

## 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 Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 6.30pm at the Parish Room, Bodiam TN32 5UJ

**Present:**

**For Bodiam Parish Council:** Councillors: - (Chairman) Linda Stevens, Barbara Napper, Graham Peters, Michael Weddle, Darren Page

**For RDC:** Cllr T Ganley

**In attendance:** Clerk Christine Burgess. 1 member of the public

**68/2022            Apologies for Absence**

RDC Cllr M Mooney and ESC Cllr P Redstone

**69/2022            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.

**70/2022            Minutes of Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

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

**71/2022            Matters Arising - None**

**72/2022            Public Questions- RE National Trust, Village Green Application**

1. The process of the Village Green application started around three years ago after the fencing went up in late 2018 preventing locals from walking around the grounds free of charge.

The National Trust have offered a voucher system for locals (residents of Bodiam, Ewhurst, Staplecross and Cripps Corner) to visit the grounds of the Castle without paying if the Village Green Application is withdrawn.

The\* locked gate is still a problem. Mr Gilbert states that they offered to put in a stile by the cattle grid, but they have now withdrawn that offer. As a compromise he would like the gate opened before and after closing hours or even on a seasonal basis to aid walkers. Bodiam Castle is part of the Village the Council represent and legally the National Trust have not blocked any public footpaths. Mr Gilbert felt that he hadn't received any support from the Council regarding this matter and Councillors asked what help the Council could give. Mr Gilbert suggested that a letter from the Council might aid the process. The matter will be brought to the next agenda.

*\*The gate was installed for security, to protect the retail area, and help prevent poaching. Meeting with National Trust 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019*

2. **Fuel Tank Blacksmiths Field**

Enquiries were made regarding the fuel tank on Blacksmiths Field RR/2021/328/P which was given permission to be buried in the ground last November.

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

### 3. Blocked Footpath

The blocked footpath was reported to the Rights of way Officer Path Code BOD/9/1 at the end of March by a local resident and the Clerk.

#### 73/2022 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies

Cllr Peters attended a meeting of RALC, which discussed speeding through the Villages.

Cllr Stevens had been to a meeting with Claremont School, they expressed an interest in being more involved in the local community and were interested in the idea of establishing a local swimming club, although the biggest issue will be around lifeguard cover. They were also open to the idea of having a 'locals evening' for some of their theatre performances.

Cllr Stevens had also been in touch with the Primary School who will be providing bunting for the Jubilee celebrations and a flower arrangement. The topic of School Parking was raised and emphasized that it may be achieved by Community support with the Council and PCC.

Cllrs also attended a meeting at the Oastbrook Vineyard Estate. The Vineyard do not wish to continue with the plan to host Weddings or Helicopter trips, which had been a private birthday party for the owners. One Wedding will be catered this year as a private agreement for a friend.

Cllr Steven and the Clerk met with Hazel Fulker (Forever Tri Outdoor Training) to ascertain more details of her business and use of the river next to the Recreation Ground

#### 74/2022 Planning

##### Applications

**RR/2022/479/P Bodiam Business Park, Green Lane, Bodiam TN32 5UP** Provision of six holiday lets and associated landscaping. **Comment to be entered regarding lighting, parking and noise.**

##### Decisions

**R/2022/277/P - Bodiam Castle, Castle Hill**, the siting of three storage containers permitted shall be removed and land restored back to its former condition on or before the 6th January 2023 **Permission Granted with conditions**

**RR/2021/677/P Neals, Castle Road, Bodiam TN32 5UU** **Permission Granted with conditions**

#### 75/2022 RDC Report

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

RDC Cllr T Ganly also added that Alliance Homes owned by Rother District Council have bought the Sainsbury's site in Bexhill, to generate income from the rental.

#### 76/2022 Parish Assembly-Thursdays 12<sup>th</sup> May, Bodiam Castle Tea Room

The Parish leaflets are ready for distributing to all households. The Tour of the Castle will begin at 5.30pm and the Parish Meeting will commence with a talk from a Ranger at 6.30pm, followed by the various reports from guest speakers. Refreshments will be provided.

#### 77/2022 Village Emergency Plan

The last plan was put in place in May 2011 and is to be reviewed. Councillors will update known telephone numbers and review who would be able to provide assistance for the Clerk to collate.

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

**78/2022 Queens Platinum Jubilee**

The point was raised that some residents who have mobility issues may have to drive and park on the Recreation Ground. It was previously thought that we would not need the top gate opening, but Mr and Mrs Lovering will be asked if as a contingency we would be able to open the top gate.

**Clerk to write and ask permission**

**79/2022 Environment**

**Queens Green Canopy**-Tree Planting to commemorate the Queens platinum Jubilee – to be carried forward to the June Agenda, the next planting season commences in October.

**Clerk to write to Mr Lovering to consulted re permission for a tree or trees to be planted**

**School Parking**- The school have been informed of the grant that is available for Road Safety projects and are looking into this issue, considering their options.

**80/2022 Trees and Footpaths**

Please see above Public Questions 72/2022 re blocked footpath.

Stiles- Councillors requested that when a style was ready for renewing that they be replaced by one that was easier to use for users of the public who have restricted mobility.

**81/2022 Crime and Disorder**

Nothing to report

**82/2022 Parker and Ashcombe Almshouse Charity: Changes to Objectives Consultation**

Notice has been given that Parker and Ashcombe Almshouse Charity intends to apply to the Charity Commission to update the charity's objectives.

The charity's objectives include the provision of social housing within the Parish through the Almshouse Flats on Castle Hill. The Deed, and a Scheme of change issued by the Charity Commission in 1965, limits the occupants of the flats to: "Poor single women" or "widows of good character", who are resident in the Parish at the time of application. The charity therefore wishes to revise and update the objectives to offer accommodation to all genders and within a 6-mile radius of the Parish. Applicants would still be required to be single and at or approaching retirement age, with priority given to applications from suitable Parish residents.

The charity will also apply to re-instate an original objective of the 1887 deed, where trustees could use their discretion to provide support within the wider parish where the charity's funds allow. This was removed in the revision of the 1965 scheme, possibly in error.

For more information could you please contact the charity Treasurer by 15th May 2022, c/o johnbarnett9@googlemail.com or 7 Heathlands, Westfield TN35 4QZ. **Proposed and**

**seconded to support: Clerk to write letter of Support on behalf of the Council**

**83/2022 Village Notice Board**

The notice board repairs have not been completed as yet. A quote has been received for 2 new posts. Another quote is to be sought. Cllr Stevens will make enquiries.

**84/2022 Recreation Ground**

**(a) Upkeep and Inspection** – Has been inspected recently. The water meter has been read and will be reported to Castle Water.

A Willow tree has fallen next to the ramp on the river. Cllr Weddle will do some more research to hasten its removal.

**(b) Bookings** – Bodiam School fun day Sat 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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

A croquet club has approached the Council re use of the Ground, they have been advised to inspect the ground carefully as it may not be suitable. It is mowed regularly, but cannot be timetabled for a particular match as Bodiam does not own any mowing equipment but rely on Contractors.

## 85/2022 Finances

### (a) Receipts

Date	From	Description	£
31/03/2022	Nat West	Interest	0.02
01/04/2022	RDC	Precept	5490.00

### (b) Payments

CHQ no	Payee	Description	£
2009	LW Safety Ltd	Fire Extinguishers, Pavilion	241.02
2010	East Sussex ALC Ltd	ESALC &NALC Subs	108.84
2011	RDC	Dog Waste Bin collection	156.00
2012	ICO	Data protection	40.00
2013	T Barratt	Audit of Accounts	162.00
2014	C Burgess	Clerk/RFO Salary	442.40
2015	C Burgess	Admin Exps (stamps)	19.56
2016	ESCC	4 Extra Grass Cuts	105.60

### (c) Monthly Finance and Annual Reports

The Clerk/RFO presented the Bank Statements, the monthly and year-end Financial Reports, which were signed by the Chair. Cheques were signed by the Councillors.

### (d) Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The forms were signed by the Internal Auditor on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and have been signed at this meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 by the Chairman Cllr Stevens. The Certificate of Exemption will be returned to the External Auditor after the minutes have been completed. The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements will be published on the Parish Website.

### (e) NALC Pay award results – to be discussed at the next meeting.

## 86/2022 Information for Councillors - For the next Agenda: -

Emergency plan for the village to be discussed and revised, School Parking, and the NALC pay rise (Clerks Salary). Queens green canopy to be discussed in June

## 87/2022 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May Parish Assembly, Bodiam Castle 6.30pm (*optional tour of Castle 5.30pm*)

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 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.....