

## +-BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st February 2022 at 6.30pm at The Mezzanine, Court Lodge Farm, Bodiam TN32 5UJ

**Present:**

**For Bodiam Parish Council:** Councillors: - Chairman Linda Stevens, Barbara Napper, Graham Peters, and Michael Weddle.

**For ESCC:** Cllr P Redstone

**In attendance:** Clerk Christine Burgess. Mr. D Page and one member of the public

**30/2022            Apologies for Absence**

Cllr M Mooney and Cllr T Ganley

**31/2022            Disclosure of Interests**

Councillor Peters declared an interest as he is acquainted with Mr John Lovering and has also been in trust with the Woodland Trust regarding in regard to the Queens Green Canopy Scheme.

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

**32/2022            Minutes of Meeting 24th<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The minutes, which had previously been distributed were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**33/2022            Matters Arising**

None

**34/2022            Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies**

Cllr Stevens had an informative meeting with Karen Stafford the manager of Bodiam Castle last week.

The Council have been offered the Wharf Tea Room to host the Parish Assembly and would also be happy to line up a tour of the castle and a talk from Lucy the ranger.

Some further work has been completed regarding the sewage problem on the manhole covers and there is an additional clean of the treatment plant needed. They are also still discussing the pub fat trap with Shepherd Neame.

They are looking at having a more permanent visitor centre where the current temporary one is and a replacement 'workshop/shed area' where the current 'bonfire' area is by the back gate so the metal containers can be removed.

Conservation work on the postern tower is to carried out later this year (the timing of which is largely dictated by the bats!).

The National Trust are also keen to publicise the second hand book store and some children's colouring activities have been offered for the jubilee event and we may also have access to a marquee (the castle is not currently planning to do anything specific for that weekend).

They are looking at how to 'manage' the paddle-boarding activity along the river as they own some of the river bank and as a result have the H&S issues to consider. They have also had

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

issues with paddle boarding clubs parking in the car park (again causing some H&S concerns given the amount of activity, people etc.).

Discussions are still ongoing regarding the village green application.

### **35/2022 ESCC Report**

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

The Council tax has thought has been confirmed as a 1.99% increase this year.

Community matched funding has built up a surplus over the years as not enough communities could raise the 50% matching. Yesterday the decision was taken to release most of this totalling £750k for road safety projects which do not need matching. The procedures for this are still being set out but a key aim is that the criteria are less KSI/accidents but more community demand.

the Bodiam School layby improvements would qualify for this. A way of doing this maybe would be to establish a community demand through a petition.

### **36/2022 RDC Report**

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

### **37/2022 Prospective Councillors**

The Council has received 3 applications from local residents. One Candidate has since withdrawn leaving two to be considered this evening. Both applications were considered although unfortunately only one was able to attend the meeting this Evening.

The Vote was taken by a show of hands and the Majority vote went to Mr Darren Page who has accepted the role of Parish Councillor. Parish Clerk to forward the appropriate forms to Mr Page for completion.

### **38/2022 Planning**

**Applications - None**

**Decisions**

**RR/2021/2742/P** 5 Knowle Hill Cottages, Knowle Hill, Bodiam. TN32 5EZ **Permission refused**

**RR/2021/2697/P** Fourboys Farm, Castle Hill, Bodiam, TN32 5UB **Permission granted with conditions**

### **39/2022 Queens Platinum Jubilee**

A Working Party has been formed from Residents and Councillors Stevens and Peters. The plan is to bring your own picnic on the grounds of Bodiam Castle from about 12.30 onwards on the Sunday of the Platinum Jubilee weekend. Hopefully a pop-up bar from the Castle Inn can be organized. Flyers will be sent around the Village nearer the time. People will be encouraged to walk to the event to prevent the build-up of cars in the Village.

### **40/2022 Queens Green Canopy**

Hopefully a few trees will be planted on the Recreation Ground. Perhaps planting a few specimen Oaks with the hope that one will survive to mark the occasion. Cllr Peters will make enquiries from the Woodland Trust. Planting was supposed to be on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March but may have to delayed until next October/November until arrangements can be made.

### **41/2022 Environment – Woodland Proposal**

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

Having discussed the new planting area which is a much-limited scheme to the original plan, the Councillors have decided not to go ahead with this scheme.

However, there may be a few trees planted as Bodiam's contribution to the Queens Green Canopy

#### 42/2022 **Parish Assembly**

The dates this meeting can be held is from 1<sup>st</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> June. **This year it will be Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May.** Contributors will be asked to send in their reports beforehand to be published on the website. The National Trust have offered the Wharf tea room and a tour of the Castle

#### 43/2022 **Trees and Footpaths**

Tree balanced across the Road on Peters Green Road outside Woodbine Cottage, to be reported to ESCC. Claremont's fence has also collapsed.

#### 44/2022 **Crime and Disorder**

Nothing to report

#### 45/2022 **Recreation Ground**

(a) **Upkeep and Inspection** – Has been inspected regularly. It was thought a new lock may be required as the original key doesn't work, but the one kept at the Pub still works, so new keys rather than a new lock would suffice. The water meter reading has been read and will be entered on line by the clerk.

(b) **Bookings** – None  
Email to Hazel re next seasons bookings and Public Liability Insurance

#### 46/2022 **Finances**

##### (a) Receipts

Date	From whom Received	Particulars	£
31/01/2022	Nat West Bank	Deposit A/C Interest	0.02

##### (b) Payments

CHQ no	Payee	Description	£
2003	Company Data Storage Ltd	Secure destruction of docs	54.00
2004	P Anderson	2 new sign posts	400.00
2005	C Burgess	Clerk/RFO Salary	553.00

##### (c) Monthly Finance Report

The Clerk/RFO presented the Bank Statements and Financial Report, which were signed by the Chair. Cheques were signed by the Councillors.

#### 47/2022 **Information for Councillors**

Clerk to contact the Preschool to notify that we will be returning to the Parish room in March. The April meeting will take place on the Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm.

#### 48/2022 **Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday 21st March 2022, 6.30pm, in the Bodiam Parish Room**

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

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