

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 10th December 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room

Present:

For Bodiam Parish Council:

Councillors Richard Mitchell Vice Chairman, Graham Peters, Barbara Napper
 Linda Stevens, Christine Burgess, Clerk.

For Rother District Council:

Councillor Susan Prochak

189/2018 Apologies for Absence –
 Councillor Geoffrey Goodsell

190/2018 Disclosure of Interests.
 Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Parker & Ashcombe Trust (landlord of parish rooms).

191/2018 Minutes
 The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2018 were approved and signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record.

192/2018 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies
 None to report

193/2018 Planning
 No planning applications had been received, but the following was reported by District Councillor Prochak
RR/2018/1802P-Bodiam Castle –Overflow Car Park- allowed
 Although D Cllr Prochak had raised the Council's concerns regarding an increase in visitor numbers, no increase had been recorded to date. The National Trust was considering screening from the footpaths and they had saved an Oak Tree which was previously in danger of being cut down. Cllr Peters thanked D Cllr Prochak for her efforts regarding the screening.

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

194/2018 Crime and Disorder

Nothing to report

195/2018 Trees and Footpaths

Nothing to report

196/2018 Centenary Celebrations WW1 : Update

Cllr Napper reported that there had been just two commemorative mugs left at the school, which were donated to the teachers at the school. The school was delighted with them and they went down very well. The original artwork from the children has been returned to the school. There are also 15 left from the Preschool. Cllr Peters still holds some which are being sold on behalf of the Church. Vice Chair Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Peters thanked Cllr Napper and Cllr Stevens for all their hard work.

197/2018 Environment

(a) Noise Pollution – District Councillor Prochak reported that she had been in contact with Environmental Health who stated that Licenses had already been issued to the venues. The licence states that live and recorded music of a low key nature is permitted 11.00 to Midnight on Friday and Saturday subject to it being inaudible at the nearest noise sensitive places. D Cllr Prochak stated that it was important to keep a diary when noise was a problem, because they could lose their licence if they break these rules. It is up to Residents to challenge these events. Licensing does not normally go through the Parish Council. D Cllr Prochak was asked to go back and find out whether there is a limit on the number of events and the volume that it is played at after 11.00pm. Licenses are renewed annually, so a letter will be sent from the Council stating the problem that arose last year to the licensing office at Rother District Council, Bexhill on Sea.

(b) School Parking - deferred to the next meeting.

198/2018 National Trust Treatment Plant

Mr Terry Barratt has written a letter for the attention of the Council listing events concerning the foul sewerage smell from the National Trust. It queries whether the present system is fit for purpose and whether the Trust should now replace it with a new system. It requests that residents have names and contact details in the event of any problem and a regular maintenance programme should be put in place. Cllr Napper would like a list of to whom Mr Barratt has written to strengthen any argument. Also the question arose if there was contamination from any of the houses coming down the hill that feeds into the reed bed. It was felt that the N T would have noticed if that was the case, but it would help if we knew what the local systems are in place and if in any way they were adding to the problem.

Mr Barratt would be asked for permission to forward his letter to the Chairman of the National Trust. The Council agreed that a meeting with Karen Stafford, the new General Manager of the National Trust Bodiam Castle, would be beneficial and that the Chairman of the National Trust should be notified and forwarded minutes from the meeting. Residents who are affected would be invited elect a couple of representatives to come along to the meeting when a date had been arranged.

199/2018 Clerk's Contract of Employment

The amended contract was proposed by Cllr Peters, seconded by Cllr Napper and signed.

200/2018 Rother District Council Report

(a) Development and Site Allocation Local Plan. District Cllr Sue Prochak reported that the consultation had finished Friday 7th December. Because of the housing situation becoming more severe, small villages may be asked to find Exception Sites. This plan will now go to the Planning Inspectorate in the New Year for an enquiry. This is part 2 of the Local Plan so it should not affect Bodiam.

(b) Car Parking –informal consultation. This is where the County Council take over the enforcement for Parking. Pay and Display will be introduced where you have limited zones. D Cllr Prochak mentioned that this works well for the larger places such as Bexhill and Rye but Robertsbridge may have more of a problem. The charges will not be high, but it should dissuade commuters parking all day.

201/2018 East Sussex County Council Report

Nothing affecting Bodiam at this time.

202/2018 Council Meeting Dates

Date for the Precept in January will be the 7th January, to be ratified at the next meeting on the 28th January. The next month's meeting will take place on the 18th February. The Parish Assembly will take place 21st March and Council Meeting 25th March. April's meeting will be on the 15th. The meetings from that point onwards will be the 4th Monday of the Month.

203/2018 Rother Association of Local Councils Benefits and Debt Advice Project

Cllr Peters informed the meeting of this project organized by Sussex Community Development Association. There is a leaflet available which could be distributed at the next leaflet drop that people might find helpful. Cllr Mitchell suggested that this could also be placed on the website when it is updated, linked to the information section.

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

204/2018 Grass Cutting Service 2019

Last year Rother District Council paid for four extra cuts on behalf of Bodiam Parish Council. Rother District Council has not yet made the decision whether they plan to do the same for the 2019 season. It was decided after discussion that Bodiam Parish Council would obviously prefer Rother to pay for the extra cuts, but failing that they would take up the option to pay for 4 additional urban grass cuts at a cost of £35 approximately per annum and provide a service of 6 cuts to be carried out by the County Council's Contractors.

It was agreed to contact the present private landscape company who mow the recreation ground for a quote for 2019 for grass cutting services and to put a notice on the Parish Notice Board for quotes to reach the Parish Council before noon on the 7th January.

205/2018 Recreation Ground

- (a) Upkeep and Inspection-** nothing to report
- (b) Bookings** –Still awaiting booking forms from Sedlescombe Rangers FC for the tournament 6th, 7th and 13th, 14th of July.
- (c)** The Primary School has booked the Recreation Ground for their Sports Day on the Tuesday 18th June, awaiting confirmation forms.

206/2018 Finances**(a) Receipts**

None

(b) Payments

Stationery Express Ltd – printed Mugs	£538.20
Royal British Legion - Wreath	£ 20.00
Clerk – Oct/Nov salary	£405.00

Authorised and signed,

(c) Monthly Finance Report

The Clerk/RFO reported that the bank statement was still in transit from the locum Clerk but had not yet been received. Cllr Stevens initialled the payments in the Receipts & Payments book

207/2018 Information for Councillors (for noting or inclusion on future agenda)

To move the Parish Notice Board opposite the Parish Room, to a site where it is more visible. Oldwood Surgery and Battle Health Centre Patients Participation Group.

208/2018 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 7th January 2019 in the Bodiam Parish Room.

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

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