

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 27 July 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) Cllr Linda Stevens, (Vice chair) Tim Porter, Graham Peters, Darren Page & Nick Gilbert.

In attendance: Clerk: Lynsey Willard & 9 members of the public (MoP).

159/2026 Apologies: RDC Cllrs Tony Biggs and Tony Ganly. ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone.

160/2026 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr Peters declared a personal interest as a trustee of Parker and Ashcombe Almshouse charity, the chairman of HUFJFC has occasionally completed paid plumbing work for him and Cllr Peters declared an interest as a friend of Mr. John Lovering whom he went for a drink with this month.

Cllr Page declared an interest as a neighbour of Silverdale Stud and an owner of Northland Manor.

161/2026 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 15 June 2026

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

162/2026 Matters arising

Action points from the previous meeting on this agenda.

163/2026 Public questions

Natalie Cohen from the National Trust informed us the archeological event is the last week in July and is for families. This is the final year for the main project around Bodiam Castle, which will run throughout all of August. They are expecting 100 volunteers to be involved with about 40 camping. Full risk assessments have been carried out. People are welcome to go and talk to them, look out for the blue t shirts for the National Trust team. Natalie has offered to give talks with interested groups in the Autumn.

Questions were raised about the recreation ground and Lovering proposal. Covered later in the agenda.

Concerns were raised about the conditions of Junction Road from the Curlew to the narrow bridges. Southbound traffic is often travelling on the opposite side of the road to avoid the worse of it. Just past the business park there is a small hole which takes in water and will gradually undermine the road.

Action 1: Clerk to raise the problems with Junction Road with Cllr Paul Redstone.

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

164/2026 Councillors' meetings with outside bodies - Cllr Stevens met with a representative of Bodiam Primary School and a resident to discuss school car parking and road safety.

165/2026 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**

***Cllr Darren Page left the meeting while the following planning application was discussed.**

New Planning Application
RR/2026/0859/FN Northland Manor, Northlands, Bodiam, TN32 5UX
 Erection of a wooden and green corrugated metal open fronted barn to store agricultural machinery from weather.
Comments submitted regarding dark skies and AONB July 2026

***Cllr Darren Page returned to the meeting**

166/2026 Enforcements
Complaint with changed status: CASE: ENF/210/19/RYE: Silverdale Stud – Officer O
 Hurst Complaint: Waste and scrap in woodland, Action: Further site visit undertaken, landowner agreed to clear land.

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

167/2026 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.

168/2026 Newenden Bridge Closure Update
 There are concerns about the four-month closure of Newenden bridge from June to September 2027. This will potentially cause a lot of extra traffic through the village. Official diversions use A roads, but people's Google sat navs and those in the know will use local roads. Add to September's agenda for an update from Cllr Redstone.

169/2026 Rother District Council Report
 Councillors have received the previously circulated report from RDC, and the full report can be read on the Bodiam Website.

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

170/2026 Safety and traffic / parking issues around Bodiam School

Cllr Stevens met with a member of the public (MoP) and Bodiam School to discuss the options to improve road safety and parking by the school during peak times. The MoP has listed several ideas and forwarded them to East Sussex County Council. One idea was to reposition the school warning signs. It was also suggested it would help if the layby between the junction and Levetts Lane was in better condition for it to be used as a passing point. A MoP mentioned that Ewhurst Parish Council are considering similar along the road by the Herdman.

Action 2: Clerk to contact Ewhurst clerk for information about what they are considering using to create a solid parking area along the road by the Herdman.

171/2026 Pavilion & Recreation Ground & New House Farm (Bodiam) Ltd Proposal

A proposal was received from New House Farm last month for a field up near Northlands to be made useable as a football ground for HUJFC. The members of the public raised their concerns about this happening. They feel strongly that the recreation ground should be kept to the size it is now. It is felt the moving the football pitches up to the field near Northland wouldn't benefit the residents and this would come with its own problems. It was understood that Mr. Lovering does not have a particular wish to take back the land but to have some control of what it is used for.

It was questioned whether the wild area could be cut back again to spread the playing further down the field hence reducing the noise directly affecting the houses on the Green. A volunteer has offered to look at the sinkholes once the wild area is cut back.

It is felt that the noise and usage have intensified this year. Cllrs agreed to investigate the possibility of the wild area being cut so the bottom pitch could be played on once again. They also agreed that they should be involved in any investigation into the suitability of the field up at Northlands.

Cllr Gilbert proposes that the usage by the football club should be halved. He feels people don't want to lose football but could live with less.

Cllrs Stevens and Peters have arranged to meet with Hawkhurst Football club to discuss all the concerns and suggestions raised. They will share the contents of the 43 responses received from residents.

Residents looked for assurance from the councillors that they are considering everyone's welfare in making this decision. It was agreed everyone is looking for a balance between the football club and the residents.

HUJFC are due to start the new season on the 2 August 2026.

Action 3: Cllrs Stevens and Peters to meet with HUJFC to discuss the concerns raised by the residents and future use of the recreation ground

172/2026 Recreation Ground bench

One of the benches on the recreation ground was leaning precariously and collapsed. The parts have been moved aside, and a member of the public offered to contact another resident about the possibility of providing a price to restore it. Councillors agreed to this happening. If not possible other companies to be sought to carry out this work.

173/2026 Environment & Village Maintenance

It was raised that the posts on the residential side of the green could either do with being replaced like the roadside or removed as several of them are lying down. To be added to a future agenda for discussion.

174/2026 Environment & Village Maintenance – Levetts Lane skate ramp

A notice was received from Rother district Council regarding the removal of the skate ramp on Levetts Lane. It needs restoration work, and it is felt that it sees little use as a skate or bike ramp. This was circulated on Facebook Bodiam page, and most were not concerned about it being removed. It was asked if the roadside hedge which was planted to prevent children running of the ramp into the road could be removed at the same time.

Action 4: Clerk to ask RDC what is wrong with the ramp? How much will it cost to refurbish it? Will anything be put in its place? Could the hedge be removed at the same time?

175/2026 Slow down pedestrian signage

It was agreed that the slow down signs are affordable but there is just the question of where they can be displayed on the route into the recreation ground.

Action 5: Cllr Stevens to speak to the Castle Inn about displaying a slowdown pedestrian sign on the end of the pub outbuilding.

176/2026 Crime and Disorder

No official reports received

177/2026 Trees and Footpaths

All the footpaths have been cut back recently.

178/2026 Finance - Monthly Finance Reports & Bank reconciliation

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial reports and budget reports up to 27 July 2026, which were signed at the meeting by Cllr Page. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before the meeting.

179/2026 Receipts

Dated	Method.	Payee	Description	Amount
30.6.26	Unity Savings	Bodiam Parish Council	Quarterly Interest	£114.74
28.7.26	BACS	Bodiam Parish Council	HUJFC contribution towards Apr/May/June Mowing	£900

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180/2026 Payments

Dated	Method.	Payee	Description	Amount
22.7.26	Unity DD	HMRC	Clerk/RFO PAYE Months 1,2 & 3	£396.63
25.6.26	Unity Online	Crittall Glass	Replacement of pavilion window	£197.44
24.6.26	Internal transfer	Unity Current A/c	Transfer from Unity Savings to current account	£1000
8.7.26	Internal transfer	Unity Current A/c	Transfer from Unity Savings to current account	£2114.74
29.7.26	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary July 2026	£616.50
29.7.26	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk expenses – HP printing monthly fee	£6.49
20.7.26	Unity DD	Castle Water	July water invoice	£23.91
29.7.26	Unity Online	Heartenoak heating and plumbing solutions	Pavilion plumbing repairs	£214.78
29.7.26	Unity Online	Orchard Landscapes	Mowing April - June 2026	£2201.32
31.7.26	Unity Online	Unity bank charge	monthly charge for Unity bank	£7.00
21.7.26	Unity DD	EDF	Pavilion electricity - July invoice	£25.01

181/2026 Information for Councillors

Newenden Bridge and village green posts to be included on September's agenda
A request has been received from Rural Sussex to attend a future meeting. It was agreed October meeting would be best.

Action 6: Clerk to contact Rural Sussex and offer for them to join the October meeting.

182/2026 Date of next meeting

Monthly Council meeting moved to 21 September 2026 due to Councillors' availability, in the Parish Room at 6.30pm
Apologies received from Cllr Peters.

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