

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 25 July 2016 at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room

Present:

Councillor Geoffrey Goodsell (Chairman)
Councillor Barbara Napper
Councillor Graham Peters

In attendance:

Mrs V Davies (clerk)
ESCC Angharad Davies

76/2016 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from RDC Councillor Graham Browne, RDC Sue Prochak, Councillor Janet Gardner, Councillor Richard Mitchell.

2 members of the public

76/2016. 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. In addition, several of the members of Senlac are members of Rother District Council.
- 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 Peters declared an interest as Landlord Parker Ashcombe Trust
- Councillor Goodsell declared an interest as a member of Transport Accessibility Group.
- Councillor Peters declared an interest as he swam at Claremont.

77/2016. Meetings attended by councillors

Councillor Goodsell had attended the following meetings:

- Meeting with Senlac
- Funeral of Rev Winchester
- Had been interviewed on the radio regarding Bodiam Castle.
- Councillor Peters had attended the Rother Association of Local Councils. There are two funds Rural Rother Trust and Sussex Community Foundation.
- Councillor Napper had attended a meeting at the National Trust.

Signed Date

78/2016. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20.6.16 had been previously circulated. The minutes were signed by Councillor Goodsell as a correct record of the proceedings.

Councillor Goodsell opened the meeting for public participation.

Pauline Ware from National Trust advised the planning application for the pay and display machine had gone ahead. The Castle was very busy at present.

There being no further questions Councillor Goodsell closed the meeting for public participation.

79/2016 – Planning Applications

Discussion took place regarding the planning notices which had been posted on the fence of no 1 Levetts Lane.

Resolution

Clerk to contact Rother District Council planning department regarding the siting of notices.

RR/2016/1430/P

**- Claremont
Senior School
School, Peters
Green Road,
Bodiam TN32
5UJ. Extension
to create 9
classrooms,
workshop,
meeting and
tutorial rooms
plus toilet
facilities
including
demolition of
existing single-
storey
buildings.**

Resolution:

The Parish Council objected in principle to the application. There were concerns that this development is a step too far leading to over intensification and over-development of a comparatively small site in the middle of a very small rural village.

Signed Date

There are particular concerns around the effect of the over development around vehicle movement and parking numbers for both staff, pupils (all of whom are transported by car) and visitors particularly for school and other events. We understand that staff numbers are due to rise from 25 to 38. The Parish Council was under the impression that the capacity was 250 students. This would appear to be a substantial expansion in numbers of classrooms and capacity. Until we receive further information on these points the Parish Council would wish to object. In the event that the consent is granted we would ask that time restrictions be placed on construction traffic such that it does not conflict with the Primary School and pre-school drop off and pick up times. The Parish Council requests that the planning committee visit the site.

RR/2016/1617/P. Claremont Senior School School, Peters Green Road, Bodiam TN32 5UJ. Construction of a new synthetic surfaced multi-use games area with fencing and floodlighting.

The Parish Council objected to the application. The parish council had no objection in principle to the all-weather surface. There is some anxiety about the height of the fences at 5m and whether they would be visible from Levetts Lane and Manor Lodge. However, the parish council wished to object most strongly to the proposed floodlighting on 10m high poles. The lighting on the 6th form building and elsewhere is already unsympathetic and intrusive in a 'dark village'. There are no street lights in Bodiam and the vast majority of the residents wish it to remain a dark village. We consider that the floodlighting would cause light pollution, damage to wildlife and the environment and serious disturbance and distraction to the residents. It would be most inappropriate in Bodiam particularly on this elevated site in the centre of the village which in winter when the trees are bare will be visible from a considerable distance. In the event that the District Council is minded to grant consent it is critical that restricted conditions are put on the hours of use with no use at week-ends. The Parish council requests that the Planning committee visit the site.

80/2016 – Trees and Footpaths

There was no report.

81/2016 - East Sussex County Council

- ESCC had looked at demographics and needs across the county. The county had taken into account that a further £23m savings were required. A public consultation had taken place on libraries.
- Trading standards officers had been working with the Citizens Advice Bureau and Age UK identifying fraud and to raise awareness.
- The councils legal team had received an accolade from the law society.

Signed Date

Verge cutting.

The first cut for Bodiam had not taken place. The issue had been raised.

Benefits Helpline: 0333 3440681

Crime and Disorder

The barbeque at the Castle Inn had been stolen.

82/2016 - Bodiam Parish Council

a) Defibrillator

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

b) Internet at Peters Green

Super Fast Broadband was unavailable at Peters Green as it was too far away. Fibre to the Premises had been provided, courtesy of an intervention project by East Sussex.

Resolution:

Clerk to contact residents at Peters Green to inform them of the facility.

c) Stand alone computer screen to view plans.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of purchase of a stand alone computer screen to view planning applications.

Resolution:

Councillor Napper to investigate costs.

83/2016 - Rother District Council

There was no report.

84/2016 - Recreation Ground

a) Changing rooms and general upkeep inspection and security.

Village Green Grass Cutting.

There were still issues with the standard of the grass cutting on the village green.

Resolution: -

Clerk to contact grass cutting contractor

b) Recreation Ground Bookings:

Senlac,
National Trust
Bodiam Primary School

Westfield Pass and move.

The council had proposed that the first year cost would be £50 and then raising to £1,500. Discussions were still in place.

Resolution:-

Councillor Peters to continue with discussions with Westfield Pass and Move.

85/2016 Finances**a) Transparency Fund.**

The Parish Council had received a grant for smaller authorities to assist smaller parish council to comply with the transparency fund.

Resolution: Part of the grant had been for the costs of the internet and staff costs in updating the website which the clerk had not claimed. Subject to confirmation from SALC councillors agreed that that the clerk could claim these costs.

Resolution

Clerk to look at the possibility of applying for the transparency fund for 2016-17.

The clerk assured the parish council that she was not claiming these costs from any other employer.

b) To receive RFO report and balances –

The monthly financial reports and balances were presented.

Balances: Current and Deposit accounts as of 12.7.16: £17,202.75 outstanding cheques: £177. Councillor Goodsell scrutinized the invoices and vouchers.

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

c) To authorise payments and note receipts
Receipts

30.6.16 Interest

£0.36

Payments

CHEQ NO	PAYEE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	
1690	R Mitchell	£35.00	Repair of benches	S44

Signed Date

1691	V Davies	£372.00	Clerk Salary	S151,112
1692	P Marsh	£36.98	Caretaking	S44
1693	V Davies	£24.76	clerk expenses	S111

75/2016. Dates of future meetings 30 August 2016

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.00 pm.

Signed Date