

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 15 July 2024 at 7.30p.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, RDC Cllr Tony Ganley RDC Cllr Tony Biggs.

In attendance: Clerk: Lynsey Willard, ten Members of Public (MoP)

149/2024 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Parker& Ashcombe Trust.

150/2024 Minutes of Meeting 17 June 2024

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

151/2024 Matters arising

Action points from previous meeting cleared or on this agenda:

The broken goal post was dismantled and stacked behind the pavilion and will be removed this week.

No further CIL is expected this year for Bodiam, but we currently have £6101.17.

152/2024 Public Questions – Concerns were raised about speeding traffic on Levetts Lane, this includes delivery drivers, some residents and visitors. Full notes captured at **160/2024**

153/2024 Councillors meetings with outside bodies No meetings attended.

154/2024 Planning

Application: RR/2024/970/P

Location: Castle inn, Main Road, Bodiam

Proposal: Formation of new door opening and construction of external fire escape staircase to the East elevation. **Comment made: Some confusion where the staircase would be. If on the roadside it would be an eye sore but ok if they are going down into the rear carpark.**

Application: RR/2024/1072/P

Location: Rose Cottage, Castle Hill, Bodiam

Proposal: Proposed extension and improvements **Supported but with conditions of Dark Skies met.**

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155/2024 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.

156/2024 Rother District Council Report

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

157/2024 Recreation Ground

Cllr Peters spoke to John Lovering about the recreation ground holes and it is felt that we have discovered an old Guinness drainage system which drains down to the river and sluice gates. The Environmental Agency (EA) have strict rules on when they open the sluice gate. It was agreed that the next step is to meet with the EA about opening the gate. If they won't then there MAY BE no point mending the drainage system. It is still a big question whether this would ever make the field usable.

Action 1: National Trust are currently in discussions with the EA about the Castle car park flooding – Cllr Stevens to contact Karen Stafford, Bodiam Castle General Manager about bringing the recreation ground flooding into these discussions.

Clerk raised a concern about backfilling the holes before the field floods again in the autumn. It was agreed that we would try and get the EA to visit first and then would agree next actions at September's meeting.

158/2024 Pavilion

It was explained that while there is a possibility of the recreation ground becoming usable again, the pavilion should be maintained and kept weatherproof.

Cllrs Peters & Porter viewed the pavilion and feels it needs about £2000 - £3000 to basically weatherproof it for this winter but as we can consider using CIL it was agreed that quotes should be sought to weatherproof it properly.

Action 2: Quotes to be sought to weatherproof the pavilion.

159/2024 Environment – Water Leak on Main Road, Bodiam

The leak near the war memorial was investigated by Southern Water on the 4 June. The problem was not with the water main, but they found a land drain bringing water from further up the hill. It may be an old village well or spring. The resident of Rose cottage wants it fixed as it is flooding round the back of their house. There is a question over whose responsibility it is.

A works order has been raised with East Sussex Highways about the drains along this stretch being blocked and the leak was re-reported to Southern Water. The resident has identified another drain in the hedgerow and is going to attempt to clear this. ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone checked ESCC records and could find no record of a drain here. Resident has been advised to report via ESCC Report A Problem.

160/2024 Speed Limits on Levetts Lane

Concerns were raised about speeding traffic on Levetts Lane, this includes delivery drivers, some residents and visitors. There have been incidents where the police have been involved. A petition of 44 names of Levetts Lane residents requesting

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traffic calming was presented to the parish council. ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone discussed option, the first step is to have a speed survey completed. Cllr Redstone agreed to raise at county level for a survey and will establish costs. Concerns were raised about the costs of traffic calming as there is a community match fund where the Parish would need to match the county funding. This may be difficult as we are a small parish. RDC Cllr Tony Biggs said he would source details of grants provided by Balfour Beattie for traffic problems.

Action 3: Clerk to email details of concerns raised to ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone and Southern Housing.

161/2024 Trees

The trees opposite the pub need crown lifting and ESCC have reported back that the trees around the green are not their responsibility so will be down to the Parish. A local tree surgeon was sought and offered as it is for his local council to complete the job for £350 rather than the normal £950 day rate. Cllrs agreed that this was a very good rate, and we should proceed with this tree surgeon on the condition he is fully insured.

Action 4: Clerk to check if tree surgeon is insured and if yes arrange with him to crown lift the trees on the side of the village green.

162/2024 Footpaths

The footpath from the village green up the hill is becoming overgrown again. The hedge down the bottom has been cutback so this part is ok. Also, the footpath running from the back of the castle up to Sternberg's is becoming overgrown again.

Action 5: Clerk to contact landowners to ask them to cutback vegetation on the footpaths.

The hedge on the corner of School house needs cutting back, ideally before the children return to school in September as it is blocking views when crossing between the Primary and Pre School. Unable to contact the landowner currently.

Action 6: Clerk to use ESCC Report a Problem to report the overgrown hedge on the roadside by the School House.

163/2024 Crime & Disorder

Police have been called out to incidents on Levetts Lane and a silver X Trail was reported as being driven recklessly and then abandoned between Bodiam and Sandhurst. Incidents of speeding and reckless driving can be reported, with the number plate to [Operation Crackdown](#)

164/2024 Internal Auditor

Options were considered for a new auditor; it was agreed Keith Robertson would be a good choice for Bodiam Parish Council.

Action 7: Clerk to contact Keith Robertson to confirm he is happy to take on Bodiam Parish Council as their auditor

165/2024 Online banking and savings accounts for consideration

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Unity and Lloyds were considered. Unity charges a £6 month fee; it was decided this was not ideal for our small parish. Agreement was made to move the accounts to Lloyds bank who are fee free.

Action 8: Cllr Stevens & Clerk to investigate the process of moving the accounts to Lloyds and look into their savings accounts.

166/2024 Receipts & Payments

a) Receipts

28.6.24	Reserve Account	Nat West Interest	£3.27
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Payment of Cheques

Dated	Chq No.	Payee	Description	Amount
15.7.24	002129	Zurich	Insurance Renewal	£810.42
15.7.24	002130	Lynsey Willard	Admin Expenses – printer cartridges	£24.14
15.7.24	002131	Rother Association of Local Councils	RALC Membership subscription 2024-25	£26.00
15.7.24	002132	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary June/July	£373.36

167/2024 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 Cllr Page. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before and at the meeting.

168/2024 Date of next meetings

Monday 16 September 2024, The Parish Room at 6.30pm

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