

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday,
 19 February 2024 at 6.30p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room**

Present: For Bodiam Parish Council: Councillors: - (Chair) Linda Stevens, (Vice chair) Tim Porter, Graham Peters, Darren Page, ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone, RDC Cllrs Tony Ganley and Tony Biggs.

In attendance: Clerk Lynsey Willard

32/2024 Apologies for Absence: - Cllr Nick Gilbert

33/2024 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Parker & Ashcombe Trust and friend of John Lovering.

Cllrs Stevens & Porter declared an interest in Bodiam Pre School

34/2024 Minutes of Meeting 22 January 2024

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

Matters arising: None, as all on agenda for discussion at this meeting.

35/2024 Public Questions – No members of the public in attendance

36/2024 Councillors meetings with outside bodies

Cllr Stevens & the Clerk visited Claremont school to arrange a room for the Parish Assembly.

37/2024 Planning - Awaiting Decision

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 via planning website/awaiting decision.** Residents have raised complaints about the planning application with Planning as the notice was not placed somewhere visible and it will increase traffic to the area. The Planning notice was posted at what will be the entrance to the building. This is along the main road where people drive rather than walk.

38/2024 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. Cllr Redstone reported that the budget for County has been approved. £5 million has been budgeted for highways. The landslip on Junction Road is due to be cleared 4-6 March 2024.

39/2024 Rother District Council Report

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

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from RDC. Full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. Planning Committee have approved the change of 200 homes on Blackfriars in Battle from affordable homes to market value.

40/2024 Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy

Survey received – As a Parish we receive a small amount of CIL money but as a Parish we have not generated CIL ourselves as there has no housing development recently.

41/2024 Parish Assembly planning

Cllr Stevens & the Clerk met at Claremont Senior last week and were shown round several possible rooms. It was agreed we would use the large room in the 6th form centre. Thursday 2 May has been agreed. Key speaker will be Lucie Bolton, she is the Climate Strategy Officer for Rother District Council and passionate about the environment. Invites to be sent to local organisations to invite them to provide an update to the community. Ideas discussed on how to reuse last year's banner and a leaflet to be designed to make residents aware that the future of the Pavilion will be discussed at the Assembly.

Action 1: Clerk to check key speaker is available on this date.

Action 2: Clerk to confirm date with Claremont Senior School

Action 3: Clerk to send out invites to all guest speakers.

Action 4: Clerk to design leaflet advertising the Parish Assembly.

42/2024 Recreation Ground

There is evidence that horses are being ridden on the recreation ground. This should not happen and is leaving deep hoof prints in the ground.

Action 5: Clerk to write to all horse owners in the village reminding them that horses should not be ridden on the local footpaths or the village recreation ground.

43/2024 Future of Pavilion – Bodiam Primary School PTA Funday – 22 June 2024

Before PTA can use the Pavilion a big clean up session will be needed. Fire Extinguisher services are due – agreed that these should be booked in. The 5-year electrical check is also due this year – quotes to be sought.

Action 6: Clerk to contact PTA to arrange a date to view what cleaning and repairs needs to be done to the pavilion before usage can be considered.

Action 7: Clerk to book in servicing for the fire extinguishers

Action 8: Clerk to seek quotes for 5-year electrical check.

44/2024 Meeting Dates

List of dates agreed for the following financial year – normally 3rd Monday of the month except December which will be held on the 9 December 2024.

Action 9: Clerk to post list of dates on Bodiam Parish website.

45/2024 Environment**Road Safety by Bodiam Schools – Rother Parking Review**

ESCC are informally consulting on proposed changes to parking and waiting restrictions in Rother District and the one of the options being reviewed is the extension of the no parking zone in front of Bodiam Primary School. It is felt by the Parish Council that extending this parking area will not solve the problems. Letters are currently being delivered to local addresses. The consultation opens on 9 February 2024 and closes on 1 March 2024.

Ground Maintenance – Levetts Lane – Areas of responsibility.

Southern Housing have provided a map detailing the areas they are responsibly for grass cutting on Levetts Lane. A picture is gradually being built up of who has responsibility for what.

Posts Surrounding village Green – update on resourcing of hop poles

It is proving difficult to source old hop poles for around the village green to keep inline with Bodiam heritage. It was questioned whether we could use CIL money for this project.

Action 10: Clerk to enquire with CIL officer about posts around the village green.

Grit Bin – Junction of Bodiam Road & Main Road – Update

Highways have responded to say they have no record of a grit bin being at the corner of Bodiam Road and Main Road. This is on a primary gritting route so they would not place one here.

Highways - Water problem by 4 Northland Cllr Page provided an update from Highways. The ditch team have been out to look and as the problem appears to be on private land they are looking into whether they can dig up and relay new pipes.

46/2024 Rural Grass Cutting Service – Parish Council have agreed to opt for the Environmental Enhancement Service which provides a reduced rural service, excluding single track lanes, the first cut at start of season to be only visibility cuts for safety at junctions and on the inside of bends where sight lines between road users may be obscured by vegetation. The second cut later in the season will be visibility plus a 1-metre-wide swathe along the verge. This will be reviewed on the agenda again February 2025 to ensure this is the right service for Bodiam.

47/2024 Trees and Footpaths

A broken stile has been reported on Lower Northlands. This has been noted and the repair is in hand.

48/2024 Crime and Disorder – Nothing to report.

49/2024 Receipts. Uncashed cheques & Payments**a) Receipts**

31.1.24	Reserve Account	Nat West Interest	£3.83
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b) Uncashed Cheques – cheques are valid for 6 months. Cheques 2065 & 2069 have been added back into the accounts.

Dated	Chq No.	Payee	Amount
15.5.23	002065	Bodiam CE Primary School S137	£80
15.5.23	002069	Rother Citizen's Advice Bureau S137	£95

c) Payment of Cheques

Dated	Chq No.	Payee	Description	Amount
19.2.24	002099	L. Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary Jan/Feb	£373.36
19.2.24	002100	L. Willard	* Reimbursement of HMRC PAYE paid for month 9	£102.05
19.2.24	002101	East Sussex ALC Ltd	Clerk Finance training	£48.00

* Reimbursement of HMRC PAYE paid for month 9 – when running payroll in February RFO identified that PAYE tax should have been paid in January for month 9 and was accruing daily interest. (Interest charged to that date £0.45). Decision made using point 5.5 of Financial Regulations to make payment using personal debit card to prevent further interest being added. Chq 2100 is a reimbursement of the amount paid.

50/2024 Monthly Finance Reports & forecast for Year End

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial report and budget reports, which were signed by the Chair. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councillors for inspection before and at the meeting.

The forecast for year end was shared and depending on the final invoice for grass cutting the final balance could be as low as £9124 in reserves.

51/2024 Information for Councillors – Clerk made councillors aware of annual leave dates for 2024.

52/2024 Date of next meetings

Monday 18 March 2024, at 6.30pm in the Parish Rooms. There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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