

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Christine Burgess
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 Rolvenden
 Kent TN17 4LU

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 Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

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

For Rother District Council: Cllr T Ganley

In attendance: Clerk Christine Burgess and 1 member of the Public

Election of Chair

Councillor Peters nominated Councillor Mitchell as Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Stevens. Councillor Mitchell accepted the post and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Mitchell nominated Councillor Stevens as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Peters. Councillor Stevens accepted the post and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Councillors

The Members' Code of Conduct forms were signed by Cllr Peters, Cllr Napper and Cllr Weddle.

58/2021 Apologies for Absence:

RDC Cllr M Mooney, ESC Cllr Angharad Davies

59/2021 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th March which had been previously distributed, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

60/2021 Matters Arising

None

61/2021 Disclosure of Interests:

Councillor Peters declared an interest as he is acquainted with Mr John Lovering.

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

62/2021 To Appoint Representatives to all areas

Representatives to Rother Association of Local Councils- Cllr Peters and Cllr Mitchell

Representative to Sussex Association of Local Councils- Cllr Peters

Community Safety, Crime and Disorder – Cllr Napper and Cllr Weddle

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

Recreation Ground, Health and Safety- Cllr Mitchell and Councillor Weddle

Financial Control – Cllr Stevens and Cllr Peters

Fire Risk Assessment- Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Weddle

Other Appointments

Tree Warden and Footpath Representative- Mr Nigel Froggatt

To Outside Bodies: Parker & Ashcombe Trust

1 nominative Trustee: Cllr G Peters (until 2022)

63/2021 **Coronavirus: End of Virtual Meetings, Scheme of Delegation to Clerk**

Government has decided that permission to hold virtual meetings will not extend beyond the 6th May date previously set and Councils must now return to holding physical meetings.

Under the current Covid Regulations this will not be possible until after the 21st June 2021.

In order for business to continue Council must put in place a "Scheme of Delegation to the Parish Clerk".

Proposed by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Graham.

64/2021 **Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies:** None

65/2021 **Planning Applications:**

RR/2021/194/P -Park Farm Oast, Park Farm Lane, Bodiam TN32 5XA

Erection of an external staircase and balcony/veranda, construction of an overhanging roof entrance feature, new entrance doors at first floor level, changes to the previously approved elevations, comprising vertical timber boarding, amendments to the elevations to involve additional windows and enclosure of a previous opening and the surfacing of a track in permeable material. (Retrospective).

Bodiam Parish Council noted that consent was given originally for a storage facility and not as a "Venue" for Weddings etc. Access onto the B2244 and noise would be a considerable problem. However the Council wished to support the English wine industry and would support use as a low key tasting room ancillary to Vineyard tour. Additional comments were added by the Council when after viewing the Oastbrook website it was found to be also advertising Brazilian tapas, music and wine in the "tasting room" every Saturday afternoon throughout July/August from 1630 to 2030. Bodiam Council consider it even more important that firm conditions restricting numbers of visitors, hours of use and most importantly significant noise outside the barn building at any time be applied. No use after 8 PM, no music amplified or other noise audible outside the tasting room at any time and cars limited to a maximum of 20 at any one time as per the application. Any external lighting should be minimised and approved by the planning department and must demonstrate that all opportunities to reduce light have been taken.

RR/2021/145/P - New House Farm, New House Lane, Bodiam TN32 5EQ

Erection of Vineyard visitor centre, parking area and new woodland planting (**Withdrawn**)

RR/2021/723/T 5 Castle Hurst, Faymer, Bodiam TN32 5UW Hornbeams x 27 (approx.) -
Pollard.

Supported

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

66/2021 ESCC Report:

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from ESCC and the full report can be viewed on the Bodiam Parish Council Website www.bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk

67/2021 Rother District Council Report

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from R D Council and the full report can be viewed on the Bodiam Parish Council Website. www.bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk

68/2021 Environment: Woodland Proposal

The Council have received 7 emails and 1 phone call regarding this matter since the 16th April, these have been circulated to all Councillors. Amongst the comments was a question regarding the positioning of the Pitches for Cricket and Football, this was just to give an idea of the space left and the positions are movable. Thank you for your comments they will all be taken into consideration. A laminated notice will be placed on the gates of the recreation ground asking for comments, and on the 2 notice Boards.

The Council will vote at the next meeting on Friday 2nd July. Please submit all comments to the Clerk by Friday 25th June.

69/2021 Trees and Footpaths

A member of the Public had complained about the mud on Blacksmiths footpath (it had rained) and rubbish on the path near the Almshouses, which was temporary, (new resident was having a clear out).

70/2021 Crime and Disorder

A Blue 4x4 Toyota type vehicle had been seen by a Councillor acting suspiciously, checking out the rear of their property and the fields beyond. Residents are warned to keep an eye open, in case this happens again.

71/20201 Recreation Ground**(a) Upkeep and Inspection –**

The Chair thanked all concerned for the help in cleaning out the Pavilion after the winter floods at the week-end. The Pavilion is now ready for use.

Local users of the Rec had asked permission to even the ground out by adding earth to fill in the damage from horses hooves and rolling which was given. Thanks to all who helped.

(b) Bookings

None at the moment.

An enquiry has been made from Sedlescombe Rangers for use of the Ground on an ad hoc basis for the younger members. Councillors decided that we would need a 48 hours notice period and a charge of £5 per session up to 30 children and £10 for over 30 attendees.

Permission was granted for Hazel Fulker, to place a flag on the ground when she is working.

72/2021 Finances**(a) Receipts**

Date	From whom Received	Particulars	£
31/03/2021	Nat West Bank	Deposit A/C interest	0.03
01/04/2021	RDC	1 st instalment of precept	5275.00

(b) Payments

Date	Payee	Particulars	£
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12/04/2021	ESALC & NALC	2021/2022 Subs	124.70
12/04/2021	Information Commisioner	Data protection fee	40.00
12/04/2021	CPRE	Sect137 donation	36.00
12/04/2021	Direct Fire Protection	Service of Extinguisher	60.85
12/04/2021	ESCC	Grass cuts, verges	103.20
12/04/2021	C Burgess	Clerk/RFO Salary	546.00
12/04/2021	C Burgess	Admin Expenses	35.17
12/04/2021	Rother District Council	Dog Waste Bin (1 year)	156.00

(c) Monthly Finance Report

The monthly financial report had been circulated with the Bank Statements by email, along with photocopies of the Receipts and Payment Book, Cheques and Invoices. Cllr Napper and Cllr Stevens have signed the cheques, invoices and have been forwarded on.

The Financial Report and the Bank Reconciliation was approved and signed by the Chair and will be forwarded to the Clerk with the signed copy of the Minutes.

(d) Banking

The new cheque book has been received from the bank and forwarded to the Clerk.

We currently have three signatories (Councillors) on the account, all of whom are required to sign the cheques. After discussion it was proposed and decided to alter the number of signatories who sign the cheques to two out of the three Councillors to accommodate any absence and avoid any delay in the payments. Cllr Stevens will instruct the Bank to make the alterations the account.

(e) Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The forms were signed by the Internal Auditor on the 21st April 2021 and have been signed at this meeting 4th May 2021 by the Chairman Cllr Mitchell. The forms will be forwarded to the Clerk/RFO as soon as possible for signing and the Certificate of Exemption will be returned to the External Auditor. The Internal Audit Report together with the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements will be published on the Parish Website.

73/2021 National Trust- Village Green Application

Cllr Peters informed the meeting of an email he had received regarding this matter on the 30th April. ESCCllr Davies had organised an online meeting with the National Trust, RDCllr Ganly and ESCC rights of way officer Natalie Mclean and Mr N Gilbert. The outcome of which was that in the next 2 months if Mr Gilbert withdrew the application, the National Trust would offer an acceptable solution for access for local residents.

Cllr T Ganly was admitted to the meeting

At this point the meeting was opened for public questions and Mr N Gilbert was admitted to the meeting.

Regarding the Woodland proposal, the Council was asked if this was for financial reasons to save money of the mowing of the Recreation Ground. Mr Gilbert was informed that it was more of an environmental issue to increase the number of trees in the Valley.

Mr Gilbert informed us of the meeting with the National Trust as above.

74/2021 Information for Councillors: None

75/2021 Date of Next Meetings – Friday 2nd July 2021 –The Mezzanine, Court Lodge Farm, Bodium TN32 5UJ

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