

BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL**Clerk:** Lynsey Willard**Telephone:** 01580 830935**Email:** clerk@bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk

34 Levetts Lane,

Bodiam,

E. Sussex, TN32 5UL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 8 December 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: - (Chair) Cllr Linda Stevens, Darren Page & Nick Gilbert**In attendance:** ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone & RDC Cllr Tony Ganly, Clerk: Lynsey Willard & 1 member of the public (MoP).**253/2025 Apologies:** Cllr Graham Peters (Personal business) & (Vice chair) Tim Porter & RDC Cllr Tony Biggs. Quorate met with three.**254/2025 Disclosure of Interests**

No interests declared

256/2025 Minutes of the Parish council Meeting 17 November 2025

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

257/2025 Matters arising

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

258/2025 Public Questions – No questions raised**259/2025 Councillors' meetings with outside bodies: No meetings attended****260/2025 Planning****Approved with Conditions:****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**New Enforcement case: ENF/267/25/BOD Court Lodge Oast, Bodiam, TN32 5UJ**

Agricultural buildings turned into residential buildings. Email sent to Enforcement planning officer for further information.

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

261/2025 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 reported about the County Council budget for next year, while the grant from the Government is unknown, the assumption is that exceptional financial support will be needed. They are going through the process, and a decision is expected by the 19 December. The Government has delayed the mayoral election from May 2026 to May 2028. County elections have already been delayed by a year so it is not clear what will happen. Unitary elections are expected in May 2027.

262/2025 Rother District Council Report

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

263/2025 Consulting on Rother District Council's Budget for 2026/27

Councillors to comment on the consultation as individuals.

264/2025 Asset Devolution – Levetts Lane Wood – Business plan

Cllrs all agreed that they would like the questions submitted following the Expression of Interest to be answered regarding expenditure to make the woods safe and whether Rother would carry out all outstanding tree work before passing the woods over to the parish before submitting a business case. Initial expenses could be significant to the parish if this work is not carried out or funded by Rother Council.

Action 1: Clerk to chase up response to questions asked of Rother regarding the asset transfer of Levetts Lane Woods and request an extension to allow this information to be considered by the councillors at the next meeting on the 19 January 2026.

265/2025 Environment & village Maintenance

It was reported that a large piece of ivy has fallen from one of the trees on Claremont's perimeter and is partially blocking the footpath between Levetts Lane and the Primary School

Action 2: Clerk to contact the Claremont Office and ask if their grounds team could clear the fallen ivy from their perimeter.

266/2025 Crime and Disorder

PCSO reported that there has been a farm break-in with reports of a quad bike stolen and tools in Bodiam.

267/2025 Bodiam Parish Council Budget – forward planning

Budget meeting is on the 5 January 2026. Clerk to prepare the budget with and without Levetts Lane woods predicted costs so a comparison can be made.

268/2025 Payments

Dated	Method.	Payee	Description	Amount
30.11.25	Auto Payment Unity	Unity bank	Monthly charge for Unity bank	£6.00
8.12.25	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary December 2025	£399.80
18.12.25	Unity DD	Castle Water	Pavilion Water supply	£24.99

269/2025 Monthly Finance Reports & Bank reconciliation for Year End

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial reports and budget reports for December 2025, which were signed at the meeting by Cllr Gilbert. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before the meeting.

270/2025 Information for councillors

Cllr Stevens gave apologies for the 19 January 2026

271/2025 Date of next meeting

Budget meeting Monday 5 January 2026, the Parish Room at 6.30pm
Monthly Council meeting, 19 January 2025, the Parish Room at 6.30pm

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