

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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34 Levetts Lane,
 Bodiam,
 East Sussex,
 TN32 5UL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th December 2023 at 6.30pm at the Parish Room, Bodiam TN32 5UJ.

Present:

For Bodiam Parish Council: Councillors: - (Vice chair) Tim Porter, Graham Peters, Darren Page, Nick Gilbert, and 2 Members of the public (MoP).

In attendance: Clerk, Lynsey Willard

208/2023 Apologies for Absence

(Chair) Linda Stevens, ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone, RDC Cllr Tony Biggs, RDC Cllr Tony Ganley

In the absence of the Chair, Linda Stevens, the Vice Chair, Tim Porter chaired the meeting.

209/2023 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Parker & Ashcombe Trust, who are the Landlords of the Parish Rooms.

Cllr Peters declared a personal interest in Fourboys Farm – **RR/2023/1808/P**

Cllr Peters declared a personal interest in Lower Northlands Farm – **RR/2023/2132/L**

Cllr Gilbert declared interest in Lower Northlands as friend & neighbour.

RR/2023/2132/L

Cllrs Porter & Page declared an interest in Silverdale Stud - **ENF/310/23/BOD**

Cllr Peters declared a personal running interest in 4 Northlands. **218/2023**

210/2023 Minutes of Meeting 20 November 2023

The minutes, which had previously been circulated had a slight adjustment to the wording of **206/2023** before being approved and signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record.

211/2023 Matters Arising – None

212/2023 Public Questions- Cllr Porter, raised that as we did not have a full council or representation from RDC and ESCC that we would not be having a full discussion around agenda points 10.1 – 10.10 but asked the public is there was anything they would like to highlight while there. Points raised have been recorded against the subject for order of the minutes. 10.1 – 10.10 will be back on the agenda, 22/1/2024, for full discussion.

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

213/2023 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies – Cllr Gilbert attended the RDC Annual Parish Conference – 5/12/2023 – interesting points regarding budget problems and planning discussed. Councillor Peters joined the Rural Roundtable organised by the 2 Rother MPs.

214/2023 Planning

Applications

RR/2023/2133/P New House Farm, New House Lane, Bodiam TN32 5EQ Erection of a vineyard tasting room, parking area and new woodland planting. **Representation submitted in November via planning website/awaiting decision.**

Decisions

RR/2023/1808/P Fourboys Farm, Castle Hill, Bodiam Retrospective application for the construction of ancillary/annexe accommodation (**alterations to RR/2021/913/P and RR/2021/2697/P**)

Permission granted subject to conditions including those submitted by Bodiam Parish Council. Date Issued 16.11.23.

RR/2023/2124/P Castle Cottage, Castle Hill, Bodiam TN32 5UA Installation of sewage treatment upgrade. **Planning Permission granted subject to conditions 4.12.23.**

RR/2023/2132/L Lower Northlands Farm, Lower Northlands, Bodiam. Underpin the front porch of the main farmhouse, repair cracking to the front elevation and porch, entrance hall and first floor ensuite bathroom. Listed Building. **Consent refused. Date Issued: 05-Dec-2023**

Enforcements

ENF/150/23/BOD. Fourboys Farm Castle Hill, Bodiam TN32 5UE, Annexe being used as residential in breach of plans approved on RR/2021/913/P. - Planning Permission for changes to building has been granted – see above. Case closed, NFA no evidence that use of site is in breach of approved conditions. **22.11.23**

ENF/310/23/BOD Silverdale Stud, Northlands, Bodiam Planning permission given for two properties. They have now got people living at the back of the stables and rented out the house. **Received 22.11.23 - Existing case - Please refer to ENF/263/23/BOD CASE NFA.**

ENF/156/23/BOD Lanes Infrastructure Depot, Quarry Farm, Bodiam, TN32 5RA Change of Use of Site for Telecoms Depot. Application Requested – This is out of Bodiam Parish area.

215/2023 RR/2021/328/P – 1 Blacksmiths Field, Bodiam.

Planning was granted 25/11/21 and expires 24/11/2024 for an underground fuel tank for LPG to supply central heating. Councillors are concerned that work had not commenced on this project. Clerk to query.

216/2023 East Sussex County Council report

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

217/2023 Rother District Council Report

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

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

218/2023 Highways - Water problem by 4 Northland – Cllr Page provided an update from Highways. After chasing up and a failed visit, Highways will be reviewing the problem in the new year. This is a concern when it freezes. MoP pointed out that water has flowed for years from Badgers Oast, and this has never been sorted.

219/2023 Recreation ground – Grounds Maintenance Agreement 2024/2025
It was suggested we supply the company with a date of events so they can ensure the recreation ground is mowed timely. It was questioned whether we should naturalise a larger area with pathways. To be discussed further at Budget meeting 8/1/2024.

220/2023 Future of Pavilion – Survey responses from residents & other concerns raised. – Discussed briefly at beginning but decision made to defer proper discussion to 22/1/2024. Cllr Gilbert to explore the costs of a porta cabin and call planning to see if it is a possibility. Suggested this may lead to a public meeting or the Annual meeting in May if considered soon enough.

Speed Limits in School Zone – not discussed - moved to January agenda.

Damage to verges by Bodiam School due to parking – not discussed - moved to January agenda.

Damage to Green on Levetts Lane – Letters sent to Southern Housing by MoP and Clerk. MoP also raised the lack of dropped kerb to ESCC Highways as the resident is revving their car on the green to get up the kerb. ESCC Highways responded that they would write to the resident reminding them they need a licence for a dropped kerb.

RDC reducing grounds maintenance budgets – MoP at meeting, raised concerns as Levetts Lane looked untidy this year, responsibility divided between RDC & Southern Housing. MoP asked if the Parish could consider a top up mower. – legalities would have to be considered – to be discussed further 22/1/24 when RD Cllrs are at the meeting.

Claremont coaches parking on verge in Levetts Lane – not discussed - moved to January agenda.

Samaritans Clothes Recycling bin on Levetts Lane – not discussed - moved to January agenda.

Southern Housing Association – Sale of vacant houses on Levetts Lane – letter sent to housing dept, but no response received yet. – moved to January agenda

Posts surrounding village green – can they be replaced or upgraded? – not discussed - moved to January agenda.

Gate entrance to the sports field – not discussed - moved to January agenda.

221/2023 Internal Audit

Update on quote from Mulberry & Co - Suggested 3 hours estimated at £65 = VAT and mileage – to be discussed further at Budget meeting 8/1/24.

222/2023 Trees and Footpaths – No problems reported.

Cllr Porter and Cllr Page to sort the problem tree behind the pub carpark over the Christmas period.

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223/2023 Environment- Grit Bin

After being chased up over many months the bin has eventually arrived on Levetts Lane.

224/2023 Approval for domain renewal - bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk

The domain for the website is up for renewal – approval given for Clerk to renew for next 2 years.

225/2023 Clerk/Council Communications

Discussion had around what emails the councillors need sight of.

226/2023 Civility and Respect pledge – Councillors have read the pledge and decided not to take any further.**227/2023 Crime and Disorder**

Reports of a suspicious blue Rav 4, Y791 FEF, seen on properties in Bodiam on the 21/11/23. 3 Persons in vehicle, one male wearing distinctive British Forces multi pattern camouflage jacket.

Monday 27/11/23 and attempt was made to break into one of the National Trust buildings. Fewer people about on a Monday as pub closed so maybe police should be asked to be more present. This was raised by a MoP on the survey. To be raised when Cllr Biggs is at the next meeting.

Silver Range Rover been involved in various break ins in Norther Rother.

228/2023 Receipts & Payments**Receipts**

Date	From whom Received	Particulars	£
30.11.23	Nat West	Interest	3.47

Payments

CHQ no	Payee	Description	£
2092	L Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary (Nov/Dec)	407.16
2093	HMRC	PAYE	131.60
2094	Cllr Page	Post Crete for Village Notice board erection	14.00

229/2023 Monthly Finance Reports

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial report and budget reports with forecast, which were signed by the Vice Chair. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councillors for inspection by email before meetings. The Parish Council are still awaiting the invoice for the election.

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

230/2023 Information for Councillors

For future agenda – Muck churning up on the road between Curlew and the village, between Silverdale Farm and New House farmland.

231/2023 Date of Next Meeting

Budget Meeting - Monday 8th January 6.30pm, The Parish Rooms.

Parish Council monthly meeting – Monday 22 January 6.30pm, The Parish Rooms.

There being no further business, the Vice Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at approx. 8pm.

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