

**BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk:** Lynsey Willard 34 Levetts Lane,  
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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Monday 21 October 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, Darren Page, Nick Gilbert.

**In attendance:** ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone, RDC Cllr Tony Ganley RDC Cllr Tony Biggs  
Clerk: Lynsey Willard, 1 Members of Public (MoP)

**197/2024 Apologies** Cllr Graham Peters (Personal)

**198/2024 Disclosure of Interests**

No disclosures made.

**199/2024 Minutes of Meeting 16 September 2024**

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

**200/2024 Matters arising**

Action points from previous meeting cleared or on this agenda.

**201/2024 Public Questions –** MOP confirmed it is ok to backfill the holes on the Recreation ground as soon as the weather conditions permit.

**202/2024 Councillors meetings with outside bodies:** Annual Parish Conference is at Brede Village Hall, 2pm Monday 11 November 2024.

SE Water are holding a Water Resilience meeting, 10am Friday 6 December, Cllr Redstone will be attending and will be passing on the details of the work he did with the Operations Director. Cllr Stevens & Porter will attend if available.

**203/2024 Planning – Applications awaiting a decision**

**Application:** RR/2024/1191/P

**Location:** Bodiam Business Park - land at, Green Lane, Bodiam TN32 5UP

**Proposal:** Recladding of existing building and construction of 2 no. three unit steel framed commercial buildings to house offices/workshops. **Comments made previously:** Concerns raised about extra traffic pulling out onto a fast stretch of Junction Road and the dark sky policy

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

**204/2024 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. ESCC are facing a serious financial challenge next year. Consultation has begun on closing some non-statutory services which may affect District and Borough Councils further down the line. The government may consider lifting or raising the cap on council tax.

Question raised on behalf of a parishioner regarding the Newenden Bridge closure and how this will create extra traffic using Bodiam Bridge. East Sussex are in dialogue with Kent council. Diversion routes must be suitable for HGVs. Cllr Redstone to enquire about "not suitable for HGV" signage.

Some of the drains have been causing a problem with the excessive rain lately. Advised to monitor and report any problems on the East Sussex Highways site and copy Cllr Redstone into any case numbers for follow up.

**205/2024 Rother District Council Report**

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from RDC. Full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. Grants were discussed, Harris Reed advise about possible grants. Cllr Biggs to share list of available grants. Community grants are on the Rother website.

**206/2024 Remembrance Sunday**

Wreath bought from RBL on behalf of the Parish. Cllr Stevens to attend the service on the 10 November 2024 at the village War Memorial.

**207/2024 Weather Proofing of the Pavilion**

The original quote from HUFJFC's volunteer to fix the pavilion doors was for about £800 however they were able to replace the doors and complete the weatherproofing for £835 in total. Once we find out if the new boards can be painted a working party will be arranged.

**208/2024 Grounds Maintenance Agreement 2025/26**

Requests have gone out to recommended local contractors requesting quotes for completing the grass cutting of the recreation ground, village green and war memorial from April 2025, by 4 November. All quotes received will be reviewed and a decision made at November's meeting.

**209/2024 Recreation ground entrance**

Cllr Gilbert met with a drainage contractor to discuss possible options for the recreation ground. It would not help putting in a pipe or aqua drain. The only option would be to encourage water to carry on down the hill, but it would be very expensive.  
**Action 1:** Cllrs Gilbert, Porter and Page to investigate the drains down the village to try and identify the problem and where the water goes. This can then be raised on Report a Problem, East Sussex Highways.

**210/2024 Hawkhurst United Junior Football Club**

Due to the excessively wet weather since the end of September, the football club moved to their winter pitches early from the 22 September. The invoice up until the 13 September has been paid and it was agreed that no invoice should be raised for this period from 14-22 September, this will extend their free period from 14 September 2024 – 24 April 2025. It will be reviewed in the spring with HUJFC.

**211/2024 Urban Grass Cutting Options 2025/2026**

Two cuts are done by ESCC at no cost to the Parish Council. The Council agreed that we should opt for option 2 of four extra cuts for £145.65 for the year. This is budgeted for under Village Green and Open Spaces.

**Action 2:** Clerk to inform East Sussex County Council of the decision to pay for 4 extra cuts on the Urban Grass Cutting contract for 2025/26

**212/2024 Trees and footpaths**

No problems reported for footpaths. The tree with ash die-back by 40 Levetts Lane has been reported to ESCC tree expert. He has arranged for a contractor to cut down this tree and cut back the overhanging oak. When next in Bodiam he will inspect the trees on the village green to see if any work is needed on them.

**213/2024 Parking on yellow lines outside Bodiam Primary School**

It has been reported that a car parks on the yellow zigzags outside the primary school for extended period most school days.

**Action 3:** Clerk to email Bodiam Primary School and PCSO about the car parking on the yellow zigzags outside the school each day.

**214/2024 Annual Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL Reporting)**

**Action 4:** Clerk to liaise with Cllr Peters about wording for the Annual Cil return for 2023/24

**215/2024 CIL Usage for the Pavilion**

Councillors agreed that the replacement of the Pavilion doors and the weatherproofing of the south facing wall on the pavilion should be claimed from CIL 2024/25 as it has made the pavilion usable by sports clubs and local groups.

**216/2024 Purchase of a Parish Clerk Laptop**

It was agreed that the old laptop, owned by the Parish, is not fit for purpose and that the £482 saved on Insurance and the Audit could be put towards a new Laptop for the Parish Council to be used by the clerk/RFO. Cllr Gilbert said that there should be a £500 expenditure limit on a new Parish-owned PC. However, it was agreed that circa £600 including VAT could be used to purchase a laptop when a deal is found to ensure that it is suitable for several years.

**Action 5:** Clerk to identify a good deal and will purchase a laptop on behalf of the Parish Council and claim back the funds by cheque.

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

**217/2024 Lloyds Online banking and savings accounts - Still in progress**

**218/2024 Receipts & Payments**

**a) Receipts**

30.9.24	Reserve Account	Nat West Interest	£3.63
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**b) Payment of Cheques**

Dated	Chq No.	Payee	Description	Amount
21.10.24	2138	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary September 24	£466.65
21.10.24	2139	TWD Carpentry & Construction	Replacement of Pavilion double doors & Weatherproofing south facing wall	£835.00
21.10.24	2140	National Trust	2024/25 Water Easement	£150.00
21.10.24	2141	Lynsey Willard	RBL Remembrance Wreath	£19.99

**219/2024 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 Chair Cllr Stevens. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before and at the meeting.

£350 for the crown lifting of the trees has been moved from Village Green and Open Spaces to General Maintenance on Accounts.

**Action 6:** Clerk to add date to monthly financial report so it is clear what period is covered.

**220/2024 Date of next meetings - Monday 18 November 2024, The Parish Room at 6.30pm**  
December's meeting will be earlier in the month than usual on the 9 December 2024

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