

# BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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34 Levetts Lane,

Bodiam,

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## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16 June 2025 at 6.30p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room Garden**

**Please note these are draft minutes until formally approved at the next Parish Council Meeting.**

**Present: For Bodiam Parish Council:** Councillors: - (Vice chair) Tim Porter, Graham Peters, Darren Page, Nick Gilbert

**In attendance:** ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone & RDC Cllrs Tony Ganly & Tony Biggs

Clerk: Lynsey Willard, 4 members of the public (MoP).

### **141/2025 Apologies/Non-Attendance**

(Chair) Cllr Linda Stevens (Personal) – Chair for the purpose of this meeting was Tim Porter

### **142/2025 Due to no key holders available for the meeting it was agreed that the**

**meeting should go ahead in the Parish Rooms front garden.** Cllr Peters has given authority on behalf of Parker & Ashcombe for four sets of keys and a key box to be bought to avoid this scenario happening again. New keys are for the Clerk, Cllr Peters and Porter and a spare set for the key box.

**Action 1:** Clerk to arrange 4 sets of keys to be cut for the Parish rooms and the purchase of a key box.

### **143/2025 Disclosure of Interests**

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

### **144/2025 Minutes of the Parish council Meeting 19 May 2025**

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

### **145/2025 Matters arising**

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

### **146/2025 Public Questions – Member of the public raised concerns about the planning application for Newhouse farm. – see point 148/2025**

### **147/2025 Councillors' meetings with outside bodies:** No outside meetings were attended since the previous meeting.

### **148/2025 Planning**

**Awaiting a decision:**

**RR/2025/907/P - 23 Levetts Lane, Bodiam** Proposed construction of additional rear dormer.

**Comments submitted regarding dark skies.**

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

**Awaiting a decision:****RR/2024/1573/P New House Farm, New House Lane, Bodiam**

**Was:** Change of use from agriculture to vineyard tasting room, wine production, storage and ancillary cafe with associated works and mixed use of three mobile homes for agricultural workers and holiday lets.

**Now:** Change of use of agricultural buildings to storage and a shop unit selling wine produced from the site with associated works. Mixed use of three mobile homes for agricultural workers and holiday lets

**Four residents voiced their concerns about this planning application. All comments have been submitted by Bodiam Parish Council on the planning site and due to residents' concerns, the councillors have not supported this application.**

**149/2025 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. Cllr Redstone raised about the weight limit on the bridge. This is the actual weight of the vehicle, not the revenue weight. In Kent, they have cameras for fixed penalty fines for overweight vehicles on restricted roads. These could be considered when Newenden Bridge is closed. Cllr Redstone will establish contact with the new Kent County Council.

**150/2025 Rother District Council Report**

No crime was reported in Bodiam however there were incidents in the Robertsbridge area. Cllr Biggs will share the PCSO report for Robertsbridge. It was reiterated that if people are aware of crime being committed, they need to report it to the police. Cllr Biggs will speak to the local PCSO about being in the village for Bodiam Fun Day run by the school PTA.

**151/2025 Views on plans for Local Government Reorganisation in East Sussex**

Email shared with councillors so they can complete the survey.

**152/2025 Enforcement RR/2021/328/P - Removal of above-ground gas tank at Blacksmiths Field**

The enforcement action has been signed and will be submitted this week.

**153/2025 Recreation ground & Pavilion**

The grounds are well kept currently and a list of dates of events has been provided to the ground maintenance team. They had to replace the padlock on the gate this month as the old one had been destroyed. They will invoice us for this padlock. Permission has been given for the bottom gate to be opened for the PTA Fun day on the 5th of July.

**154/2025 Bodiam Primary School Sports Day**

Bodiam Primary school have booked their sports day for the 26 June with the 27<sup>th</sup> on standby.

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

**155/2025 Hawkhurst United Junior Football Club**

The club has paid the rent for this season ending on the 19 June 2025. They have asked if they can return early on the 22 July for the next season. This was welcomed.

**156/2025 Environment & village Maintenance**

A resident reported to the Clerk via email that the playpark on Levetts Lane, owned by Rother had become overgrown. This was reported on the Rother Council website and in turn to the Rother councillors who chased up action. The park was cleared the following day and an email was received to say it would be done again in three weeks' time. Thank you received from the resident for the quick action.

**157/2025 Benches on village green**

The circular bench on the green has been damaged and the millennium memorial bench is rotten. Cllr Biggs pointed out that CIL could be used to purchase new benches. Currently £4882 in the CIL fund so it was agreed quotes would be sought for new benches.

**Action 2:** Clerk to seek quotes to replace the benches on the village green.

**158/2025 Trees and Footpaths**

The hedge on the property opposite the preschool has been cut back to enable drivers and pedestrians crossing to see around the bend. A resident reported to the clerk via email that the path down from Sternberg's to the Castle was becoming overgrown with nettles and brambles. This was reported to Sternberg's Admin Team who reported back that their grounds man would cut it back this week.

**159/2025 Crime and Disorder**

Nothing was reported in the Bodiam area.

**160/2025 Finance - Nat West Reserve Account**

Funds in the Nat West Reserve Account have been successfully transferred to the Nat West current account ready to be moved over to the Unity Bank. This month's interest remains in the account as paid after the transfer.

**161/2025 Unity Savings Accounts**

The savings account application has been filled out and signed by two of the three councillors. Once opened a £10,000 transfer has been requested from the Unity current account. The savings account will be used to maximise interest earned.

**Action 3:** Clerk to arrange third signature of the Savings application form with Cllr Stevens.

**162/2025 Receipts & Payments****a) Receipts**

22.5.25	Unity Account	Hawkhurst United Junior Football club	£225
30.5.25	Nat West Current Account	Balance transferred from Nat West Reserve Account	£2973.25
31.5.25	Reserve Account	Interest received	£2.69

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

5.6.25	Unity Account	Hawkhurst United Junior Football club	£300
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**b) Payments**

<b>Dated</b>	<b>Method.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
30.5.25	Transfer	Bodiam Parish Council	Transfer from Nat West Savings Account to Nat West current A/c	£2973.25
16.6.25	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO June Salary	£387.32
16.6.25	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk expenses – postage stamps	£6.96
16.6.25	Unity Online	East Sussex County Council	Urban grass cutting – 4 extra cuts	£174.78
16.6.25	Unity Online	Zurich Insurance	Insurance Annual Renewal	£835.84
18.6.25	DD - Unity	Castle Water	Pavilion Utilities	£18.43
30.6.25	Auto Payment Unity	Unity bank	Monthly charge for Unity bank	£6.00
16.6.25	Chq 2173	Bodiam Parish Council	Transfer from Nat West Current Account to Unity Bank current A/c	£9400.00

**163/2025      Monthly Finance Reports & Bank reconciliation for Year End**

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial reports and budget reports for June 2025, which were signed by Cllr Page. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before the meeting. A copy of payments for authorising on the Unity bank was supplied to Cllrs Peters and Porter.

**164/2025      Date of next meeting - Monday 21 July 2025, The Parish Room at 6.30pm**

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