

**BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk:** Lynsey Willard 34 Levetts Lane,  
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**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Monday 11 May 2026 at 6.30p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room**

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, Darren Page & Nick Gilbert.

**In attendance:** RDC Cllr Tony Biggs, Clerk: Lynsey Willard & 1 member of the public (MoP).

**111/2026 Chair Election for the Annual Meeting**

Cllr Peters nominated Cllr Stevens, this was seconded by Cllr Porter.

**112/2026 Chair Election for 2026/2027**

Cllr Peters nominated Cllr Stevens, this was seconded by Cllr Page.

**113/2026 Vice Chair Election for 2026/2027**

Cllr Page nominated Cllr Porter, this was seconded by Cllr Stevens.

**114/2026 Apologies:** ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone & RDC Tony Ganly

**115/2026 Disclosure of Interests**

Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as a trustee of Parker and Ashcombe Almshouse charity, the chairman of HUIFC has occasionally completed paid plumbing work for him and Cllr Peters declared an interest as a friend of Mr. John Lovering.

**116/2026 Minutes of the Parish council Meeting 20 April 2026**

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

**117/2026 Matters arising**

Action points from the previous meeting cleared or, on this agenda. An email has been sent to RALC regarding Rother Planning & Enforcement site – no response received yet.

**118/2026 Public Questions** - No questions raised.

**119/2026 Councillors' meetings with outside bodies** - No meetings attended

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

**120/2026 Planning – Applications – Awaiting Decision****RR/2026/0031/FULL Bodiam Castle, Castle Hill, Bodiam, TN32 5UA**

Installation of two electric vehicle charging stations and feeder pillar and associated underground cabling. **Supported by Bodiam Parish Council April 2026**

**121/2026 East Sussex County Council report**

A report has not been shared this month due to the election for East Sussex Councillors on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Redstone has been elected again for Northern Rother.

**122/2026 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 has a contact if any groups in the village are interested in DFIB demonstration sessions.

**123/2026 Appointment of Councillors to all areas**

Rother Association of Local Councils - Cllr Peters & Porter

Community Safety, Crime and Disorder Liaison - Cllr Stevens

Recreation Ground, Pavilion, Health, Safety and Fire & legionnaires risk assessment – Cllrs Porter & Page

Financial Control – Cllr Stevens

Planning Cllr Gilbert

Other Appointments Tree Warden and Footpath Representative – Cllrs Porter & Page  
To Outside Bodies:

Parker & Ashcombe Trust 1 nominative Trustee - Cllr Peters

Bodiam Pre School – Cllr Stevens

**124/2026 Contact List for Residents**

Cllr Gilbert has raised the consideration for the Parish to hold a contact list for residents to be able to send out Parish Council business to parishioners. The Parish website is supported by Rother so it would not be an option for them to hold this contact list for the Parish. The data would have to be gathered manually and GDPR fully considered.

**Action 1:** Cllr Porter and the Clerk to investigate the options of Mail Chimp to support a residents contact list.

**125/2026 Recreation Ground and Pavilion**

The new railings have been fitted around the pavilion this month making the raised veranda much safer. Clarification has been provided to HUJFC on where cars can be parked. Two requests regarding hiring the recreation ground have been received. Available dates have been shared with both contacts – awaiting responses.

**126/2026      Loving proposal**

A proposal has been received from a resident for long term rental of the recreation ground. Although the Council was not inclined to support, the clerk was asked to contact SALC/NALC for guidance regarding the appropriateness of this long-term rental proposal. To be carried forward to June agenda for further consideration.

**Action 2:** Clerk to contact SALC/NALC for guidance regarding long term rental proposal received for the recreation grounds.

**127/2026      Dogs on Leads**

A member of the public raised the question of forcing owners to keep dogs on leads in the village. Discussion was had and it was agreed that this is not within the influence of the Parish Council.

**128/2026      Broadband issues in Bodiam**

Only five responses have been received via the survey, so it is not sufficient to take this any further. Cllr Page mentioned he is going to try Starlink to help improve his own internet connection.

**129/2026      Environment and Village Maintenance**

The new noticeboard has been put up on the village green.

**130/2026      Trees and footpaths - No problems reported****131/2026      Crime and Disorder**

Cllr Briggs provided the PCSO report with the RDC report to show that there have been several break ins in local villages. Advised residents to be aware.

**132/2026      Review of Internal Auditor's Report**

The auditor's report was shared with the councillors ahead of the meeting. The Parish Finances are in a good state, and no problems have been raised.

**133/2026      Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance & Accountability Return**

The Notice will be displayed on the village noticeboards and added to the website giving notice for the public to be able to exercise their right to view the accounts between the 3 June and 14 July 2026.

**134/2026      Finance - Receipts**

<b>Dated</b>	<b>Method.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
30.4.26	Payment received	HMRC	HMRC rebate for 2025/26	£1318.14
27.4.26	Invoice paid	HUJFC	Invoice 2 - 4 weeks fees – 13.5.26 – 9.6.26	£440
24.4.26	Internal transfer	Bodiam Parish Council	Transfer from Savings account to current account	£2000.00

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

**135/2026 Payments**

<b>Dated</b>	<b>Method.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12.5.26	Unity Online	The Parish Notice Board Company	Village green noticeboard balance	£699.00
18.5.26	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary May 2026	£411.00
12.5.26	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Expenses – magnets 7 postcrete	£38.99
31.5.26	Auto Payment Unity	Unity bank	Monthly charge for Unity bank	£7.00
12.5.26	Unity Online	Linda Stevens	Reimbursement for Parish assembly expenses	£12
12.5.26	Unity Online	Mr. K. Robertson	Internal Audit	£126.00
12.5.26	Unity Online	TWD Carpentry	Pavilion Railings	£1380.00
25.5.26	Direct Debit	Castle Water	May Invoice	£28.34
22.6.26	Unity Online	Zurich Insurance	3 <sup>rd</sup> year renewal	£862.51

**136/2026 Monthly Finance Reports & Bank reconciliation**

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial reports and budget reports up to 11 May 2026, which were signed at the meeting by Cllr Gilbert. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before the meeting.

**137/2026 Interest earned by Parish bank accounts**

It has been clarified that Parish Council are not liable to pay tax on the interest earned on their bank accounts.

**138/2026 Information for Councillors**

Newenden Bridge to be included on next month's agenda

**139/2026 Date of next meeting**

Monthly Council meeting, 15 June 2026, the Parish Room at 6.30pm

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