

Bodiam Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 22 October 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room

Present: Councillors Geoffrey Goodsell (Chairman), Richard Mitchell, Barbara Napper, Graham Peters, Linda Stevens, Pat Buckle, Locum Clerk.
 County Councillor Angharad Davies, District Councillor Graham Browne

In Attendance: Karen Stafford, General Manager, Bodiam Castle, Janet Gardner, Mrs C Burgess.

146/2018 Apologies for Absence - District Councillor Sue Prochak.

147/2018 Disclosure of Interests.

Item 163a/164a/2018 - Cllr Goodsell declared a personal interest as he is known to the person who recommended the use of the Recreation Ground to Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club.

Item 163b/2018 - Cllr Geoffrey Goodsell declared a personal interest as a member of Rother Transport Accessibility Group

Item 151a/2018 - Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as he occasionally shoots with owner.

148/2018 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2018 and the Financial Report were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

149/2018 Public Participation – None

150/2018 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies

Cllrs Richard Mitchell, Barbara Napper and Linda Stevens reported they had met with the Head Teacher of Bodiam Primary School.

151/2018. Planning

a) Applications

RR/2018/2313/P – 5 Blacksmiths Field – Loft conversion with rear dormer.

Supported

Signed Date

RR/2018/2329/P - New House Farm – Proposed American stable barn with 6 stables for equestrian purposes on concrete base.

Council expressed concerns over the proposed siting of the barn and suggested consideration be given to other options, access to the site by large vehicles and extra traffic on the narrow approach road.

Object

b) Decisions – None received.

c) Illegal Dwelling – In the absence of District Cllr Prochak, Council noted that no information had been received about the outcome of the visit by the Enforcement Officer on 26 September 2018. District Cllr Browne stated he would follow this up and report back to Council. He also informed the meeting that both the Rother Enforcement Officers were leaving the Council.

152/2018 Crime and Disorder

Nothing to report, but Council expressed the importance of reporting all crimes following the introduction of the recent Police Rural Crime initiative.

153/2018 Trees and Footpaths – Nothing to report.

154/2018 Centenary Celebrations for WW1

Cllr Napper reported that she was awaiting delivery of the mugs, and that 150 were of one design and 30 of another, both of which were chosen from designs by the school children. Arrangements would be made to present the mugs to the school at an agreed date and time before the 11 November 2018. It was suggested that a short article and presentation photograph be submitted by the school to the Rye and Battle Observer.

155/2018 Environment

a) Noise Pollution – District Cllr Browne was informed of Council's ongoing concerns about noise from music at the TN32 Festival and the lack of information following Council's complaint. District Cll Browne stated he would raise this at the Rother Licensing & General Purposes Committee meeting after liaising with District Cllr Prochak who was aware of Council's concerns.

b) School Parking – Item deferred to next meeting.

156/2018 National Trust Treatment Plant

The Chairman welcomed Karen Stafford, new General Manager at Bodiam Castle, Bateman's and Monk's House, and Janet Gardner. Karen Stafford stated her commitment to close working with the Parish Council and the community. She has meetings with the National Trust Board within two weeks and will raise the issue of the continuing problem with the sewage smell in the village, and she stated her commitment to sorting it out. Council explained that this problem had been going on for at least 8 years and it was keen to raise the issue in a letter to National Trust senior managers with a view to starting a dialogue on a new treatment plant being installed. It was emphasised that this was in no way any reflection on Karen Stafford, that this would be stressed in any communication with the Trust, and all communications would be copied to her. The meeting agreed it needed to gain all the facts in a timeline and in the first instance the Clerk would contact a resident who had been keeping a diary about the offending smell.

Signed Date

157/2018 Defibrillator Maintenance

Cllr Stevens has been approached about concerns over the maintenance of the defibrillator situated by the school. It was thought the defibrillator was provided by Senlac Rotary Club but Parish Council had no information about its maintenance. Cllr Mitchell agreed to research companies that carry out maintenance of such items.

158/2018 Clerk Vacancy

Council welcomed Christine Burgess as the new permanent clerk for Bodiam following her successful interview on 16 October 2018, and thanked her for her commitment in attending a Sussex Association of Local Councils New Clerks course in Lewes on 17 October. Thanks were also extended to Cllr Mitchell for providing the venue for the clerk interviews. The Chairman stated he would be meeting with Christine Burgess to discuss Parish Council matters prior to the next meeting.

159/2018 Rother District Council Report

District Cllr Browne reported that the last Rother Council meeting comprised largely of discussing the Development and Site Allocation (DaSA) Local Plan, the consultation for which was about to start. The document needed to be completed by January 2019 before the Government's review of housing numbers. He stated that the roll-out of broadband would be completed by 2020/21 and that the new contract for bin collections would be out by Christmas 2018.

160/2018 East Sussex County Council

County Cllr Davies reported that her October report had been circulated to members previously; she added that Highways Department is carrying out a roads survey and information about this can be found on eastsussexhighways.com/highways-customer-panel. Highways Department is well prepared for the Winter (October 2018 until April 2019) in terms of gritting and equipment. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex's visit has raised interest in mental health and a Mental Health Guide for Schools has been produced containing ten tips for schools, including discussions and activities. The booklet can be obtained by phoning 01273-337258 or from East Sussex County Council.

161/2018 NHS Health Checks – This item was deferred until the next meeting.

162/2018 1066 Coffee and Information Project

After discussion Council decided not to take this further.

163/2018 Recreation Ground**a) Upkeep, Inspection, Security**

It was reported that Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club was now using the pitches and were pleased with the facility.

b) Bookings – None received.**164/2018 Finances****a) Receipts**

NatWest Bank – Interest on Reserve Account at 28 September 2018	0.23
Sedlescombe Rangers FC – hire of Recreation Ground for 2018/19 season	500.00

Signed Date

b) Payments

Locum Clerk – September/October 2018 Invoice	447.60
SLCC Enterprises - 11 th Edition Local Council Administration	134.79
SALC Ltd – New Clerks Training Course	100.00
Rother Transport Accessibility Group – Annual Subscription	15.00

Authorised and signed.

c) Monthly Finance Report

The Clerk/RFO presented the report showing movement on the Current and Reserve accounts as at 28 September 2018, and reported that a letter of apology had been received from NatWest Bank.

165/2018 Information for Councillors (for noting or inclusion on future agenda) - None

166/2018. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 19 November 2018 at 7.00pm in Bodiam Parish Room.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Signed Date