

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 23th May at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room

Present:

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

For Rother District Council: Councillors T Ganley and M Mooney.

For East Sussex County Council: County Councillor Angharad Davies

In Attendance: Mr Nick Gilbert, Mr Will Goodsell, Mr Nathan Goodsell

Election of Chair

Councillor Stevens nominated Councillor Mitchell as Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Napper. Councillor Mitchell accepted the post and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Stevens nominated Councillor Goodsell as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Peters. Councillor Goodsell has let the Council know that he will accept the post and will sign the the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct as soon as possible.

Councillors

The Declarations of Acceptance of Office and compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct forms were signed by Cllr Peters, Cllr Napper and Cllr Stevens.

82/2019 Apologies for Absence - Cllr G Goodsell

83/2019 Disclosure of Interests.

Councillors reviewed the copies of their declaration of Interest forms, new forms to be completed by Cllrs Peters and Napper. Cllr Goodsell has already requested a new form. All will be returned to the Clerk by post and forwarded on to Rother District Council.

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

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

Cllr Napper declared a prejudicial interest as the immediate neighbour of Badgers Oast item 87/2019

Cllr Mitchell declared a prejudicial interest as he works for the owners of the Land which has permission for the car park at Bodiam Castle item 89/2019

84/2019 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2019 previously circulated were signed as a true record.

85/2019 The Appointment of Representatives to all areas of Responsibility

Representatives to RALC-	Cllr Peters and Cllr Mitchell
Representative to SALC-	Cllr Peters
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder-	Cllr Goodsell and Cllr Napper
Recreation Ground, Health and Safety-	Cllr Goodsell and Councillor Mitchell
Financial Control –	Cllr Peters and Cllr Stevens
Fire Risk Assessment-	Cllr Goodsell and Cllr Mitchell

Other Appointments

Tree Warden	currently Councillor R Mitchell
Footpath Representative	currently Councillor R Mitchell

Appointment to be advertised as Cllr Mitchell wishes to stand down. This post does not have to be filled by a Cllr. The post involves being a point of contact and should walk the paths at least once a year and report to Sussex County Council Highways if any problems arise.

To Outside Bodies:

Parker & Ashcombe Trust (4 years ending 2022) Cllr G Peters -

86/2019 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies

Cllr Napper and the Clerk had visited the Nat West Bank for a print of the Deposit Account ready for the end of year Financial Audit.

87/2019 Planning

(a) Applications

RR/2019/513/P Badgers Oast, Peters Green, Bodiam, Erection of a single Storey 2 Bay Carriage House. **supported**

RR/2019/926/P Northlands Farm, Bodiam, Rural Workers dwelling to support existing equestrian business.

Cllrs felt that they would support as long as there was a genuine need for the dwelling to be tied to the business **Supported with conditions**

(b) Enforcements

ENF/173/BOD Land at Junction Road Filling Station. High Fencing to be removed from the perimeter and Caravans must be removed along with any debris. (Fence within 3 months and Change of use 6 months)

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

88/2019 ESCC report

There is a new Highways Liason Officer, Corinne Black and can be contacted at corinne.black@sussexhighways.com and the title has altered to Customer Services Manager. County Cllr Davies had no further updates to her report previously distributed.

89/2019 Public Questions:**(a) National Trust, Fencing and Signage**

Mr Nick Gilbert stated that like many local residents who had lived here for some years, he felt that the National Trust had done nothing for the betterment of the Village. When he first moved into Bodiam 22 years ago the Villagers could walk the grounds for free. He went on to explain that if a walker wishes to walk south from the East Sussex Border Path then east along the north bank of the river, there is now a fence blocking the route with a large locked iron gate. Mr Gilbert felt that this was there to collect more revenue for the NT and questioned whether this was necessary. Mr Gilbert feels that it had already been established as a right of way for many years and that the actions of the NT had only stopped this recently by installing the gate. He requested that the Parish Council get in touch with RDC and ESCC to have the padlock on the gate removed, as this was the agreement in which the gate was installed. (At present this is not a recognised footpath.)

Mr Gilbert also questioned the decision of planning permission granted by RDC to turn the field by the river into a car park, as walkers and cars could be on a collision course. Answering these points with regard to the gated path the Council advised that

1. There were forms obtainable from the ESCC to make the path a right of way.
2. The National trust had been careful in the decision of to remove parking from the ancient monument and to get traffic off the road. This will be a replacement car park to cope with surplus parking on busy days and it is the only place for it to be.
3. With regards to the revenue from Bodiam Castle In recent years visitor numbers have fallen at Bodiam.
4. It was suggested that inviting the National Trust to an open meeting to answer some of these questions. Clerk to write to the NT to arrange an open meeting possibly on site in the Evening over the next couple of months to discuss these matters to update us on the Sewerage situation and ask for access to financial records.
5. Chloe Rowling from the Rights of Way Office has been around the site and all the fencing and signage is legal.

(b) New Bodiam Football Team

Mr Nathan Goodsell introduced his son, Will Goodsell who is hoping to set up a local football team, and were hoping that as Bodiam did not have a local team already that they would be able to use the Recreation Ground for their home games. Cllr Mitchell explained that they would have to hire the Recreation Ground and Pavillion on a game or season basis. Sedlescombe Rangers have been using the Ground for some of their matches last season, so they would have to be approached and asked if they could work around each other games. Bodiam would probably require the use of the pitch on a

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Saturday afternoon. Will enquired about Goal Posts, Nets, Line Marker Machines and Grass Mowing.

Mr Goodsell enquired if being a local team the Club would have to pay any fees. Cllr Mitchell explained that there would be a charge and the fee would be discussed at a Council Meeting if the team were to go ahead, and that the Council could give a discount if they booked for a season rather than paying by the match.

Cllr Peters informed the Goodsell that they may be able to get a set up grant from the Sussex Community Foundation who help with local sports clubs.

Cllr Mitchell to contact Sedlescombe Rangers and Clerk to contact The Goodsell with the outcome.

90/2019 Rother District Council Report

Due to the Elections, D Cllr Tony Ganley had no meetings to report on at this time.

D Cllr Mooney informed the Council that in relation to the National Trust reed bed that there is new legislation in 2020 regarding noxious smells. The information is now available on the internet "New Legislation on Septic Tanks"

91/2019 Environment: School Parking

The Clerk informed the Council that at this moment we were awaiting a list of dates a Meeting could take place between the Highways Department and the Schools. Bodiam Primary School had replied that they would be willing to attend.

92/2019 Parish Assembly

To be discussed in October/November

93/2019 Trees and Footpaths

Cllr Mitchell reported that the only incident had been that the bridge over the Kent Ditch down by the Pumping Station some of the boards were broken, this has been reported to ESCC who are sending their Bridge Ranger to repair them.

There was also a tree blocking the footpath over by the Curlew Pub the footpath that is always little boggy. Cllr Mitchell will contact the landowners to sort this out.

94/2019 Crime and Disorder

The Council has been contacted by the new PCSO, who has enquired re possible visit to meet with the Councillors. Clerk to invite and send a list of meeting dates.

95/2019 Recreation Ground

(a) Upkeep and Inspection

The electric inspection was completed last week and the invoice received. A couple of neon lights were replaced and an outside light (not used at present) was noted not working.

(b) Bookings

Bodiam Primary School, Sports Day Tuesday 18th June.

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96/2019 Finances**(a) Receipts**

Date	From whom Received	Particulars	£
31/10/2018	Nat West Bank	Interest	0.48
30/11/2018	" " "	"	0.47
31/12/2018	" " "	"	0.49
31/01/2019	" " "	"	0.49
28/02/2019	" " "	"	0.44
28/02/2019	Sedlescombe Rangers	Recreation Ground Hire	160.00
29/03/2019	Nat West Bank	Interest	0.46
01/04/2019	RDC	Precept 1 st Installment	4950.00
30/04/2019	Nat West Bank	interest	0.50

(b) Payments

Payee	Particulars	Chq no	£
C Burgess	Clerk Salary (5 weeks)	1871	525.00
M Underdown	Electrics, Pavillion	1872	275.00
Bodiam C of E Primary	Room hire	1873	10.00
Bodiam C of E Primary	Sect 137 donation	1874	75.00
Rural Rother Trust	Sect 137 "	1875	80.00
Hawkhurst League of Friends	Sect 137 "	1876	75.00
St Michaels Hospice	Sect 137 "	1877	110.00
Bodiam Pre School	Sect 137 "	1878	65.00
Rother C A B	Sect 137 "	1879	80.00
CPRE	Sect 137 "	1880	36.00
Parker Ashcombe Trust	Rent for Parish Room	1881	13.00

(c) Monthly Finance Report

The Clerk/RFO reported that up to date Statements for the current and the deposit account had now been received. Cllr Stevens initialed the payments in the Receipts & Payments book. Cheques and invoices were signed by the Councillors.

97/201 Information for Councillors

Working Party to be arranged before the next meeting to discuss website and communications etc

98/2019 Date of Next Meeting -

June 17th 2019 in the Bodiam Parish Room.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting 8.20pm.

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