

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 26 January 2026 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: - (Chair) Cllr Linda Stevens, (Vice chair) Tim Porter, Graham Peters, Darren Page & Nick Gilbert

In attendance: ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone & Clerk: Lynsey Willard & 1 member of the public (MoP).

16/2026 Vice Chair Cllr Tim Porter agreed to chair the meeting on behalf of Cllr Stevens as they expected to be disturbed part way through the meeting

17/2026 Apologies: RDC Cllrs RDC Cllr Tony Ganly & Tony Biggs.

18/2026 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.

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

19/2026 Minutes of the Parish council Meeting 5 January 2026 (Budget Meeting) & 19 January 2026 (Postponed)

The minutes which had previously been distributed were approved and signed by Cllr Porter (Chair) as a true record.

20/2026 Matters arising

Action points from the previous meeting cleared or, on this agenda. The Risk Assessment has been updated and Parish Cloud details shared with Cllr Stevens.

21/2026 Public Questions – No questions raised

22/2026 Councillors' meetings with outside bodies: No meetings attended

23/2026 Planning

Enforcement case: ENF/267/25/BOD Court Lodge Oast, Bodiam, TN32 5UJ
Agricultural buildings turned into residential buildings. **Ongoing**

24/2026 Approved planning for RR/2024/1573/P New House Farm, New House Lane,
Cllr Gilbert raised his concerns regarding this application being approved and the contradicting information throughout the application regarding the static caravans. It was agreed by councillors that clarity should be sought from the Planning

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

department and the subject be raised with the Rother councillors at the February meeting.

Action 1: Cllr Gilbert to draft letter on behalf of council which will be sent from the Clerk to the Planning department seeking clarity regarding RR/2024/1573/P New House Farm.

25/2026 East Sussex County Council report

Councillors have received the previously circulated report from RDC, and the full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. The budget is looking challenging and exceptional financial support is needed. They will not be increasing the council tax by more than 4.99%, instead they will be borrowing funds.

26/2026 Rother District Council Report

Councillors have received the previously circulated report from RDC, and the full report can be read on the Bodiam Website.

27/2026 Meeting dates for 2026/27

Proposed dates of third Monday of the month provided. Cllr Stevens raised concerns that she will be unavailable for several meetings.

Action 2: All councillors to confirm their availability for this year's meetings to Clerk

28/2026 Hawkhurst United Junior Football Club

Cllrs discussed an increase in fees for rental of the football ground, usage for 2026 and extra grass cuts. It was agreed that a face-to-face conversation with the football club was the best way to proceed.

Action 3: Clerk Contact HUJFC to arrange a meeting with them and the councillors.

29/2026 Parish Assembly Planning

Early discussions were held about this year's Parish Assembly. The ideal window is between 20 April and 11 May 2026.

Action 4: Clerk to contact the Claremont School to ask if they would be happy to host the Parish Assembly this year.

30/2026 Environment and Village Maintenance

Quotes are currently being sought for several projects to be discussed at 16 February 2026 meeting.

31/2026 Crime and Disorder

No matters arising in the village.

32/2026 Agreement of the budget and Precept for 2026/2027

A precept of £16,378 was proposed by Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr Stevens and supported by all. This is a 4.3% increase and equates to £0.09 per week for a Band D property. All factors of rising cost and lack of guaranteed income, alongside general maintenance to keep the village tidy, were considered and it was recognised that the increase to the precept is necessary.

The motion was declared CARRIED (5 for / unanimous)

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33/2026 Payments

Dated	Method.	Payee	Description	Amount
31.12.25	Auto Payment Unity	Unity bank	Monthly charge for Unity bank	£6.00
23.12.25	Unity DD	EDF	December Invoice	£24.71
26.1.26	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary January 2026	£499.75
22.1.26	Unity DD	HMRC PAYE	Clerk/RFO PAYE & Employer NI Months 10,11,12	£337.06
26.1.26	Unity DD	EDF	January Invoice	£1.25
31.1.26	Auto Payment Unity	Unity bank	Monthly charge for Unity bank	£6.00

34/2026 Monthly Finance Reports & Bank reconciliation for Year End

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial reports and budget reports for January 2026, which were signed at the meeting by Cllr Page. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before the meeting. For noting: Unity are reducing their savings interest rate from 2.10% to 1.95% from the 23 March 2026. In the first 6 months we earned £258.60 in interest from our savings account. Unity is increasing their banking fees from 1 February 2026 from £6 per month to £7 per month.

35/2026 Date of next meeting

Monthly Council meeting, 16 February 2026, the Parish Room at 6.30pm

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