

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6.30pm at the Parish Room, Bodiam TN32 5UJ

**Present:**

**For Bodiam Parish Council:** Councillors: - Linda Stevens, Graham Peters, Darren Page, Tim Porter and Nick Gilbert

**For ESCC:** Paul Redstone RDC Cllr Tony Ganly and Cllr Tony Biggs

**In attendance:** Clerk Christine Burgess,

**Election of Chair**

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

**Election of Vice Chair**

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

**Councillors Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

Councillors Graham Peters, Darren Page and Nick Gilbert, signed the acceptance of office and compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

**85/2023            Apologies for Absence - None**

**86/2023            Disclosure of Interests**

Cllr Peters declared an interest as the Chairman of the Parker & Ashcombe Trust. Members register of interest forms have been completed and will be forwarded on to Rother District Council

**87/2023            Minutes of Meeting 13th April 2023**

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

**88/2023            Matters Arising –**

**Notice board,** Councillors have chosen the from the distributed catalogue and price list from the Parish Noticeboard Co. The money to be taken from the CIL payment. Clerk authorized to organise a proforma invoice for the board (2 x A1 curved top £1100 + vat and installation costs up to £200)

**Finger post,** this has not yet been sorted out, Clerk to remind contractor.

**Grass cuts,** the main strip on the recreation ground seems slightly different to the plan provided, but the weather has been very wet and may have proved too difficult to cut.

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

**89/2023 Public Questions-**

None

**90/2023 ESCC Report**

Councillors have received the previously circulated report from ESCC and the full report can be read on the Bodiam Website.

The new contractor (Balfour Beatty) took over on 1<sup>st</sup> May. There will be a few teething problems but a much better service is expected, particularly in the quality of repairs. County Councillors are being invited to meet with them, to discuss concerns. Early signs are that they really want to make a difference. There is still the problem of course that there is not enough money for the roads. To get the roads up to the required stand will cost £350-£450 million pounds. Station road in Robertsbridge has now been completed.

The subsidence outside the school is now causing a problem with the playground, it is thought to be a drainage issue

**91/2023 RDC Report**

Because of elections there has not been any cabinet meetings since March so no report has been circulated this month.

**92/2023 Environment- National Trust- Passes for Residents**

The National Trust have asked us to print the following statement –

**“The Trust is to provide passes for local residents in the parishes of Bodiam and Ewhurst (including Staplecross and Cripps Corner) for free access to the Castle Grounds during visitor open hours.**

**This is in addition to the two existing Rights of Way across the Bodiam grounds, which provide public access.**

**The passes will be issued as one per household (giving access for 2 adults and up to 3 children per household), valid for a year, renewable on an annual basis for a minimum total period of 10 years, on production of photographic identification and proof of address – utility bill/Council Tax bill. The Trust Byelaws will continue to apply to anyone making use of the passes to visit the Castle Grounds.**

**To give time for the arrangement to be set up, passes can only be issued after the Coronation weekend (8<sup>th</sup> May), from the Bodiam Visitor reception, at the main entrance.”**

**93/2023 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies**

A meeting of all concerned, users and landowners of the river will be arranged shortly. There are safety concerns regarding the use of the river.

Cllr Stevens and ESCC Cllr Redstone attended an introductory meeting with the new Head of Bodiam primary School.

**94/2023 Planning**

**Applications – None**

**Decisions**

**RR/2023/444/P– 4 The Green. Bodiam TN32 5UB, proposed single storey extension and alterations** **Permission granted with conditions**

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

**Appeals**

**Application APP/U1430/D/22/3312655 / 2923 Ellen Archers, Castle Hill, Bodiam.** First floor extension to modern garage building to form home office and lift access. Application Reference: RR/2022/2089/P

**95/2023 Appointment of Councillors to all areas**

Rother Association of Local Councils-	Cllr Peters
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder Liason –	Cllr Gilbert
Recreation Ground, Pavilion, Health, Safety and Fire risk assessment-	Councillor Page and Cllr Porter
Financial Control -	Cllr Stevens and Cllr Peters
Planning-	Cllr Gilbert
Other Appointments	
Tree Warden and Footpath Representative-	Cllr Page and Cllr Porter
To Outside Bodies: Parker & Ashcombe Trust 1 nominative Trustee:	Cllr G Peters (until 2026)
Bodiam Pre School	Cllr Stevens

**96/2023 Parish Assembly-Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May, Bodiam Castle Tea Room**

Speakers so far confirmed are; the National Trust, Parker Ashcombe Trust, St Giles Church, Bodiam Pre School, Claremont School, Rother Valley Railway and Kent and East Sussex Railway. Report provided also by Bodiam School.

With regard to the local Railways; the Secretary of State for Transport has issued an Order under the Transport and Works Act which allows the Rother Valley Railway to reinstate a section of railway track between Udiam and Robertsbridge, linking to existing sections of track and completing the rail link between Bodiam and Robertsbridge junction.

**97/2023 Trees and Footpaths - none****98/2023 Crime and Disorder**

A car has been stolen locally, it has been reported to the Police and a reward has been offered, and a case of livestock worrying.

**99/2023 Recreation Ground**

- (a) **Upkeep and Inspection** – The plumbing work has been completed, but the referees shower remains disconnected. The new first aid kit has been fitted. A deep clean will be carried before the booking in June, and an on-site meeting will be needed to discuss the of the future of the Pavilion.
- (b) **Bookings** – Bodiam School Sports Day Wed 14<sup>th</sup> June, with Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> as a reserve. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023 PTA Sunday

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

**100/2023 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)**

The forms were signed by the Internal Auditor on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and were signed at this meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 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.

**101/2023 Finances**

Change of signatory- a new signatory will be required for signing of cheques, Vice Chair Cllr Porter to be added to the signatories. on-line banking to be considered and set up.

**(a) Receipts**

Date	From	Description	£
03/04/2023	RDC	Precept, 1 <sup>st</sup> Installment	5,710.00
28/04/2023	Nat West	Interest	2.26

**(b) Payments**

CHQ no	Payee	Description	£
2058	T Barrett	Audit fee	162.00
2059	CPRE	Section 137 membership	36.00
2060	C Burgess	Admin exps, First Aid kit	52.57
2061	SJK Plumbing	Pavilion plumbing repairs	280.78
2062	Zurich Municipal	Insurance	821.34
2063	Parker Ashcombe Almshouse	Room rental	13.00
2064	C Burgess Clerk/RFO	Salary	482.10
2065	Bodiam C of E Primary School	Donation (section 137)	80.00
2066	Rural Rother Trust	" "	85.00
2067	Hawkhurst League of Friends	" "	80.00
2068	St Michaels Hospice	" "	150.00
2069	Rother Citizens Advice Bureau	" "	95.00
2070	Bodiam Pre School	" "	70.00
2071	St Giles Church	Donation upkeep of Church yard	240.00

**(c) Monthly Finance and Annual Reports**

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

**107/2022 Information for Councillors - For the next Agenda: -**

The Cllrs discussed the recent local election.

**108/2022 Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 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.....