

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Christine Burgess
Telephone: 01580 241700

4 Sparkeswood Ave
 Rolvenden
 Kent TN17 4LU

Email: clerkbodiam@hotmail.co.uk

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 September at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room

Present:

For Bodiam Parish Council: Councillors, Chairman Richard Mitchell, Graham Peters, Linda Stevens and Barbara Napper, Clerk Christine Burgess.

For East Sussex County Council: Councillor A Davies

In Attendance: Karen Stafford General Manager and William Past from Bodiam Castle, and 6 Members of the Public

137/2019 Apologies for Absence : Cllr Geoffrey Goodsell, **For Rother District Council:** Councillors T Ganley and M Mooney. Members of the Public: Mr Nick Gilbert

138/2019 Disclosure of Interests.

Cllr Peters declared an interest as the Chairman of the Parker & Ashcombe Trust.

Cllr Mitchell declared an interest as he is employed by the owners of Court Lodge Farm item 142/2019

139/2019 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2019 which had been previously distributed, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

140/2019 Matters Arising

None

141/2019 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies

Cllr Mitchell had met with Nick Gardner from Sedlescombe Rangers FC and Nathan Goodsell from the new Northiam team regarding how they were going to work together to use the Ground for the next season. They will communicate between themselves as to who will be marking out the pitch etc.

142/2019 Planning

(a) Applications

RR/2019/1865/FN Court Lodge Farm, Peters Green, TN32 5UJ

Proposed agricultural building.

This notification is for information only

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

(b) Decisions**RR/2019/1111/P** Peters Green Cottage, Bodiam Road, BodiamDemolition of prefabricated Concrete garage and 3 timber sheds in the garden of Grade 2 listed building. Construction of single storey summerhouse and bike garden shed. **Permission granted with conditions****RR/2019/1539/P** Old Pump Cottage, 4 Northlands, Bodiam TN32 5UX.Proposed first floor and two storey side extension to dwelling and detached garage with off-road turning area to front. **Permission Refused****RR/2019/926/P** Northlands Farm, Northlands, Bodiam, TN32 5UXTemporary rural workers dwelling to support existing building, **Permission granted with conditions****143/2019 ESCC Report**

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from ESCC. A positive report this time, ESCC has been awarded £2.5 million by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership for two initiatives in the Bexhill and Seaford areas (*Full report to be published on the Bodiam P C website*). There had been a slight improvement in the GCSE results this summer, normally they come in around the national average but this time with the new marking system in place there was a good performance in English and Maths the proportion of students getting between 9 and 4 had risen from 62% last year to 64% this year.

Road repairs had continued throughout the summer, although there was still a pothole near the Curlew which the Chair Cllr Mitchell asked to be reported.

144/2019 Rother District Council Report

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from RDC. D Cllr Mooney and D Cllr Ganley were unable to attend this evening due to their attendance being required at another meeting and have sent their apologies.

145/2019 Village Green Tree

A member of the Public had approached D Cllr Tony Ganly and enquired whether a tree could be planted on the Village Green. There are already trees around the area and Cllrs considered there to be enough tree coverage and to leave the area as clear as possible. No action to be taken

146/2019 National Trust with Public Questions and Participation

(a) Sewage Treatment Plant: Karen Stafford (General Manager) informed the meeting that the planning application had been lodged for a primary settlement tank in the National Trust Compound and a grease trap over at the Castle Inn, a belt and brace approach to solve the problem. It is a 20,000 litre tank which will be buried, sealed with a rubber manhole cover and emptied at least 3 times a year. The work will commence in March 2020 and will take approximately 6 weeks to complete. The advisors for the project are Wendage Pollution Control. This has been a complicated problem and has taken time to find the correct solution. It is not possible to pump directly into the mains at Levetts Lane as the Plant was not big enough to cope. The actual system in use at the moment works but did not cure the odour problem. The Consultants and the National Trust will be asked to keep another solution in mind on the chance that this will not work, and Karen will keep the Council notified of the progress of the work.

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

(b) Fencing and Signage

Karen thanked everyone who came to the meeting in August. There had been several comments on way marking the footpath how it could be made clearer but Karen was not keen on putting posts with signs on to the site which is a scheduled ancient monument. Cllrs suggested instead of extra signs perhaps stone markers would fit in better with the landscape; Karen thought that this might a better idea and will think where they might be best placed.

Residents are interested in applying to the Highways Authority to turn a well used path into a public footpath and until that is settled there would be no investment into various types of pedestrian gates until the situation was clarified.

There were many comments and suggestions on the day referring to the locked gate and the question was put whether it could be opened in the evening when the site had shut to the public for the residents to use the paths. Karen is open to look at various types of pedestrian gates, but currently the large wide gate cannot be left open safely and again until the situation becomes clear regarding public access the matter cannot be resolved. Karen will meet with the Council again when the situation is clearer.

There is a new Operations Manager at Bodiam Castle and some new staff Members are due to start shortly. Karen asked the public to bear with them for a short time whilst they acquaint themselves fully with the new jobs and local knowledge is passed on. There being no further questions Chairman Cllr Mitchell closed the meeting for public participation.

147/2019 Environment

(a) School Parking: The Council have received a letter from The Riverside Federation, which is Etchingham and Bodiam Primary School, regarding a meeting with Councillors to arrange a meeting in September. Clerk to arrange meeting in the next few weeks, Claremont School buses are now parking in Levetts Lane which eases the parking on the Main Road. Claremont to be contacted again for an onsite meeting.

(b) Speeding through Villages : The Traffic and Safety Team at ESCC was contacted after the last meeting in July by Cllr Mitchell for advice and we have now received a reply. Because it is a Class C Road they are not going to consider any other speed restrictions until there has been a serious accident and Highways consider this to be a Police matter. They advise if anyone see anybody driving irresponsibly to make a note of the number plate and report it, if this number appears frequently the Police can take action.

(c) Bicycles : Cllr Stevens mentioned that today there had been children doing wheelies on their bicycles along the Main Road, going past the Coaches adding to the problem of parking . Also of course putting themselves and others in danger, about 5pm in the afternoons also at weekends. Clerk to contact PCSO.

148/2019 Trees and Footpaths

The boards on the bridge over the Kent Ditch have now been repaired, by East Sussex County Council.

149/2019 Rother District Council Website

Bodiam Parish Council have elected to stay with Rother District Council who will continue to support our website. In March 2020 the data will be migrated by RDC over to a secure newly designed site. The domain name will remain the same.

150/2019 Crime and Disorder

There has been fly tipping in the layby near Levetts Lane.

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

151/2019 Recreation Ground**(a) Upkeep and Inspection and Bookings**

The key kept locally at the pub has been replaced as it was proving too awkward to use and Landscape Services were notified when the grass was too long.

(b) Bookings

No booking forms have yet been received from the new Northiam Team or Sedlescombe Rangers, reminders to be sent.

Sedlescombe Rangers have asked for the 4th 5th and 12th July for next year's tournament.

Bodiam Funday organiser to be contacted for their required date. To be deferred to the next meeting. Cllr Mitchell will contact Sedlescombe Rangers for details of success of the last tournament.

152/2019 Finances**(a) Receipts**

Date	From whom Received	Particulars	£
30/08/2019	Rother District Council	Precept 2 nd installment	4950.00
30/08/2019	HMRC	Reclaimed VAT	569.20

(b) Payments

Payee	Particulars	Chq no	£
P Marsh	Caretaker wages	1891	33.88
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	Grass Cutting	1892	360.42
RALC	Subs 2019/20	1893	70.00
EDF	Electricity Pavillion	1894	118.23
Clerk/RFO	Salary 9 weeks	1895	945.00
Clerk /RFO	Admin Expenses postage	1896	8.40

(c) Monthly Finance Report

The monthly financial reports and balances were presented.

Current Account as of 30 August 2019 and Deposit Account as of 30th April 2019: £19960.85.

Outstanding cheques £41.25

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) Financial Regs

The Financial Regulations were approved, proposed by Cllr Peters and seconded by Cllr Napper.

153/2019 Information for Councillors

None

154/2019 Date of Next Meeting –

October 14th 2019 at 7pm in the Bodiam Parish Room.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25pm

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