

## 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 Zoom Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:**

**For Bodiam Parish Council:** Councillors, Richard Mitchell (Chairman), Linda Stevens, Graham Peters, Barbara Napper and Councillor Michael Weddle after co-option.

**For Rother District Council:** Cllr T Ganley,

**For ESCC:** Cllr A Davies

**In attendance** Clerk Christine Burgess, Mr Lovering and Mr Luke Everitt

**118/2020      Apologies for Absence:**

RDC Councillor M Mooney

**119/2020      Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September which had been previously distributed, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**120/2020      Disclosure of Interests:**

Councillor Peters declared an interest as he is acquainted with and has shared mutual hospitality with Mr Lovering.

Councillor Weddle declared an interest as he rents a small plot of land from Mr Lovering

**121/2020      Matters Arising**

Cllr Mooney is still making enquiries with regards to the Gas Tank on the verge of Blacksmiths Field. To be put on next Month's Agenda.

The Wreath has been delivered and will be placed at the Memorial by Cllr Weddle on behalf of the Parish Council on Remembrance Sunday.

The National Trust is still waiting for Planning Permission for the Settlement Tanks from Rother District Council.

**122/2020      Co-option of Councillor**

Councillor Peters proposed that Michael Weddle be co-opted as a Councillor. Councillor Stevens seconded the appointment. Chairman Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Napper supported the appointment. Councillor Weddle signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Chair officially welcomed Cllr Weddle to the Council.

**123/2020      Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies**

Cllr Napper has had contact with Rother and Hastings care providers over the summer in an unofficial capacity and would like it to be noted that she has been incredibly impressed with the service and care that they provide.

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

**124/2020 Planning Applications - None****125/2020 ESCC Report**

Councillors have received the previously circulated report from ESCC. East Sussex is still in Tier I and the figures are still low. East Sussex Hospital are coping very well. Full report can be seen on the website, [www.bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk)

**126/2020 Rother District Council Report**

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from Rother District Council. Full report on the Bodiam Website which covers ACRE, (Action with Communities in Rural England).

**127/2020 Environment****1. Recreation Ground: Dog Litter Bin**

Rother District Council has been in touch regarding the collection of the Dog Litter Waste bin. The cost is currently £3 per week for 2020/2021. Councillors agreed to go ahead. **Clerk to Contact Contract Services**

**2. Urban Verges**

East Sussex County Council has written to inform us of the urban grass cutting service for 2021 (ESCC) is continuing to offer the same options as last year.

**Option 1 - Standard:** Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish/Town Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

**Option 2 – Extra cuts:** Parish/Town Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totaling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year. This would cost Bodiam Parish Council a total of £86 for the year.

**Option 3 – Self delivery:** Parish/Town Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not carry out any urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay Bodiam Parish Council the sum of £43 to do this.

Councillors decided after consideration **Option 2** would be the best course of action. To be put on the Agenda September 2021 to discuss alternative options.

**3. Finger Signpost**

The Finger Signpost is currently being renovated and St Giles Church has been added.

**128/2020 Trees and Footpaths**

None

**129/2020 Crime and Disorder**

The Council has received a letter from a resident informing us that last week they found two windows had been broken. A bottle and a jar had been thrown at the windows in two separate throws and an empty vodka bottle was found in the flowerbed. The resident came to the conclusion that the garden was being used as somewhere secluded to drink.

As similar events have taken place in the Village, **Clerk to reply with advice to report to the Police.**

There have been incidents of fly tipping, and this is now being gradually cleared and taken to the dump.

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

**130/2020 Recreation Ground**

(a) **Upkeep and Inspection** – The Verandah on the Pavillion has now been finished.

(b) **Bookings** –None coming up in the next 4 weeks.

**131/2020 Finances**

(a) **Receipts**

Date	From whom Received	Particulars	£
07/09/2020	H Fulker	Hire of Rec Grnd	60.00
09/09/2020	Sedlescombe Rangers	“ “ “	200.00
28/08/2020	Nat West Bank	Deposit A/C interest	0.03

Date	Payee	Particulars	Chq no	£
19/10/2020	EDF Energy	Electric Pavillion	1942	24.07
19/10/2020	J Smith	Repairs Pavillion	1943	304.50
19/10/2020	RALC	Subs 2020/21	1944	70.00
19/10/2020	C Burgess	Clerk/RFO Salary	1945	436.80
19/10/2020	C Burgess	RBL Wreath	1946	17.00

**(c) Monthly Finance Report**

The monthly financial and budget report had been circulated by email, along with photocopies of the Receipts and Payment Book, Cheques and Invoices. Cllr Napper and Cllr Stevens have signed the cheques and invoices. The Financial Report was approved and signed by the Chair and will be forwarded to the Clerk with the signed copy of the Minutes.

**132/2020 Information for Councillors**

We have had an email from SECAM regarding our automated external Defibrillator at the School. The manufacturer will shortly be withdrawing technical support for these devices, when and if, it becomes faulty it will not be replaced. South East Coast Ambulance Service will have no choice but to remove them when they encounter problems. Noted for the next month's Agenda.

**133/2020 Woodland Proposal-Recreation Ground**

Chairman Richard Mitchell welcomed Mr John Lovering and representing the Woodland Trust Mr Luke Everitt to the meeting

Mr Lovering, the Woodland Trust, the High Weald AONB and Sussex Wildlife Trust are planning a scheme for tree planting and habitat and wetland creation along the Rother Valley from Junction Road, including the old cricket pavilion. The initial proposal is that the woodland could cover 1.89 hectares of the 5.3 hectare site. The planting would still allow for 2 football pitches a dog walking area and a cricket pitch on the Recreation Ground

It is proposed that the initial costs would not be the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Woodland Trust would cover 60% percent of the cost of the scheme, with the remaining 40% being covered by personal donation from Mr and Mrs Lovering.

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

The Woodland Trust would oversee the project, appoint a contractor and provide plant maintenance and support for two years after planting. On the third year, the Woodland Trust has estimated the maintenance costs at anywhere between £0 to £1000 per year during the life of the wood, with costs tending towards the latter once the woodland has reached maturity.

The ongoing maintenance costs were discussed, and it was proposed that this cost could be offset by the future sale of carbon credits. It is understood that by combining the new woodland together with the woodland present on New House Farm, that it would then cover enough land as to become eligible for the carbon credits scheme. In respect of this Mr Lovering has offered the Council a one off payment of £4,000. In later years, there may be some income from coppicing.

Management of the land was considered at the meeting. It will reduce the area of recreation ground which must be mown although pathways through the woodland would still need to be maintained. To make sure the Parish does not suffer any hardship Mr Lovering has made the offer to the Council that if our current Mowing Contractor was not prepared to reduce the cost of mowing of the Recreation Ground to 60% of the current cost, New House Farm will take on that responsibility for the original 60% of the current charge.

The Woodland Trust will be happy to incorporate the Cricket Bat Willows into the plan. Some of the wettest areas of the recreation ground would be included in the planting scheme using species that prefer wet ground, Hornbeam, Willow and Alder etc. and signposted walks through the woodland area would be established. This scheme would provide an additional local amenity, aid local tree planting and Rother River Valley conservancy plans being developed by the High Weald AONB and Sussex Wildlife Trust. The woodland would link to new planting planned on the old cricket pavilion ground and beyond, and aid wildlife corridor development throughout the valley.

Councillor Napper informed the meeting that there could be a problem with leaf decay from the new wood. If the leaves were left, they could completely ruin the grass, i.e. kill the grass completely requiring reseeding of the damaged area. The leaves would have to be cleared up regularly and removed from the site to avoid redistribution through the Autumn all adding to the ongoing maintenance costs. Mr Everitt advised that the planting could be less dense near the closest football pitch to minimise risk and would be around 10 metres away. Mr Everitt will enquire whether that is a problem on similar Recreation Grounds that have already been planted and will get back to the Council.

Councillors decided that the Residents must be consulted before any decision is made. The Councillors also requested that they were provided with a written report of the numbers presented at the meeting in terms of likely costs and future income streams.

**134/2020      Date of Next Meetings –By Zoom**  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November.      Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

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

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