

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 20 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: ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone, RDC Cllr Tony Ganly & Tony Biggs, Clerk: Lynsey Willard.

12/2025 Disclosure of Interests

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

13/2025 Minutes of the Budget Meeting 13 January 2025

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

14/2025 Matters arising

Action points from the previous meeting cleared or on this agenda.

Cllr Ganly provided an update on enforcement action underway for the gas tank at 1 Blacksmiths.

15/2025 Public Questions – None asked

16/2025 Councillors' meetings with outside bodies: No meetings attended.

17/2025 Planning

Application: RR/2024/1191/P has been Approved

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**

17/2025 East Sussex County Council report

Councillors have received the previously circulated report from ESCC, and the full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. A tough budget has been approved at County level for £40 million to be used from reserves to balance next year's budget. Cllr Redstone provided an overview of the Devolution process for Sussex.

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

18/2025 Rother District Council Report

Councillors had received the previously circulated report from RDC. The full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. Next year's budget is drawing on depleting reserves for Rother. No issues reported for Bodiam by the PCSOs.

19/2025 Newenden Bridge Closure

An email composed by Bodiam councillors has been forwarded to Kent & Sussex Highways highlighting the concerns about increased traffic through Bodiam when the bridge closes for repairs. No date has been set yet, but a request has been put in for signs on the A21 and possible cameras to capture any 18t plus lorries using Bodiam Bridge.

20/2025 Meeting Dates for April 2025 onwards

Dates to be confirmed at next meeting

Action 1: Councillors to compare list of suggested dates with their diaries and confirm availability via email to Clerk ASAP.

21/2025 Parish Assembly Planning

Provisional date of Wednesday 14 May at 6.30pm set for this year's parish assembly. Date subject to being able to secure a venue for this date.

Action 2: Clerk to contact Bodiam Primary school to see if they can host the Parish Assembly

Action 3: Clerk to investigate the possibility and cost of a banner which can be altered each year.

22/2025 80th Anniversary of VE Day – 8 May 2025

Discussion about what could be done to commemorate VE Day 80th Anniversary.

Action 4: Clerk to contact Staplecross and Ewhurst about their plans for VE Day.

Action 5: Cllr Porter to contact Gill Parkes to see if she is aware of any VE day plans.

23/2025 Recreation ground & Pavilion

Councillors agreed that assuming the Pavilion is ok, Bodiam Primary School PTA can use it and the Recreation Ground on the 5 July 2025 for their annual funday. Councillors agreed to meet to clear up the debris on the recreation ground from the last flood.

24/2025 Village Maintenance Projects

The materials have been ordered from Tates to replace the posts along the left-hand side of the village green and repair the recreation ground gate and fill the gap.

25/2025 Environment

Concerns were raised that a lot of rubbish is getting dumped behind the Levetts Lane bus stop and the layby just down the road from there.

26/2025 Trees and Footpaths

ESCC have opened a consultation about rights of way. Cllr Redstone to share the link with Councillors.

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

27/2025 Finance online banking

Due to difficulties with converting the Nat West Account online it was agreed that we would investigate Unity Bank again.

Action 6: Clerk to explore options with Unity Bank.

28/2025 Agreement of the budget and Precept for 2025/2026

The budget that was discussed on the 13 January 2025 was agreed for 25/26. This sees a precept of £15,670 being requested which is a 2.09% increase on last year. This equates to £1.87 a year for a Band D property. This increase is to meet the rising costs of ground maintenance and utilities.

29/2025 Receipts & Payments**a) Receipts**

31/12/2024	Reserve Account	Nat West Interest	£3.50
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b) Payment of Cheques

Dated	Chq No.	Payee	Description	Amount
20.1.25	2152	Lynsey Willard	Reimbursement of payments made to Castle Water	£14.84
20.1.25	2153	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO January Salary	£484.15

30/2025 Castle Water Direct Debit

Direct Debit form was signed by two of the councillors for future monthly payments.

31/2025 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 Porter. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before the meeting.

32/2025 Date of next meetings - Monday 24 February 2025, The Parish Room at 6.30pm

February's meeting will be a week later than originally published at the beginning of the financial year due to availability.