

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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34 Levetts Lane,
 Bodiam,
 E. Sussex, TN32 5UL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
 Monday 18 March 2024 at 6.30p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room**

Please note these are draft minutes until formally approved at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Present: For Bodiam Parish Council: Councillors: - (Chair) Linda Stevens, (Vice chair) Tim Porter, Graham Peters, Darren Page, Nick Gilbert. ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone (arrived 7.15pm), RDC Cllr Tony Biggs.

In attendance: Clerk Lynsey Willard, one member of Public (MoP)

53/2024 Apologies for Absence: - RDC Cllr Tony Ganley.

54/2024 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Parker & Ashcombe Trust.
 Cllrs Gilbert & Peters declared an interest in Lower Northlands Farm.
 Cllrs Stevens & Peters declared an interest in 11 Levetts Lane
 Cllr Page declared an interest in 7 Northlands due to access over family land.

55/2024 Minutes of Meeting 19th February 2024

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

56/2024 Matters arising

Date of June's meeting changed to Wednesday 19 June to ensure quorate is met.
 All action points from previous meeting cleared or in hand.

57/2024 Public Questions – Cllr Gilbert raised that he had received a letter from a resident last month raising concern over how often the grass is being cut in the village. Unfortunately, due to a very wet winter it has not been possible for the contractors to cut the grass, but they will resume when the conditions improve.

58/2024 Councillors meetings with outside bodies

Cllr Stevens met with Karen Stafford, manager of Bodiam Castle and discussed the anticipated influx of visitors to the castle over the Easter period. They could get 1200 visits per day but only have parking for 600 cars. They are looking into hiring matting to be able to use the field. They feel they are losing business due to flooding and are raising their concerns with the Environmental Agency. Karen is doing more research and will keep us updated.

Parish Conference 19th April at Great Dixter House, Northiam. Cllr Peters hopes to attend.

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

59/2024 Planning – Applications

RR/2024/254/L Lower Northlands Farm, Lower Northlands, Bodiam - Underpin the front porch of the main farmhouse, repair external cracking to the front elevation and porch and internal cracking to the porch, entrance hall and first floor en-suite bathroom. **Supported**

RR/2024/298/P 28 Levetts Lane, Bodiam, TN32 5UL - Proposed single storey7 infill extension and alterations. **Supported but with conditions of Dark Skies met.**

RR/2024/399/P 7 Northlands, Bodiam - Installation of air source heat pump within 1metre of the site boundary. **No Comment**

RR/2024/418/P 11 Levetts Lane, Bodiam, TN32 5UL - Proposed single storey rear extension, new dormers, front entrance, porch, and alterations. **Supported but with conditions of Dark Skies met.**

60/2024 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.**

61/2024 Enforcements

ENF/243/23/BOD Park Farm Oast, Park Farm Lane, Bodiam, TN32 5XA
Events Exceeding Ancillary Use - Waiting further info.

62/2024 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 is going to explore whether there is a mechanism for coordinating Local and National Highways. This was following road closure due to floods on the A21 and roadworks in Battle High Street recently. which would be the obvious diversion. This was unfortunately unavoidable on this occasion due to flooding.

Concerns about temporary pothole repairs was raised but Cllr Redstone explained this is necessary to enable lengthier permanent repairs, sometimes involving traffic lights and road closures, to be scheduled.

63/2024 Rother District Council Report

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from RDC. Full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. The PCSOs have nothing to report for Bodiam however there have been a spate of thefts of ornaments etc. from gardens in Northiam and Beckley.

64/2024 Parish Assembly planning

Invites to be sent out to local organisations asking them to provide residents with an update at the assembly. It was agreed that we could not use previous year's banners due to a change of location and date so it was agreed that Cllr Stevens would look into sourcing new banners. A flyer will be distributed round the village to ensure all residents are notified. Refreshments to be organized.

Action 1: Cllr Stevens to source new banners.

Action 2: Cllr Porter to print off fliers.

Action 3: Clerk to arrange distribution of fliers.

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

Action 4: Clerk to pull together a presentation of January's Survey results regarding the Village and Pavilion.

Action 5: Clerk to deliver invites and invite the RDC & ESCC to the Parish Assembly

65/2024 Bodiam Primary School PTA Funday

Two of Bodiam Primary School PTA members were shown the inside of the pavilion this week and they feel they can clean it up enough to make it useable for their Summer Funday. We were pleased to note that although it had flooded around the pavilion several times this year, it hasn't flooded inside.

Action 6: Clerk to arrange time with volunteers to clean the pavilion.

Action 7: MoP has volunteered to tidy up the scrub behind the pavilion.

66/2024 Fire Extinguisher Compliancy Check

Fire Extinguisher compliancy checks are due – engineer is attending this week to check and ensure the three extinguishers in the pavilion are in full working order. The floors in the pavilion have been swept of broken crockery to ensure safe access to the extinguishers.

ESCC Cllr Redstone joined the meeting.

67/2024 5 Year Electrical check

Three quotes were sought and anonymously put before the council. They all agreed to go with the cheapest, TwB Electrical.

Action 8: Clerk to contact successful contractor and arrange an appointment.

68/2024 Environment

There has been an incident of fly tipping near the church, but this has been cleared up. There is a concern that this may happen more often with garden rubbish with the prices of the brown garden bins increasing significantly this year.

The landfill on junction road is also becoming a concern.

Action 9: Cllr Peters to email details of the landfill to RDC Cllr Ganly to investigate.

Concerns were also raised about the ever-growing pile of manure in the field on the left on the way towards the Curlew. This is an eye sore and needs reporting.

Action 10: Clerk to raise the growing pile of manure with the Environmental Dept.

69/2024 Trees and Footpaths

The broken stile on Lower Northlands has been fixed.

Action 11: MoP has volunteered to contact the pub to cut back the tree growing against the pub fence.

70/2024 Crime & Disorder

A large 3-Axle Scaffolding lorry has been photographed cutting through Bodiam and using Bodiam bridge. This is overweight for the bridge and can cause significant damage. Attempts have been made to contact the director of the company but to no avail.

Action 12: Clerk to send details to East Sussex Highways copying in the company to ask them to investigate.

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

ESCC Cllr Redstone left the meeting.

71/2024 Receipts. Uncashed cheques & Payments

a) Receipts

29.2.24	Reserve Account	Nat West Interest	£3.37
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b) Uncashed Cheques – cheques are valid for 6 months. Bodiam CE Primary School was awarded £80 under S137 - Cheque 2065 – this was credited back into the Parish accounts books last month as it had not been cashed. Bodiam school contacted the Clerk this month to apologise for not cashing the cheque and requested a replacement. This was agreed and signed by the councillors and delivered to the school with the ask that it be cashed before the end of the financial year.

c) Payment of Cheques

Dated	Chq No.	Payee	Description	Amount
18.3.24	002102	L. Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary Feb/Mar	£373.56
18.3.24	002103	L. Willard	Bodiam Primary School replacement of out-of-date Chq 2065 – S137	£80.00

72/2024 HMRC Direct Debit set up.

Mandate signed and posted to HMRC for automatic payment of Clerk PAYE.

73/2024 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 Councilors for inspection before and at the meeting.

74/2024 Information for Councillors - Chair Cllr Stevens is not available for the April meeting. Vice Chair Cllr Porter to cover. Cllr Peters mentioned he may also not be available for this meeting. Quorate is 3.

75/2024 Date of next meetings

Monday 15 April 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.....