

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 18 November 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.

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

221/2024 Apologies RDC Cllr Tony Ganley

222/2024 Disclosure of Interests

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

223/2024 Minutes of Meeting 21 October 2024

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

224/2024 Matters arising

Action points from previous meeting cleared or on this agenda.

225/2024 Public Questions – None asked

226/2024 Councillors meetings with outside bodies: No meetings attended.

SE Water are holding a Water Resilience meeting, 10am Friday 6 December, Cllr Stevens plans to attend.

227/2024 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

228/2024 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 making good progress in cutting costs but are still short by £15 million and are dependent on the Government settlement in December. 160 staff redundancies have been made.

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

Waste recycling is currently up for consultation and a booking scheme is being considered for the recycling centers in East Sussex. You can give feedback at <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk>.

229/2024 Rother District Council Report

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from RDC. Full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. Lots of vans have been broken into recently and quad bikes have been stolen. Rother are consulting on implementing charges for the free car parks in Rother.

230/2024 Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings

This was discussed and due to a differing opinion among councillors it was agreed that they would complete the survey as individuals. Survey details shared.

231/2024 Weather Proofing of the Pavilion

The boards at the end of the pavilion have now been painted.

Action 1: Cllr Page to drain the water down on the pavilion before winter.

232/2024 Grounds Maintenance Agreement 2025/2026 - Parish Council Decision made.

Requests were sent out to recommended local contractors requesting quotes for completing the grass cutting of the recreation ground, village green and war memorial from April 2025. Four quotes were compared and a new contractor identified.

Action 2: Clerk to write to successful ground maintenance contractor to confirm acceptance of contract from 1 April 2025.

233/2024 Increase in Water Easement with the RPI Index

National Trust have increased the fee for water easement in line with the RPI Index from 2024. The annual rent was £125, now increasing to £172.03 p.a. until 2027. They will not be backdating this increase. Invoice received for the extra amount from May 2024 to 2025.

234/2024 Long term solution for holes on Recreation Ground

The sink holes on the recreation ground have been filled in but they are likely to recur. To warn residents and visitors of the danger but still enable them to use the recreation ground it was agreed that four signs warning of uneven ground and sink holes should be purchased and put up around the recreation ground. A further sign will be purchased for the main gate. Quotes were received from local signage companies and the councillors made the decision to purchase the signs through Iden Signs. It was agreed that the monies reserved from CIL should be used.

Action 3: Clerk to order the new warning signs for the recreation ground from Iden Signs.

235/2024 Environment – Drainage below the War Memorial

Cllr Gilbert and Porter did some exploration work on the drains below the war memorial to prevent the water running down into the village and onto the recreation grounds. They used Tarmac cold lay to divert the running water into the cleared drain.

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Action 4: Cllr Gilbert to arrange a meeting with ESCC Cllr Redstone to discuss future possibilities with the drainage.

236/2024 Trees and footpaths

The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is considered a serious pest on spruce in Europe and has recently been found locally so landowners within 1km with known spruce trees have been contacted to remove these trees. This includes Bodiam woods and 100 Acre Woods.

237/2024 National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay agreement from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

For noting, Clerk/RFO salary increase of 2.5% awarded and back dated to 1 April 2024.

238/2024 Nat West Online banking and savings accounts have been set up.

The Parish accounts are already held with Nat West and following the announcement that Lloyds would start to charge Parish accounts it was agreed that the online facility should be set up on the accounts that we already hold. Cllr Stevens is setting up the rules for signing with the bank to enable the Clerk/RFO to set payments up online for Cllrs approval.

239/2024 Receipts & Payments

a) Receipts

31.10.24	Reserve Account	Nat West Interest	£3.51
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b) Payment of Cheques

Dated	Chq No.	Payee	Description	Amount
24.10.24	DD	HMRC PAYE	Clerk/RFO PAYE Months 4,5 & 6	£303.40
18.11.24	2142	Commercial Services Trading Ltd	Q1 Recreation Ground, Village Green, War Memorial grass cutting	£1103.26
18.11.24	2143	Lynsey Willard	Reimbursement for purchase of Parish Clerk Laptop £599 (£499.17 excl. VAT) + £19.99 for McAfee Internet Security – Inc VAT	£618.99
18.11.24	2144	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO November salary plus back pay to 1/4/24	£482.98
18.11.24	2145	Tom Drake	Replacement of Chq 2135 – Pavilion doors and weatherproofing	£835.00
18.11.24	2146	National Trust	Increase of Water easement in 2024 rent review	£56.44
18.11.24	2147	Cllr Peters	Reimbursement for pavilion paint	£48.21
18.11.24	2148	Cllr Gilbert	Reimbursement for Tarmac Cold Lay	£22.56

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240/2024 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 Page. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before and at the meeting.

241/2024 Date of next meetings - Monday 9 December 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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