

**BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk:** Lynsey Willard 34 Levetts Lane,  
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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Monday 15 April 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: - (Vice chair) Tim Porter, Darren Page, Nick Gilbert. ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone, RDC Cllr Tony Biggs. RDC Cllr Tony Ganley  
**In attendance:** Clerk Lynsey Willard, one member of Public (MoP)

**76/2024 Apologies for Absence:** -. Councillors: (Chair) Linda Stevens & Graham Peters  
Quorate met with three councilors. ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone left at 6.45pm.

**77/2024 Disclosure of Interests**  
Cllr Porter declared an interest in Bodiam Pre School  
Cllr Page declared an interest in 7 Northlands due to access over family land.  
Cllr Gilbert declared an interest in Lower Northlands Farm.

**78/2024 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 has confirmed that ES Network Management do coordinate road closures with National Highways. Traffic Safety have said there is less justification than other projects, for them to put in a pavement along the front of Bodiam Primary School. He still hasn't heard anything back about the playground subsidence but points out it hasn't got worse in the last few years. Junction road was repaired last week from Sedlescombe to the two bridges. There are plans to resurface north of the bridges in the future. The landslide was cleared, and the potholes have been given a permanent repair.

**ESCC Cllr Redstone left the meeting to attend Robertsbridge Parish Assembly.**

**79/2024 Minutes of Meeting 18 March 2024**  
The minutes, which had previously been distributed were approved and signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record.

**80/2024 Matters arising**  
Action points from previous meeting cleared or in hand.  
No response has been received from the scaffolding company regarding their overweight vehicles using Bodiam Bridge.  
**Action 1:** Clerk to report scaffolding company to DVSA/police.  
Response received from the Environmental Agency regarding the growing pile of manure on the roadside between Bodiam and the Curlew. This is an eyesore as coaches come into the village.  
**Action 2:** Cllr Page to put words together about the history of the manure pile and gather photos for decision of next steps to be considered at May's meeting.

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

**81/2024**      **Public Questions –** No questions asked.

**82/2024**      **Councillors meetings with outside bodies** No meetings attended.

**83/2024**      **Planning – Applications**

**RR/2024/396/P New House Farm** - Land to north of Oast and Barn at, Bodiam Stationing of solar panels on land north of Oast and Bar. **No Comment**

**84/2024**      **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. Potential great crested newts on land delaying application.**

**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 story 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 story rear extension, new dormers, front entrance, porch, and alterations. **Supported but with conditions of Dark Skies met.**

**85/2024**      **Rother District Council Report**

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from RDC. Full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. Cllrs had an interesting meeting with K&ES Railway regarding progression of the extension through to Robertsbridge. The Turntable at Robertsbridge has been installed and the toilet block is complete. It has the potential to bring in an extra 20,000 tourists a year. No police report available.

**86/2024**      **Rother voluntary Action (RVA)**

Cllrs agreed for RVA to attend Parish meetings to promote the work of the group.  
**Action 3:** Clerk to arrange attendance of RVA at future Parish meeting.

**87/2024**      **Parish Assembly Planning**

There is a full agenda planned with potentially up to two hours of talks & discussion. No response received yet from Bodiam School for attending. Everyone else has accepted their invite. Suggestion to produce a reduced copy of the flyer delivered to residents in November, with the results of the survey for residents attending the Parish Assembly on the 2 May 2024.

**Action 4:** Clerk to prepare results flyer for Parish Assembly.

**Action 5:** Clerk to meet with Chair to confirm final order for speakers for Parish Assembly.

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

**88/2024 Pavilion – Maintenance**

Volunteers from Bodiam School PTA gave the Pavilion a clean up in readiness for the Sports day and Fun day. When the water was turned back on it was found there are minor leaks when flushing the end toilet and a perished pipe under a sink. It was agreed that while the future of the pavilion is up for discussion maintenance should be kept to an absolute minimum and this toilet will be labelled as out of order. This still leaves two other and the disabled facility available for use. 5-year Safety Electrical check is booked in for 2 May 2024.

**89/2024 Fees for hire of Pavilion and Recreation Ground**

The question was asked whether a fee should be set for the school/PTA for hire of the recreation ground and pavilion. To be added to agenda for 20 May 2024 for discussion and decision.

**90/2024 Fire Extinguisher Compliancy check & first aid kit**

The engineer carried out the yearly compliancy check on the 20 March 2024. Unfortunately, it was found the vandals who damaged the pavilion last summer also set off and damaged the extinguishers and removed the first aid kit. To comply with the fire regulations two of the extinguishers had to be replaced at a significant cost. Cllrs agreed the first aid kit also needs to be replaced. The new kit will be held by the clerk and placed in the Pavilion when in use.

**Action 6:** Clerk to order a suitable first Aid Kit

**91/2024 Renewal of contract for emptying dog waste bins.**

Cllrs agreed that contract would be renewed for the dog waste bin on the recreation ground.

**92/2024 Recreation ground mowing**

A MoP has raised a question about the wild area on the recreation ground. This has helped to reduce mowing costs and will improve with wild flora in time.

MoP raised the question about the goal posts within the wild area and whether these and the movable ones behind the pavilion should be removed. To be added to May 2024 agenda for discussion.

**93/2024 Trees and Footpaths**

Question raised about the width of footpath running down to the back of Bodiam Castle. It was agreed that it is getting too narrow and needs cutting back.

**Action 7:** Clerk to contact landowner of footpath running down the to the castle and ask them if they can cut the hedges back.

**95/2024 Crime & Disorder**

Nothing to report.

**96/2024 Receipts & Payments****a) Receipts**

28.3.24	Reserve Account	Nat West Interest	£3.25
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**b) Payment of Cheques**

1<sup>st</sup> signature of cheques done by Chair Cllr Stevens ahead of the meeting and second signature provided at the meeting.

<b>Dated</b>	<b>Chq No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
15.4.24	002104	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee	£40.00
15.4.24	002105	National Trust	Balance of Water Easement Account for previous years	£375.00
15.4.24	002106	Cllr Tim Porter	Reimbursement for Assembly banners	£44.30
15.4.24	002107	LW Safety Ltd T/A Direct Fire Protection	Fire Compliancy Check	£344.24
15.4.24	002108	Parker & Ashcombe Almshouse Trust	Hire of parish room for 2023/24	£12.00
15.4.24	002109	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary Mar/April	£373.56
15.4.24	002110	Rother District Council	Dog waste bin contract	£179.40
15.4.24	002111	Lynsey Willard	Admin Expenses	£48.45
15.4.24	002112	ESALC Limited	ESALC & NALC Fees	£106.86

**97/2024 Monthly Finance Reports & Bank reconciliation 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.

Accounts are currently with the internal auditor for the end of year check.

**98/2024 Information for Councillors**

For inclusion in next meeting's agenda: 1) Fees for hire of Pavilion and Recreation Ground. 2) Football goal posts on the recreation ground.

**99/2024 Date of next meetings**

**Thursday 2 May 2024**, Parish Assembly – Claremont 6<sup>th</sup> form building – 6.30pm

**Monday 20 May 2024**, The Parish Room at 6.30pm

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