

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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 TN32 5UL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday.
 13 January 2025 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:** Clerk Lynsey Willard.

1/2025 Apologies for Absence: - none**2/2025 Disclosure of Interests**

Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Parker& Ashcombe Trust, also a personal interest as the Church Warden, a personal interest as a Trustee of the Rural Rother Trust and patron of Bodiam Pre School.

Cllr Linda Stevens declared a personal interest in Bodiam Pre School and as a trustee of St Michaels Hospice.

Cllr Porter declared a personal interest as his wife runs Bodiam Pre School

3/2025 Minutes of Meeting 9th December 2024

The minutes, which had previously been distributed were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. No matters arising.

4/2025 Annual Reviews

- (a) **Risk Assessment** The risk assessment on all assets and activities was reviewed and updated. Up to date copy of the Fire risk assessment agreed by Cllr D Page.
- (b) **Asset Register** updated to reflect the insurance values increased by the insurance company annually.
- (c) **Income and Charges for Recreation Ground Bookings:** No bookings currently made. All ad hoc charges for bookings to be considered by the Council when required.
- (d) **Employee Contract:** No changes made. New National Insurance employer contribution rates from April are included in the budget.
- (e) **Contracts:** New maintenance contractor starting 1 April 2025. New auditor for this year's accounts.

5/2025 80th Anniversary of VE day – Agreed for the budget that any arrangements cost would be kept to an absolute minimum. A small amount added to budget to cover any expenses.

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

6/2025 Review of schedule of work for 2024/2025

Money was budgeted this year for posts around the green and for the gate to the recreation ground to be fixed and the gap beside it filled. Quote accepted from local contractor to replace the 20 posts down the public roadside of the green and fix the gate and the gap before the end of this financial year. The posts around the private side of the green to remain in place.

7/2025 Schedule of works for 2025/2026

No specific works identified, so a budget agreed for village maintenance as it arises.

8/2025 To set the Budget and Precept for 2025/26

The Council resolved to make recommendations to be presented to the meeting on 20 January 2025.

Item	£ Budgeted	Power
RFO/Clerk	£6,870	S151, 112(1)
Hire of Halls	£12	S111
General Admin/Subs	£197	S111
Admin	£270	S111
Insurance	£724	S111,143,114
Audit	£270	S21(6)
Footpaths & Verges	£196	S130
Village General Repairs & Grit bin refill	£1500	
Village Green & Open Spaces	£576	LGA 1894 1894 S8
War Memorial	£145	S133
Recreation Ground Mowing	£2125	S44
Pavilion Maintenance	£500	S44
Pavilion Utilities	£900	
Churchyard S214	£240	S214
Section 137 donations	£595	S137
VE Day - Fete & Events LGA	£50	S145
Future Elections costs	£500	
Total	£15670	

Section 137

It was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act of 1972 should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of, or will directly benefit, the area or its inhabitants, or part of it, or some of it in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

Councillors re-declared all interests as above and were not involved in discussions when donations were discussed.

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

It was recommended that the following payments be made: -

Beneficiary	£
Rural Rother Trust	85
Hawkhurst League of Friends	80
St Michael's Hospice	170
Bodiam Pre School	120
Sara Lee Trust	80
CPRE	60
TOTAL	£595

An allocation of £595 in the budget was recommended.

Income

The Council acknowledged that the Pavilion and recreation ground are not guaranteed any income for the foreseeable.

Balance: £15670

Precept

The Council recommended setting a Precept of £15670, an increase of 3%. This equates to £0.04 per week for a Band D dwelling. All factors of rising cost and lack of income, alongside general maintenance to keep the village tidy, were considered and it was recognised that the small increase to the precept is necessary this year. The Precept is to be set at the next Council Meeting on the 20 January 2025.

9/2025 Councillors Travel and Subsistence Allowances

The mileage allowance remains at 45p per mile. Subsistence allowance for meals would be in line with NJC recommendations.

There have been no claims made by the Councillors during the year, however the right to do so is retained.

10/2025 Information for Councillors -draft agenda agreed for the 20 January 2025

11/2025 Date of next meetings

January 20, 2025, at 6.30pm in the Parish Rooms. There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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