

## 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 Meeting of the Parish Council held on 26th July 2021 at 7.00pm at The Mezzanine, Court Lodge Farm, Bodiam TN32 5UJ

**Present:**

**Bodiam Parish Council:** Councillors, Chairman Richard Mitchell, Linda Stevens, Graham Peters and Michael Weddle

**East Sussex County Council:** Councillor P Redstone

**Rother District Council:** Cllr T Ganley, Cllr M Mooney

In Attendance: Clerk Christine Burgess, John Tucker from The Woodland Trust, Mr John Lovering and 5 members of the public

**76/2021            Apologies for Absence:** Cllr B Napper

**77/2021            Disclosure of Interests:**

Cllr L Stevens declared an interest as a Member of the National Trust

Cllr G Peters declared an interest as a Member of the National Trust and an acquaintance of Mr John Lovering

Cllr M Weddle declared an interest as a Member of the National Trust and rents a small plot of land from Mr John Lovering

**78/2021            Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May which had been previously distributed, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**79/2021            Matters Arising**

None

**80/2021            Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies**

Cllr G Peters attended the RALC AGM. East Sussex Association of local Councils is now an independent body.

At the meeting it was reported that the Police are now taking a much more serious view of rural crime and has a specialist Rural Crime Team who have just busted a significant drug ring in and around Rye.

There still remains a problem with Planning and it will take probably at least another 6 months to catch up. Hybrid meetings are still being debated.

Cllr Mitchell had a meeting with Karen Stafford the Manager of Bodiam Castle last June, when they had just reopened. Staffing levels have dropped to a third, some have been furloughed and some have left. They are slowly bringing their staffing numbers up again.

The Settlement Tanks will be going ahead in September to alleviate the odour problem.

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

**81/2021 Planning****(a) Applications**

**RR/2021/677/P- Neals, Castle Road, Bodiam TN32 5UU** Proposed agricultural barn for farm machinery and lambing.

**RR/2021/913/P- Fourboys Farm, Castle Hill, Bodiam TN32 5UB.** First floor extension and conversion to existing workshop/store to create annexe with 2 guest bedrooms, games room, office and store, for use ancillary to the main dwelling house.

**(b) Decisions****RR/2021/163/P- The National Trust Bodiam Castle Castle Hill Bodiam TN32 5UA**

Variation of condition 1 imposed on planning permission **RR/2020/583/P** to extend the time period for the siting of three shipping containers from 31 December 2020 to 31 December 2021

**RR/2020/290/P- Park Farm Oast, Park Farm Lane, Bodiam TN32 5XA**

Construction of one bedroom holiday let. Permission granted with conditions

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

**(c) Enforcements**

**ENF/101/18/BOD 2 The Green, Main St., Bodiam TN32** New Velux Window - Not Obscurely Glazed, No Further Action, to be taken.

**82/2021 ESCC Report**

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from ESCC. Full report can be read on the Bodiam Website.

The sink hole at the Bodiam C of E School has been reported and is pending. The Lay-by at the School will require a visit from Highways and is in hand.

Comments have been made regarding the Hedge along from the lay-by, possibly belonging to Claremont School that it is getting out of hand. ESC Cllr Redstone recommended reporting it on the Highways website, by the Council and sending him the ref no. Cllr Mitchell will photograph the hedge, Clerk will report on the website.

**83/2021 Rother District Council Report**

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from Rother District Council Full report on the Bodiam Website.

Cllr Ganly reported that Planning is taking 100-150 days at the very least. Capita a specialist firm has been brought in to help resolve the situation.

**84/2021 Bodiam Sign Damage**

The post has rooted through and has fallen over and is lying flat on the green. Phil Anderson has been asked to quote for the post when he replaces the finger sign.

**85/2021 Environment: Woodland Proposal, followed by Public Question Time**

John Lovering explained that in consideration of environmental concerns, 42 acres of New House arable land are to be returned to mixed woodland, high-quality grasses, and grazing. Chemicals will be reduced and public access will be increased.

John Tucker from the Woodland Trust continued and explained that some of the funding for this project will be from the Forestry Commission grants. Meetings have already been held on

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site with the AONB, Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission and the County Archaeologist. There is a public session on the 25<sup>th</sup> August at New House and leaflets will be delivered week commencing the 9<sup>th</sup> August. This is a completely stand-alone project and is not reliant on the Recreation Ground woodland proposal.

#### **Public Questions & Answers**

The question was asked if there would be bridal paths? Probably not, largely because it would be too dangerous for cars, horses and people walking and no bicycles for the same reason.

#### **Recreation Ground, Council Discussion**

Leaflets were distributed to all households in Bodiam to gather opinions which have been collated for Councillors to review. 8 Residents commented in total out of the 150 or so leaflets that were distributed. Some of the Comments received expressed concerns regarding future ongoing costs and management and others expressed their support, these questions have been discussed and many agencies (please see above) have been involved along the way.

The points raised in the discussion were that the majority of the residents who commented were against rather than for and did not want to lose any of the space available.

Considering the Recreation as a whole, the Football pitch, which could be thought of as too large may be resituated into a better position as a smaller pitch. Reducing the size of the pitch would still give plenty of space for any other activities. The finance would have to be looked into further if this project was to go forward.

Resident feed-back highlighted the need for more car parking, which also needs to be considered and some felt that the view would be lost in the process, so the design would need to be looked at further.

#### **Public Comments**

The choice of tree planting was questioned, as the ground was originally Marshland, John Tucker the Head of the Woodland Outreach for the Woodland Trust lives locally and knows the land well and confirmed that Willows would do well on land the floods in the winter period.

#### **Conclusion**

Overall, Councillors decided that the project should go forward, and move into a more detailed discussion. There is no contract to sign at the moment, but is supported in principal and Councillors will meet with John Tucker again to discuss in detail of the action to be taken and solve some the issues raised.

### **86/2021            Trees and Footpaths**

The report has been received from the tree and footpath warden.

Trees within the woodland on Levetts Lane have a lot of dead wood and could benefit for some investigation and surgery. It is open for public so could be dangerous particularly for children to roam around in. Further enquiries to be made.

The hedge on the path between primary school & Levetts lane requires some cutting back. To be considered in a month after nesting birds have left.

### **87/2021            Environment**

#### **(a)School Parking**

Pre Covid -19 a meeting had been arranged at the School with the ESCC Highways Safety Officer, the School Governors and Councillors from ESCC and Bodiam Parish Council.

Unfortunately this was not able to take place and will be rearranged in September.

ESCClir Redstone informed the meeting that finding the budget was becoming increasingly difficult complete any works.

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

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May it transpires that whilst a parent was securing her children in her car, a passing car hit the open rear door whilst attempting to drive around it. The parent's car was parked safely in the lay-by and not on the road.

**(b) Helicopter Disturbance**

Complaints have been received from Residents concerning Helicopters hovering over the Village.

Approximately 16 events were noted. We understand a corporate event was held, offering wine tasting and helicopter rides at the Park Farm Oast on which there is an outstanding planning application RR/2021/194P. The Council will comment on the application that this is unacceptable.

**88/2021 Crime and Disorder**

Nothing to report

**89/2021 Recreation Ground**

(a) **Upkeep and Inspection** –Nothing to note

(b) **Bookings**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August for a Family Game of Rounders 1-5pm, Caretaker will check and clean the week before.

**90/2021 Finances**

**(a) Receipts**

Date	From whom Received	Particulars	£
30/04/2021	Nat West Bank	Deposit A/C interest	0.02
28/05/2021	Nat West Bank	Deposit A/C Interest	0.02
28/06/2021	HMRC	VAT Refund	383.41
30/06/2021	H Fulker	Storage	40.00
30/06/2021	Nat West Bank	Deposit A/C Interest	0.03

**(b) Payments (signed previously under delegated powers)**

Date	Payee	Particulars	£
14/05/2021	Castle Water Ltd	Pavilion water	40.46
14/05/2021	EDF Energy	Pavilion electricity	36.23
14/05/2021	C Burgess	Clerk/RFO Salary	442.40
14/05/2021	LW Safety Ltd	CO2 extinguisher	78.00
14/05/2021	T Barratt	Audit	162.00
14/05/2021	C Burgess	Admin Exps	18.12
21/06/2021	Zurich Municipal	Insurance	722.09
21/06/2021	C Burgess	Clerk RFO Salary	553.00
21/06/2021	Bodiam C of E Primary School	Sect 137 Donation	75.00
21/06/2021	Hawkhurst League of Friends	Sect 137 Donation	75.00
21/06/2021	Rother Citizens Advice Bureau	Sect 137 Donation	80.00
21/06/2021	Rural Rother Trust	Sect 137 Donation	80.00
21/06/2021	St Michael's Hospice	Sect 137 Donation	135.00
21/06/2021	Bodiam Pre School	Sect 137 Donation	65.00
21/06/2021	St Giles Church (Churchyard)	Donation S125	240.00
<b>Cheques signed this Evening</b>			
26/07/2021	C Burgess	Clerk/RFO Salary	442.40

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

26/07/2021 C Burgess EDF Electricity Pavilion 13.13

**(c) Monthly Finance Report**

The Clerk/RFO presented the Bank Statements with the Bank Reconciliation, Financial and Budget Reports, which were signed by the Chair. Cheques were signed by the Councillors.

**91/2021 Information for Councillors**

Thank you letters have been received for the Sect 137 donations from :-  
Rural Rother Trust, St Michaels Hospice and Hawhurst Community Hospital League of Friends.

Following the thank you letter from the Chairman of the Rural Rother Trust, Cllr Peters advised that the Trust can give small grants to deserving groups or individuals, normally no more than three or four hundred pounds. If anybody is aware of any person or group who could benefit from a small grant (e.g.possibly tools required to start a new job) requests should be submitted to the Clerk of the Trustees at the Rural Rother Trust at Bexhill Town Hall.

Future Dates for Meetings are: - 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 15<sup>th</sup> November, and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**92/2021 Date of Next Meeting –The Mezzanine, Court Lodge Farm, Bodiam**  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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