

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 16 March 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) Cllrs Linda Stevens, (Vice chair) Tim Porter & Graham Peters**In attendance:** ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone & RDC Cllrs Tony Biggs & Tony Ganly.
Clerk: Lynsey Willard & 1 member of the public (MoP).**55/2026 Apologies:** Cllrs Darren Page & Nick Gilbert.**56/2026 Disclosure of Interests**

Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Parker & Ashcombe Trust, as a neighbour of Court Lodge Oast and the Chairman of HUIFC has occasionally completed paid plumbing work for him.

57/2026 Minutes of the Parish council Meeting 16 February 2026

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

58/2026 Matters arising

Action points from the previous meeting are on this agenda.

59/2026 Public Questions – No public questions raised.**60/2026 Councillors' meetings with outside bodies**Cllrs Peters & Gilbert attended a meeting with representatives of HUIFC to discuss fees for 2026. **66/2026****61/2026 Planning - Enforcements****ENF/267/25/BOD Court Lodge Oast, Bodiam, TN32 5UJ**

Complaint: Various breaches of planning conditions Action: site Visited

Officer Comments (if applicable): Site Visit carried out. **Recorded for info only.****ENF/146/23/BOD Silverdale stud, Northlands Farm**Various breaches of planning conditions. PCN (planning contravention notice) served x 3, site visited recently. **Recorded for info only.****Minutes signed as a true record.....Dated.....**

62/2026 Enforcements & RDC website

Cllr Gilbert contacted RDC planning team regarding concerns that he could not view enforcement cases on their website. They have responded to say this is no longer publicly visible since a system upgrade. Cllr Porter pointed out that according to the Gov.UK site, this information should be accessible and transparent to everyone.

Action 1: Cllr Porter to share Gov.uk link regarding transparency of enforcements with RDC Ganly so he can explore this further with RDC.

63/2026 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. There is a budget deficit of £55million. Exceptional financial support of £70million has been received from the Government, which will have to be repaid with interest.

There is an election for County Councillors 7 May 2026. Unitary elections will be held in 2027 followed by Mayoral elections in 2028.

Concerns were raised about the poor signage used for Newenden Bridge closures.

64/2026 Rother District Council Report

Councillors have received the previously circulated report from RDC, and the full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. Cllr Biggs to share the Rural grants link with the Clerk.

65/2026 Parish Assembly Planning

This year's assembly will be held in Claremont Senior School's Sixth Form building Wednesday 22 April 2026. It will be run in the form of a local knowledge quiz. Light refreshments will be supplied by the council. Posters will also be put up on noticeboards and flyers distributed. An advert has been put in this month's parish magazine. It was agreed that two banners should be purchased this year from Millbrook Design & Print Ltd to be displayed at Junction Road Crossroads coming into Bodiam and the T Junctions by the primary school. **The motion was declared CARRIED (3 for / unanimous)**

Action 2: Clerk to share flyer template with Cllr Porter for printing and distributing by the council using the territory list.

Action 3: Cllr Stevens and the Clerk to work on the quiz and include questions supplied by each of the usual speakers.

Action 4: Clerk to order two 4ftx2ft banners from Millbrook Design & Print Ltd and arrange payment by bank transfer.

66/2026 Hawkhurst United Junior Football club fees & Grass Cutting

The football club has confirmed that they will be returning towards the end of April dependent on the weather. Cllrs Peters & Gilbert and the Clerk met with representatives of the football club to discuss hire fees and grass cutting for this year. All correspondence was considered and supplemented by a further conversation between Cllr Peters and HJFC. It was agreed by all councillors at this meeting that the club would pay £110 a week for this year rising to £125 a week for

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2027. The club will also pay for any extra cuts or treatments above the 17 that the council has already budgeted for. They will liaise directly with Orchard Landscapes and pay through the council. **The motion was declared CARRIED (3 for / unanimous)**

67/2026 Environment and Village Maintenance

The Parish accounts have £3768 of CIL money that needs to be spent on the village before April 2027 and £1558 to be carried forward from this year's village & pavilion maintenance budget. The following four village projects have been quoted for and agreed upon by the council.

68/2026 Replacement of the Recreation Ground Gates

An initial quote has been accepted from Chris Forman who was recommended by Ewhurst Parish Clerk to remove and dispose of the old gates and posts and supply and install 2 new 8ft wide field gates hung on hardwood oak posts set in concrete with galvanized ironmongery. Before proceeding though, he has been asked to quote for hardwood gates and the small gate post as well and the Councillors will make the final decision once received. **The motion was declared CARRIED (3 for / unanimous)**

Action 5: Clerk will contact Chris Forman for a price for the small gate post and hardwood gates and share with Councillors to decide on best option.

69/2026 Replacement of the railings around the Pavilion veranda

Quote has been accepted from TWD Carpentry to replace the railings with new treated timber handrail and base rail with 41mm spindles placed maximum of 100mm gap. TWD Carpentry has carried out work previously on the pavilion. **The motion was declared CARRIED (3 for / unanimous)**

Action 6: Clerk will contact TWD Carpentry to inform of acceptance of his quote for the pavilion railings and confirm a start date for this project.

70/2026 Replacement of the upper weatherboarding on one outer wall of the pavilion

Quote has been accepted from TWD Carpentry to replace the high-level cladding on the river facing wall of the pavilion. A breather membrane will be added before new cladding is matched to the existing cladding. This will be painted with the same paint, and it is understood that there will be a small extra cost for this paint. **The motion was declared CARRIED (3 for / unanimous)**

Action 7: Clerk will contact TWD Carpentry to inform of acceptance of his quote for the replacement of the weatherboarding and the usage of Sadolin Black Paint.

71/2026 Purchase of a new noticeboard for the village green

The current noticeboard was donated by Sussex Police a great number of years ago and has seen its best. It was agreed that a new board matching the one by Bodiam Primary school would be the best option. The Parish Notice Board Company provided a quote to supply and deliver for the same price as the other noticeboard purchased 2023. **The motion was declared CARRIED (3 for / unanimous)**

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Action 8: Clerk will contact The Parish Notice Board Company to accept their quote and arrange for the deposit of 50% to be paid through the current account.

72/2026 Trees and footpaths

Rother DC have carried out some tree work in the woods on Levetts Lane this month.

73/2026 Crime and Disorder

The road sign on the way into Levetts Lane has been snapped off at the base. This has been reported to Highways.

Action 9: Clerk to share details of the fallen sign reported to Highways with ESCC Redstone.

74/2026 Payments/Receipts

Dated	Method.	Payee	Description	Amount
28.2.26	Internal transfer	Bodiam Parish Council	Transfer from Savings account to current account	£1000
16.3.26	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary March 2026	£411.00
17.3.26	Unity DD	EDF	March Invoice	£8.49
31.3.26	Auto Payment Unity	Unity bank	Monthly charge for Unity bank	£7.00

75/2026 Monthly Finance Reports & Bank reconciliation

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial reports and budget reports for March 2026, which were signed at the meeting by Cllr Stevens. Clerk also supplied estimated end of year reports for information purposes. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councillors for inspection before the meeting.

76/2026 Information for Councillors

The AGAR forms should be received before the end of March, and the internal audit is scheduled for the 9 April 2026.

77/2026 Date of next meeting

Monthly Council meeting, 20 April 2026, the Parish Room at 6.30pm

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