

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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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 18th February at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room

Present:

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

For Rother District Council: Councillors Sue Prochak and Tony Ganley

For East Sussex County Council: County Councillor Angharad Davies

In Attendance: Mr T Barratt

30/2019 Apologies for Absence : District Cllr Grahame Browne

31/2019 Disclosure of Interests.

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

Cllr Goodsell declared an interest as he is the Treasurer of the Bus Service Group

32/2019 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2019 was signed and the Financial Report was approved by the Chairman as a true record.

33/2019 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies- None

34/2019 Planning

(a) Applications -none

(b) Decisions

(a) RR/2018/1826P National Trust-Siting of (mobile) Toilet Block retrospective.

Permission granted with conditions.

(b) RR/2018/2907/L Lower Northlands Farm- Localised superstructure repairs and redecoration to main dwelling including more modern front porch. Permission granted with conditions.

35/2019 East Sussex County Council Report

County Councillor Davies reported that the budget for the Council for 2019/2020 went through full Council about 2 weeks ago and they have £375million of revenue funding inclusive of savings of £5.1million. The balancing of the budget was in the main due to lobbying by the Leader and the Deputy Leader across the Summer Autumn period. They

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

invited various Ministers down to East Sussex, and went up to the Commons to speak to them. As a result the Council has been approved as a new 75% Business Rates Pilot. £180 million of Business Rates Levy surplus will be distributed to all Councils based on need, resulting in £1.133 million for East Sussex. The Council tax cap will remain at 2.99% increase for 2019/20. And there is an increase to New Homes Bonus by £20million to maintain the 0.4% baseline. £970 million was granted to the National Police Funding Budget, which will boost numbers in Sussex, which gives us 50 Police Officers, 100 PCSO's and 50 admin investigators. An autumn budget announcement gave us a winter pressures grant of £2.586m and a Social Care Support grant for 2019/20 £4.417m (one off grants).

The Fair Funding review consultation will close on February 21st 2019. There are two adult Social Care cuts to look at 2019/2020 for which there will be a public consultation one of which is the Meals on Wheels service, they will be looked at by the Scrutiny Board and even if it goes through it will be looked at again a year later to check the results of the savings. It is still difficult to inform Government that the South East of England has huge infrastructure problems making it is difficult to attract new business to the area. There are areas of deprivation and the Coastal areas have different problems.

36/2019 Rother District Council Report

District Councillor Sue Prochak informed the Cllrs that a Planning Contravention Notice had been served on the owners of Junction Road Filling Station and that they had 21days to respond. If they do not respond they could be fined a £1000 or could be taken to Court for £5000 for not responding.

Claremont Senior School has been reported for contravening their planning permission for using the Sports Hall on a Saturday. The original condition states use for Monday to Friday only. Residents are keeping a diary of when the Hall is in use.

Cabinet are proposing to look again at land surplus for either reuse or redevelopment sale or devolvment. This may involve the play area or the woodland area. The Council would be consulted on this if it becomes official. It may be something that the Parish Council could take over.

37/2019 Crime and Disorder

A shed on Levetts Lane was broken into recently and the tools were stolen, and on Junction Road. C Cllr Davies informed us that there is a neighbourhood policing unit that if contacted may be able to patrol the area. Police are informing residents to lock sheds and cars. East Sussex is working with Kent Police on the County Lines, this sort of petty crime is across County Boundaries.

38/2019 Trees and Footpaths

No problems had been reported, but Cllr Stevens had seen that the trimmings from the Vineyard had been blown over again in the recent winds.

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

39/2019 Environment-School Parking

A letter was sent to the school requesting to meet to discuss this issue but as yet there had been no reply. Clerk to send a reminder.

Cllr Stevens has put in a complaint to Claremont Senior School regarding the Coaches that are now parking and picking up from the school on the road rather than the drive.

40/2019 Parish Assembly

All the Invitations have now been sent out and leaflets printed ready for distribution. A notice will be put in the Parish Magazine.

41/2019 Bus Service Report

Report from Cllr Goodsell, who is the Treasurer of this Group. Meetings take place at Hawkhurst every other month. Kent County Council are regulars at the meeting but East Sussex county Council unfortunately rarely attend and generally there are around 12-13 people at each meeting. Derek Coffee who works for Better Transport for the South East is now a member. Discussions take place to find solutions to Bus Service routes, such as obstacles and delays, and report back to the Bus Companies. Publicity for Services is still needed, the Sunday Service by Stagecoach will continue until September, and is funded by the Stagecoach Company. The General Manager from Stagecoach regularly attends the meetings at Hawkhurst and In 2020 Stagecoach intends reviewing all their services. Membership for the group is £5 for single membership and £15 for Parish Councils. The only position in the group that is paid is the Secretary who is paid a small amount towards admin costs.

42/2019 Recreation Ground**(a) Upkeep and Inspection**

Cllr Mitchell had been down to the ground recently and everything looked clean and tidy and in good state of repair.

(b) Bookings

As reported in the last minutes Sedlescombe Rangers FC have completed a booking for the 6th and 7th of June and 13th and 14th of July for a tournament and Bodiam Primary School Sports day dates have been confirmed as Tuesday 18th June 2019.

43/2019 Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed Mr T Barratt to the meeting. Mr Barratt is concerned by the lack of signage on the public footpaths at Bodiam Castle when the National trust put the metal fencing up. There is no indication that it is a Public Footpath and an A board directs the public to the Ticket Office for the Castle.

There is now also a locked gate secured by a combination lock and a padlock stopping the locals using a well walked path around the Castle. This is not a footpath as such, but it has been used by local residents for many years (over 30 years) and they feel that it is an unfriendly gesture by the National Trust towards the Village and would welcome more consultation.

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44/2019 2019 Finances

(a) Receipts

None

(b) Payments

Payee		Chq no	£
Clerk	Salary (4weeks)	1859	420.00
Clerk	Admin (postage)	1860	4.04

(c) Monthly Finance Report

The Clerk/RFO presented the report showing movement on the accounts. It was reported that a Bank Statement to 28th of December had been received, but no statement for January as yet been received. Cllr Stevens initialed the payments in the Receipts & Payments book. Cheques were signed by the Councillors.

The Bank requires a mandate to be completed to enable the Council to add and take off signatories. The Clerk had downloaded the appropriate forms which were completed by the Councillors. Cllr Stevens will take these to the Bank with the Clerk.

Cllr Mitchell paid £15 for the Commemorative WW1 mugs.

45/2019 Information for Councillors-- (for noting or inclusion on future agenda)

National Trust to be added on the next Agenda

Possible Dates for future meetings

20/05/19	17/06/19	15/07/19	12/08/19
16/09/19	21/10/19	18/11/19	09/12/19

46/2019 Date of Next Meeting – Parish Assembly March 21st 2019 in the Bodiam Primary School Hall

Parish Meeting Monday 25th in the Bodiam Parish Room.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.