

BODIAM PARISH ASSEMBLY 2026

Clerk: Lynsey Willard
Telephone: 01580830935

34 Levetts Lane
 Bodiam
 Robertsbridge
 TN32 5UL

Email: clerk@bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk

The Minutes of the Parish Assembly held at Claremont School, on Wednesday, 22 April 2026 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

For Bodiam Parish Council: Councillors: - (Chairman) Linda Stevens, (Vice chair) Tim Porter, Graham Peters, Darren Page and Nick Gilbert

For RDC: Cllr Tony Biggs

For ESCC: Cllr Paul Redstone

In attendance: Clerk Lynsey Willard. Guests from local organisations and approx. 10 members of the public

Guest from local Organisations:

St Giles Church – Rachel Piper

Bodiam Pre School – Mel Porter

Kent and East Sussex Railway & Rother Valley Railway – David Nibloe & Gardner Crawley

National Trust – Beatrice Rapley

Vice Chair Councillor Porter opened the meeting by introducing the Councillors and Clerk and welcomes the members of the public and guests. Following this up with an entertaining talk on the responsibilities of the council.

The minutes of last year's parish assembly were confirmed correct and signed as a true account.

The format of the meeting was changed this year to a village quiz to test people's local and historical knowledge of Bodiam. Three rounds cited discussion and were enjoyed by all.

ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone covered Local Government Organisation and Devolution in his ten-minute talk. Explaining the radical changes to be made to local government, stemming from the white paper delivered 18 months ago. In the next couple of years, the District and County council will become one as a Unitary council. We will have two unitary councillors covering this area and a mayor will be elected for Sussex.

Rachel Piper – St Giles Church – Church Warden informed us that the church is still without their own fulltime vicar since Canon Chrstopher retired in October 2023. They have continued to advertise but there have been no applicants. A

core of clergies has taken services on the first and third Sunday of the month throughout the last year.

Beatrice Rapley– Visitor Experience and Programming Manager

– **National Trust** provided a stand with free castle related goods celebrating the 100 years that the Castle has been under National Trust care.

Public questions - A concern was raised about dogs being off the lead down near the pub causing a problem for local runners. It was asked if signs could be displayed to keep dogs on leads and pick up their mess. This will be carried forward to the main Bodiam Parish Council meeting agenda, and the member of the public was invited to attend to provide more information.

Bodiam Broadband supply – a member of the public has raised a concern about the poor level broadband speeds in the village making it difficult to work from home and download entertainment. For the Parish Council to be able to take this problem forward, they need to have an idea of how widespread this issue is and how people are affected. A quick questionnaire has been set up which can be accessed through the QR code below using your mobile camera. The survey is anonymous and asks for your postcode and internet speeds and the main uses of your internet. Your internet speeds can be found by entering [Fast.com](https://www.fast.com) in your internet browser when at home.

Close of Meeting - There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Parish Annual Meeting – Parish Room, 11 May 2026 at 6.30pm, all residents are welcome.

Check your Broadband Speed at www.fast.com and scan the QR code below to let Bodiam Parish Council know the speed of your Broadband.

