

**BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL****Clerk:** Lynsey Willard**Telephone:** 01580 830935**Email:** [clerk@bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bodiamparishcouncil.org.uk)

34 Levetts Lane,

Bodiam,

E. Sussex, TN32 5UL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Monday 15 June 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: - (Vice chair) Tim Porter, Graham Peters, Darren Page & Nick Gilbert.

**In attendance:** ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone, RDC Cllr Tony Biggs, Clerk: Lynsey Willard & 10 members of the public (MoP).

**140/2026 Chair for the Meeting**

Cllr Tim Porter chaired the meeting in place of Cllr Stevens.

**141/2026 Apologies:** Cllr Linda Stevens & RDC Tony Ganly**142/2026 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.

**143/2026 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 11 May 2026**

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

**144/2026 Matters arising**

Action points from the previous meeting on this agenda.

**145/2026 Newhouse Farm (Bodiam) Ltd Proposal**

Spoke with Mr. John Lovering and members of the public regarding use of the recreation ground and a third proposal which was received from Mr. Lovering by email to the councillors in the evening of Saturday 13 June. Concerns were raised about the excessive noise and traffic caused by HUIFC two-day tournament this past weekend. It was felt that it could help if the teams played down the far end of the field and used the second gate as well for access, but this is restricted by covenants. It was hoped that there could be a solution if we worked with the club.

Mr. Lovering's third proposal is that New House would provide land without cost, up to 4 acres, enough for two full sized football pitches and 2 junior pitches near the Curlew on the North side of the Road from the village. It has road access and is year-round dry. New House proposes to finance water and toilet facilities and a Klargester plant on the field as a gift to the village. Cllr Briggs pointed out that this would need

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

planning for change of use, parking and facilities. New House proposed to take back part of the recreation ground leaving space for School sports, fun days dog walking etc. MsOP, although they were unhappy about the noise were not in agreement with losing up to 10 acres of the current recreation ground.

Cllr Gilbert pointed out that he was opposed to the current agreement with HUIFC and feels the 14hrs they have been allowed to use the pitch for should be reduced to 7 hours per week, five sessions to three session.

Interest has been unprecedented with 35 responses received via email ahead of the meeting, four supported Mr. Lovering's earlier proposal but a further 30+ responses were passionate about the recreation ground being kept for purpose as a safe open space for everyone and in support of the football club remaining.

It was suggested that if it was considered to move the recreation ground, a referendum should be held.

A representative for HUIFC committee spoke to say they never wanted to cause upset in the village and want to work with the council and residents. They apologised for the mistake with the date in the letter sent out to residents prior to the tournament and explained the club is non-profit making and for children from all backgrounds with some fees heavily subsidised by the club. Asked by Cllr Gilbert how much the club charged for membership, she said she did not have that information.

Councillors agreed that this item should be deferred to a later date as the new proposal only came in on Saturday.

**Action 1:** Councillors to arrange meeting with Hawkhurst United Junior football club to see whether current usage can be modified.

**Action 2:** Councillors to consider Mr. Lovering's proposals.

**146/2026 Councillors' meetings with outside bodies** - No meetings attended.

**147/2026 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. Cllr Redstone left for another meeting.

**148/2026 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**

**Enforcements**

**New Complaint Received**

**CASE: ENF/0085/26 ADDRESS: Land at Gavastone, Junction Road, Bodiam Officer: D Bevan Complaint: illegal dwelling in countryside Action: Site Visited / PCN to be served.**

**Action 3:** Clerk to email details of Enforcement case to Cllr Biggs for further details of the enforcement action.

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

**149/2026 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 discussed the PCSO report and suggested this be shared on the website for awareness. No crime reported in Bodiam however farms in surrounding villages are being targeted.

**150/2026 ESALC AGM and Conference**

Councillors to consider representing Bodiam at the ESALC AGM and Conference on the 4 November at the AMEX in Brighton.

**151/2026 Pavilion Damage**

A window has been smashed on the end of the pavilion. Crittall Glass have provided a quote for standard glass replacement and laminated glass. It was agreed that laminated glass should be fitted at the cost of £197.44. This amount is not worth claiming on the insurance due to excess and possible increase to premiums.

**Action 4:** Clerk to arrange replacement of the broken window with Crittall Glass.

**152/2026 Slow Down Pedestrian Signage**

It was suggested in a couple of the emails received from residents that signs should be displayed along the access route to the recreation ground warning of pedestrians and children. It was agreed that this would be investigated to see where signs can be suitably displayed. Could one be put on the end wall of the pub's outbuilding?

**Action 5:** Cllrs to assess suitable points to display pedestrian and speed awareness signs along the access route to the recreation ground.

**153/2026 Trees and Footpaths**

A resident email has been received reporting the footpath running down from Sternberg's to the Castle as overgrown. The Clerk has reported this to Sternberg's office who have in turn said the grounds man would take a look. Cllr Gilbert said the path running around the horse fields is also overgrown.

**Action 6:** Clerk to contact Sternberg's Office to report overgrown footpaths.

**154/2026 Levetts Lane hedges**

A resident has reported that several hedges have grown across the footpath on Levetts Lane, reducing the footpath by up to 18 inches in places.

**Action 7:** Clerk to draft a letter to residents regarding cutting back hedges off the footpath on Levetts Lane.

**155/2026 Finance - Monthly Finance Reports & Bank reconciliation**

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial reports and budget reports up to 15 June 2026, which were signed at the meeting by Cllr Porter. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before the meeting.

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

**156/2026      Payments**

<b>Dated</b>	<b>Method.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
21.5.26	Unity DD	EDF	Pavilion electricity - May invoice	£25.09
20.5.26	Unity Online	Rother District Council	Emptying of Dog Waste bin 2026.27	£197.60
15.6.26	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary June 2026	£411.20
22.6.26	Unity DD	Castle Water	June water invoice	£16.49
30.6.26	Unity Online	Unity bank charge	monthly charge for Unity bank	£7.00
23.6.26	Unity DD	EDF	Pavilion electricity - June invoice 2 payments £22 & £29.67	£51.67

**157/2026      Information for Councillors**

Newenden Bridge to be included on next month's agenda

**158/2026      Date of next meeting**

Monthly Council meeting moved to 27 July 2026 due to Councillors' availability, in the Parish Room at 6.30pm

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