

**BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 23 May 2016 at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room**

**Present:**

Councillor Geoffrey Goodsell (Chairman)  
 Councillor Richard Mitchell  
 Councillor Barbara Napper  
 Councillor Janet Gardner  
 Councillor Graham Peters

**In attendance:**

Mrs V Davies (clerk)  
 ESCC Angharad Davies  
 RDC Councillor Sue Prochak

**49/2016 –Election of Chair and Chair’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office in relation to the Members’ Code of Conduct**

Councillor Peters nominated Councillor Goodsell to be the Chairman. This was seconded by Councillor Mitchell. Councillor Goodsell signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in relation to the Members’ Code of Conduct.

**50/2015 Election of Vice Chair and Vice-Chair’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office in relation to the Members’ Code of Conduct**

Councillor Mitchell proposed Councillor Gardner as vice chair. This was seconded by Councillor Napper. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office in relation to the Members’ Code of Conduct was signed.

**51/2016 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from RDC Councillor Graham Browne

**52/2016. Disclosure of Interests**

- Councillor Goodsell declared an interest as he is a School Governor at Bodiam Primary School
- Councillor Goodsell declared an interest as he had previously delivered goods to Senlac.
- Councillor Mitchell declared an interest as he is acquainted with the Chairman of the Senlac Car Show Organising Committee.
- Councillor Gardner declared an interest as she is employed by the National Trust.
- Councillor Napper declared an interest as a Member of the National Trust committee.
- Councillor Goodsell declared an interest as he had attended a Bodiam Community Friends Meeting
- Councillor Gardner declared an interest as a Committee Member of Bodiam Community Friends
- Councillor Peters declared an interest as a Trustee of Action in Rural Sussex.

Signed ..... Date .....

- Councillor Peters declared an interest as Landlord Parker Ashcombe Trust
- Councillor Goodsell declared an interest as a member of Transport Accessibility Group.

**53/2016. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25.4.16 had been previously circulated. The minutes were signed by Councillor Goodsell as a correct record of the proceedings.

**As there were no members of the public present, Councillor Goodsell did not open the meeting for Public Participation.**

**54/2016 Crime and Disorder**

There was no report. The PCSO interviews had taken place.

**55/2016 – Planning Applications**

[RR/2016/799/P](#)-Bodiam Castle, Castle Hill, Bodiam TN32 5UA-Siting of two "Elite" pay and display parking ticket machines in car park area. Councillors approved the application subject to a sign being erected instructing visitors to find a parking space before obtaining their ticket.

Reports

- [RR/2016/537/T](#)-3 Castle Hurst, Bodiam TN32 5UW - Group of 11 Hornbeam Stems - Coppice/ reduce to approximately 3m above ground level. No Objection.
- [RR/2016/369/T](#) - 5 Castlehurst, Bodiam TN32 5UW - Works to oak tree. No Objection.
- [RR/2016/370/T](#) - 5 Castlehurst, Bodiam TN32 5UW - Coppice Hornbeams. No Objection.

[RR/2016/356/T](#) - 8 Castle Hurst, Bodiam, Robertsbridge TN32 5UN - Three Oak Trees to be trimmed of dead or dying limbs, raising of crown due to low branches and excessive shade. Stand of Hornbeam Saplings to be removed. No Objection

**56/2016 – Trees and Footpaths**

There was no report.

**57/2016 - Bodiam Parish Council**

- a) To appoint Councillors to all areas.

Representatives to RALC

Councillor G Peters/  
Councillor R Mitchell

Representative to SALC  
Councillor for community safety

Councillor Barbara Napper

Councillor with responsibility for Recreation Ground  
Health & Safety

Councillor G Goodsell &  
Councillor Janet Gardner  
Councillor G Peters/ B Napper  
Councillor R Mitchell

Councillors for Financial Control  
Councillor for Fire Risk Assessment

Signed ..... Date .....

**Other Appointments**

Tree Warden

Councillor R Mitchell

Footpath Representative

Councillor R Mitchell

**To outside bodies:****Parker & Ashcombe Trust**

1 nominative Trustee:

Cllr G Peters

appointed 20.8.14 for 4 years

August 2018

**b) Bodiam Primary School Federation**

A Federation with Etchingam CE Primary School was proposed with one Governing Body. Small Rural schools remained vulnerable. Head Teachers were difficult to recruit in small rural schools. The Parish Council considered the Federation would secure the future of the school but wanted to maintain the character of Bodiam CE Primary School.

**c) Defibrillator**

There is now a defibrillator at the Kent and East Sussex railway. Information was awaited from BT regarding using the phone box.

**d) National Trust – Bodiam Castle**

Councillors supported the application subject to a sign being erected instructing visitors to find a parking space before obtaining their ticket.

**e) Grass Cutting - The Green/Recreation Ground**

The grass cutting was not to the expected standard this year. Councillor Goodsell had contacted the contractors on three occasions.

**Resolution:**

Clerk to write to grass cutting contractors to the effect that the Parish council is unhappy about the current state of the grass and get them to meet us at the Recreation Ground. In the coming weeks we have important events taking place and request a meeting to prevent further action being taken.

**f) Drain Opposite Knollys**

The drain has been cleared. The Parish Council and ESCC Councillor Davies had requested that the drain be moved into the road. No response to the request had been received as yet.

**58/2016 - Rother District Council**

There was a new Chairman and Vice Chairman of Rother District Council. Councillor Prochak would put litter collection at Bodiam onto the works programme. There were issues with a large number of refuse Collections missed in Bodiam over recent weeks.

Signed ..... Date .....

**59/2016- East Sussex County council**

There was a new highways contract. It was envisaged that the contractor would be more efficient. Website [www.eastsussexhighways.com](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com). The steward is [jon.copp@eastsussexhighways.com](mailto:jon.copp@eastsussexhighways.com).

[customer@eastsussexhighwaysliaison.com](mailto:customer@eastsussexhighwaysliaison.com)

There would be a clerk's hotline to report faults.

Benefits Helpline: 0333 3440681

**60/2016 - Recreation Ground**

- a) Changing rooms and general upkeep inspection and security.

There were issues with the recreation ground grass cutting.

Resolution

Clerk to contact mowing contractor and follow up with a letter.

- b) **Recreation Ground Bookings:**

Senlac,

National Trust – The bookings for 16/17 July and 18 September had been confirmed.

Bodiam Cricket Club would not be playing at Bodiam this year.

- c) Request for Helicopter landing on the Recreation Ground

The parish council did not agree to the request.

Resolution: Clerk to respond to request.

- d) Bodiam Friends Together had requested to use the Pavilion for a Bodiam Community Friends Tea Party 14 July. This would be agreed free of charge.

- e) Booking Request

Westfield FC Juniors. Pass and move.

The rates for the booking would be approved by email.

Resolution: Clerk to contact the football club.

**61/2016 Finances**

- a) **To Approve and complete the audit return**

- i) The Council reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepared the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return).

Resolution

The council approved the annual Governance Statement which was signed on behalf of the Council by the Chairman. Notices would be on the boards advertising the Rights of the Public to inspect the accounts.

- ii. The council considered the accounting statements by the members meeting as a whole.

Resolution

The Parish Council approved the accounting statements.

b) **To receive RFO report and balances –**

The monthly financial reports and balances were presented.

Balances: Current and Deposit accounts as of 12.5.16: £17,810.55 outstanding cheques: £62. Councillor Goodsell scrutinized the invoices and vouchers.

Cheques were signed by Councillor Goodsell and Councillor Gardner. Councillor Peters verified the bank statements.

Councillors noted that letters of thanks for Section 137 donations had been received from Bodiam Primary School.

c) **To authorise payments and note receipts**

**Receipts –None**

**Payments**

CHEQ NO	PAYEE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	
1680	V Davies	£28.50	Clerk Expenses	S44
1681	V Davies	£287.84	Clerk Salary	S151, 112 (1)
1682	Inland Revenue	£7.00	Clerk Tax	S151, 112 (1)
				S111
1683	MJ Project Services	£210.00	Electrics Pavilion	
1684	RALC	£25.00	Subscriptions	S143

**62/2016. Dates of future meetings 20 June 2016**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

Signed ..... Date .....