

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 9 December 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 Ganley, Clerk: Lynsey Willard.

242/2024 Apologies RDC Cllr Tony Biggs

243/2024 Disclosure of Interests

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

244/2024 Minutes of Meeting 18 November 2024

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

245/2024 Matters arising

Action points from the previous meeting cleared or on this agenda.
Cllr Gilbert met with Cllr Redstone and had a look at the drainage problems in the village together. A work order has been raised for clearing the drain by the green. Cllr Gilbert stated that consideration should be given to improving the drain higher up the lane, the drain into which some of the water flow has temporarily been diverted. It was suggested that a video be taken when the water is in full flow.

246/2024 Public Questions – None asked

247/2024 Councillors' meetings with outside bodies: No meetings attended.

248/2024 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

249/2024 East Sussex County Council report

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

Councillors have received the previously circulated report from ESCC, and the full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. Next year's budget is becoming clearer and there is potential for a 5% rise in the council tax.

Cllr Redstone met with the Chairs of Newenden and Northiam Parish Councils to raise the concerns regarding Newenden bridge closure. There are a range of issues including specifically the diversion of HGVs along unsuitable routes. It has been asked for Unsuitable for HGV signs to be placed on roads that are unsuitable for HGVs and enforcement cameras be put in place, particularly to protect Bodiam Bridge. Newenden bridge will be closed for 3-5 months from March 2025. It was requested that signs be put out on the A21 warning of the closure. Routes for Kent and East Sussex fire brigade and the buses are all being explored.

Northiam Road closure - The delay in making the permanent repair to the water main is due to the lack of availability of tankers to keep water supplies running while the repair is done. It was going to be done this evening (Monday 9th) but Storm Darragh has resulted in these being diverted. Still ongoing.

250/2024 Rother District Council Report

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from RDC. The full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. The project to house refugees in Bexhill has been abandoned. Carpark charges are being consulted on for the car park next to Northiam Surgery.

251/2024 Removal of above-ground gas tank at Blacksmiths Field

The tank was placed above ground outside 1 Blacksmith's Field without planning permission over 3 years ago. Planning was then approved for the tank to be placed underground 25 November 2021 and it stated: 'The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.' This time has now expired, and the tank has still not been placed underground. Concerns to be raised with the Enforcement Team for safety as well as aesthetic reasons and permission was never granted for the above ground tank.

Action 1: Clerk to contact Rother Enforcement Team for the above ground gas tank to be raised for enforcement action.

252/2024 Grounds Maintenance Agreement 2025/2026 accepted

Orchard Landscapes based in Burwash has accepted the contract for Bodiam Ground Maintenance from 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026. All Documentation has been provided.

253/2024 Recreation Ground Signage

The warning signs have been collected and the one on the gate has been put up. The rest will need to wait until the weather permits.

Action 2: Clerk to organize for signs to be put up on the recreation ground ASAP.

254/2024 Environment

There is an ongoing problem with water running down from Northlands and Burgess' yard. Cllr Redstone has reported the problem drain at the front of the Primary School

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

and will explore with Highways what action can be taken where people continue to park on the zigzag lines outside the school during prohibited times. It was also questioned if these times should be extended beyond 4pm to cover the children staying behind for after-school activities.

255/2024 Ash die back in Levetts Lane Woods

The Ash trees in Levetts Lane Wood are suffering with Ash Die Back and have dropped branches close or onto the footpath. This problem has been reported to Rother District Council and they have arranged for an ARB Consultant to carry out an assessment of the woodland. Meanwhile the forest school has been instructed by Rother District Council not to use the woodland until further notice.

256/2024 Crime and Disorder

Nothing has been reported for Bodiam but there have been incidents of theft in surrounding villages.

257/2024 Bodiam Website and Domain Renewal

The website was down for a short period this month. This was reported to Rother District Council I.T. Department as they own the site and updates were carried out. The site is now back up and running and the domain name: bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk has been secured for another 2 years.

258/2024 Nat West Online banking and savings accounts are being set up.

This is still in progress and no documentation has been received yet to enable online usage.

Action 3: Cllr Stevens to monitor the progress of the set-up of online banking.

259/2024 Receipts & Payments

a) Receipts

29.11.24	Reserve Account	Nat West Interest	£3.17
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b) Payment of Cheques

Dated	Chq No.	Payee	Description	Amount
9.12.24	2149	Iden Signs	Recreation ground signage	£460.80
9.12.24	2150	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO December salary	£387.32
9.12.24	2151	Lynsey Willard	Reimbursement for purchase of 2 years domain renewal for bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk	£31.18

260/2024 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.

261/2024 Dates of next meetings

The Budget Meeting has been moved to **Monday 13 January 2025**

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

January's Parish Council meeting will be **Monday 20th January 2025**
February's Parish Council meeting has been moved to **Monday 24 February 2025**
All will be at The Parish Room at 6.30pm.

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