

## Bodiam Parish Council

**Clerk:** Pat Buckle (Locum)  
**Telephone:** 01424-830437  
**Email:** [patricia.buckle@pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:patricia.buckle@pobroadband.co.uk)

13a Craig Close  
 Crowhurst  
 Battle TN33 9DE

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16 July 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room

**Present:** Councillors Geoffrey Goodsell (Chairman), Barbara Napper, Graham Peters, Linda Stevens, Pat Buckle, Locum Clerk.  
 County Councillor Angharad Davies.  
 1 Member of the Public.

**92/2018      Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Richard Mitchell, District Councillor Sue Prochak, District Councillor Graham Browne.

**93/2018      Election of Vice Chair**

Cllr Peters proposed Cllr Mitchell who had previously informed him that he would be willing to stand. All voted in favour and Cllr Mitchell was duly appointed.

**94/2018      Councillors Areas of Responsibility**

Representatives to Rother Association of Local Councils - Cllr Peters and Cllr Mitchell  
 Representative to Sussex Association of Local Councils – Cllr Peters  
 Community Safety, Crime & Disorder – Cllr Goodsell and Cllr Napper  
 Recreation Ground, Health & Safety – Cllr Goodsell and Cllr Mitchell  
 Financial Control – Cllr Peters, Cllr Napper and Cllr Stevens  
 Fire Risk Assessment – Cllr Goodsell and Cllr Mitchell  
 Tree Warden – Cllr Mitchell  
 Footpath Representative – Cllr Mitchell  
 Parker & Ashcombe Trust – Cllr Peters was reappointed for the next four years.

**95/2018      Disclosure of Interests.**

Item 106/2018/a - Cllr Goodsell declared a personal interest as he is acquainted with a number of people on the Senlac Rotary Committee.  
 Item 99/2018/b - Cllr Peters declared an interest as he swam at Claremont School  
 Item 94/2018 - Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Parker & Ashcombe Trust.  
 Item 96/2018 - Cllr Napper declared a personal interest as a member of the National Trust Local Committee.

**96/2018      Public Participation**

A member of the public raised concerns about a tree on National Trust property and overhanging branches posing a risk to the public. Although he had been informed that a specialist was due to

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examine the tree, Council decided to write to the National Trust pointing out the danger to the public and to put on record it's concern. The member of the public thanked Council for it's efforts in dealing with the recent smell from the cess pit on National Trust property.

#### **97/2018 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### **98/2018 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies**

Cllr Napper had attended the National Trust Local Committee.

Cllr Goodsell had attended Transport Group; Rotary Club; Claremont Speech Day/Prizegiving.

#### **99/2018. Planning Applications**

No planning applications had been received but the following was discussed.

- a) National Trust – Although no planning application has been received, the meetings attention was drawn to a planning notice regarding the erection of new estate fencing. After some discussion Members were unclear as to whether this was a replacement fence, the effect it may have on the public footpath, and if the gate outlined would allow public access. It was therefore agreed to check the on-line planning application and let the Clerk know the outcome who will then inform Rother Planning Department. In the meantime, Cllr Goodsell agreed to contact District Cllr Prochak and ask her to Call-In the application pending Council's decision.
- b) Claremont Music Room – Cllr Goodsell explained that although no planning application had been received he was aware of the extension planned for the music room. The meeting expressed concerns about noise and lighting that could affect near neighbours. Members were informed that the planning application number is RR/2018/1502/P and it was decided that Cllr Goodsell would ask District Cllr Prochak to Call-In this application until Council had considered it.

#### **100/2018 Crime and Disorder**

- a) **Matters Arising** - It was reported that the Police had dealt with the offending car.
- b) **PCSO Report** – It was agreed that as Bodiam no longer had a dedicated PCSO, this item will be removed from future agenda. Any issues in the village would be brought up under Matters Arising.

#### **101/2018 Trees and Footpaths – No report presented.**

#### **102/2018 Environment**

**Noise Pollution** – Following the last meeting, Councillors had received an email from District Cllr Prochak containing Rother District Council's (RDC) detailed response to her enquiry about the TN32 Festival and the procedures in place for any licencing and consultation. RDC stated that a licence was granted for one three-day event and the application was subject to the usual public advertisement. An on-site meeting had been held with various statutory agencies beforehand and noise monitoring took place at the event. The meeting agreed that Council had received no notification or consultation, and any noise monitoring had not taken place in Bodiam, even though the speakers at the event were pointed towards the village. The meeting agreed to write to RDC expressing its concerns about the licencing, the proliferation of amplified sound in the valley, especially over several days, and that Bodiam PC want to be consulted in future as noise is a sensitive subject in the village. It would also be helpful to have a copy of the licence.

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**103/2018 Centenary Celebrations for WW1**

Cllr Napper suggested a decoration on the War Memorial for those who died during the conflict and the possibility of having the regimental flag. Council discussed several options to mark the anniversary but felt it needed to know if there was a demand for it in the village, and whether it should be an event or a simple march from the church to the War Memorial. Cllr Napper emphasised the need to not leave it too late to make arrangements, and it was agreed she would obtain further information and see if the PCC would be interested. The meeting agreed to agenda this for the next meeting.

**104/2018 Rother District Council Report**

Although unable to attend the meeting District Cllr Prochak sent a report outlined below which Councillors noted.

*Salehurst and Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Plan* - a local referendum was held on 31 May 2018 to agree the plan. Following a turnout of 40.74%, 90.26% were in favour of Rother District Council (RDC) using the SRNP to help it decide planning applications; 9.61% were against.

*Housing Benefit Performance* – RDC has agreed a number of measures it needs to introduce to improve processing times.

*Write Off of Debts* - Cabinet has agreed to write off 16 cases in total relating to Housing Benefit overpayments (six cases), Council Tax (four cases) and six Non-Domestic Rate cases totalling £133,567.14.

*Housing Issues Task and Finish Group* - After a considerable amount and range of reports and information from professionals involved, the Group has arrived at 21 recommendations from measures to unblock sites with planning permission to setting up a local housing company. These recommendations now go to Scrutiny and then on through to Cabinet and Full Council.

*Council Tax Discount* - A district-wide review of residents living alone and receiving discount on their Council Tax has begun.

**105/2018 East Sussex County Council**

County Cllr Davies reported that unfortunately Sarah Slayford, the new Customer Service Manager reported at the last meeting, had left and there was no replacement at present. Highways Department has updated its website which should make reporting easier and the response quicker. There is concern about the boards, tables, chairs, etc., that some businesses erect on pavements outside their premises. Businesses need to be aware that this is illegal and licences are required. Cllr Davies stated that the ESCC Cabinet meeting on 26 June 2018 was very difficult and some difficult financial decisions had to be made on adult social care. In February 2018 County Council agreed the Council Plan and budget which required savings of £17m including Adult Social Care savings of £9.6m. The East Sussex allocation of the one-off Government grant is £1.616m. It is proposed that this additional funding is used to remove the savings proposals for Supporting People services, addressing the more vulnerable and likely to be homeless people. Cllr Davies stated that ESCC is fulfilling its statutory requirements but the financial future is uncertain. As far as the Bodiam Road resurfacing is concerned, Cllr Davies had written to Highways Department, copying in the Assistant Director, Mr Rupert Clubb, but was informed that it may be 2019 before any work is done but this was not confirmed.

**106/2018 Recreation Ground**

- a) The meeting agreed that the Senlac Car Show went well and noted that the Committee wished to run it again on 16 June 2019. Two cars parked opposite The Green were moved on by Police.
- b) Council received a report of damage to part of the hedge; Cllr Goodsell agreed to make enquiries of contractors, and Cllr Napper agreed to speak to the PTA.

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**107/2018****Finances**

- a) **Receipts** – None
- b) **Payments**

R Peters – Balance for painting Pavilion. Cheque No: 1833	895.00
EDF Energy – Pavilion Electricity. Cheque No: 1834	62.06
P Buckle – Locum Clerk . Cheque No: 1835	621.37
P Marsh – Pavilion Caretaker. Cheque No: 1836	41.06
A & M Glaziers (Hastings) Ltd – Window for Pavilion. Cheque No: 1837	133.74

Authorised and signed.

- c) **Monthly Finance Report**

No financial report was presented due to the delay caused in changing Bodiam PC's correspondence address and no bank statements received. Cllr Peters agreed to visit the Bank in an attempt to resolve the issue.

**108/2018 Information for Councillors (for noting or inclusion on future agenda)**

- a) **1066 Community Coffee and Information Project.** To be discussed at a later meeting.
- b) **Parish Clerk** – The vacancy for a permanent clerk will be advertised in the Wealden Advertiser and on the SSALC website.

**109/2018.****Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 28 August 2018 at 7.00pm in Bodiam Parish Room.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

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