision the Notice Board and Website.

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that St Giles Church was keen to help and suggested a joint venture between the Council and the Church. A leaflet drop was suggested an A5 Flyer, picking up the shopping, posting mail, friendly phone calls, emails etc.

Cllr Stevens will be noted as the first part of contact: - email, lindastevens@hotmail.co.uk
Mobile :- 07885192468

54/2020 Defibrillator

The defibrillator been used in recent weeks, and the school have asked if we could give a contribution to the cost of replacing the service items that needed to be replaced. (Electric pads) They have replaced these items at a cost of £60. Unfortunately the defibrillator wasn't able to save the patient. Councillors made the decision to contribute half of the amount to the School who paid the bill.

55/2020 Environment -School Car Parking

There is a meeting planned for Friday March 27th, which hopefully will take place but maybe cancelled if the Coronavirus situation worsens. To obtain an opinion from ESCC on the feasibility of a layby being laid in front of the School for parents to drop children off.

56/2020 Trees and Footpaths

There was nothing to report on the footpaths. There is a problem with an Ash tree in the wooded area at the top of Levetts lane, which needs a tidy up. It is thought that this piece of land may belong to Rother District Council. RDCllr Ganley will make enquiries whether this is so.

Minutes signed as a true record.....Dated.....

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that there has been a questionnaire circulated regarding two applications, being made by Mr N Gilbert. The first one:- 1.that the Grounds of Bodiam Castle be designated as a Village Green and 2. the footpath which has been used by the Village for many years to be made fully open for walkers again, this is currently blocked by a locked gate. Cllr Peters will forward the information to the Cllrs for reference and consideration of support.

57/2020 Crime and Disorder

Nothing to report

58/2020 Recreation Ground

(a) Upkeep and Inspection – The Pavillion was flooded again last week so is still unusable. The Verandah has not been repaired as yet, again too wet to do anything.

(b) Electricity Supply – The new contract has come through from EDF. The standing charge has been reduced from 80p to 25p per day and 18.6 per kWh to 17.4p per kWh per day

59/2020 Finances

(a) Receipts – none

(b) Payments

Payee	Particulars	Chq no	£
EDF	Electricity, Pavillion	1911	70.61
Clerk/RFO	Salary	1912	436.80

(c) Monthly Finance Report

The Clerk/RFO reported that a Bank Statement had not been received. The monthly financial (based on last month's bank figures) and Budget reports were presented.

Cllr Stevens initialed the payments in the Receipts & Payments book. Cheques and invoices were signed by the Councillors. The Financial Report was approved and signed by the Chair.

(d) Emergency Finance Arrangements for Covid 19

Following this Evenings News regarding the Coronavirus situation it was thought we may not be able to meet on the 20th of April. After discussion the Councillors agreed that cheques could be signed outside of the normal Parish Council Meetings until the situation was resolved. Receipts and payments are to be photocopied along with the accounts book. Proposed by Cllr Peters and seconded by Cllr Stevens.

60/2020 Information for Councillors

There is still a Casual Vacancy and Councillors were asked if they knew anyone who would be interested.

61/2020 Date of Next Meeting –

Provisionally Monday 20th April Parish Rooms,

Please check Website for up to date news regarding meetings

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