

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 21 September 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 & 3 members of the public (MoP).

183/2026 Apologies: RDC Cllrs Tony Biggs and Tony Ganly. ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone.

184/2026 Disclosure of Interests

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

Clerk declared a family interest with G. Willard Construction.

185/2026 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 27 July 2026

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

186/2026 Matters arising

Action points from the previous meeting are on the agenda.

187/2026 Public questions

Three residents who feel they are most closely affected by HUJFC using the recreation ground expressed their surprise at the football tournament being cancelled for next year as felt this event was well run although noisy, it would have just been nice to have more warning beforehand. They recognize that HUJFC are trying to make changes to reduce noise and have stopped the Wednesday night training and minimized usage time on the other days. The residents raised their main concern still, was public safety with the incoming and outgoing traffic as a couple of near misses have been witnessed. Traffic was monitored for the tournament but hasn't been since. Cllr Stevens said the football team have been in touch with the National Trust about using their car park in the evenings when the Castle is closed. The National Trust are very understanding and happy to work out arrangements with the football club. All three residents understand youngsters' football is played at the weekend and agreed the noise has been less irritating since they have made changes.

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

188/2026 Councillors' meetings with outside bodies

Cllr Stevens met with Laura Edwards, the new manager for Bodiam Castle and Batemans. Laura is keen to work with the community.

189/2026 Sussex Community Housing Hub – Action in Rural Sussex

Louise Halpern (Rural Housing Enabler) will be attending the next meeting on the 19 October to give a short presentation.

Action 1: Clerk to advertise that Action in Rural Sussex will be attending the October meeting.

190/2026 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**

191/2026 Enforcements - Complaint with changed status:

CASE: ENF/0085/26 ADDRESS: Land at Junction Road, Bodiam Officer: O Hurst

Complaint: Possible hidden dwelling. **Action: PCN (Planning Contravention Notice) Served 4/9/26**

192/2026 East Sussex County Council report

Councillors have received the previously circulated reports from ESCC, including an additional report regarding the pause and review of Local Government Reform. Both reports can be read on the Bodiam Website.

Action 2: Clerk to email Cllr Redstone to chase up if there has been anything happening about the parking by Bodiam Primary School.

193/2026 Rother District Council Report

Councillors have received the previously circulated report from RDC, and the full report can be read on the Bodiam Website.

194/2026 Pavilion & Recreation Ground

Clerk reported that there has been a problem with the contractor due to replace the cladding at the end of the pavilion. They have been busy all summer with other work and are now not responding to emails.

Action 3: Clerk to email contractor for a firm imminent date to be provided by 30 September 2026 or job to be passed to a different contractor as it needs to be done before the winter sets in. Clerk to inform councillors of the outcome.

195/2026 Pavilion Cladding – replacement contractor

Clerk presented three quotes for the replacement of the cladding at the end of the pavilion and then left the discussion to the councillors to agree due to a conflict of interest with one of the contractors. It was agreed that if the original contractor did not provide a suitable date to carry out the work, then G Willard Construction would be contacted the following week to offer them the work as their quote is the lowest of the three.

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Action 4: Clerk to contact G Willard Construction for a start date for replacing the pavilion cladding if the original contractor does not respond by 30 September 2026.

196/2026 Hawkhurst United Junior Football club times of use

Cllrs Stevens and Peters met with HUJFC on 29 July to discuss reducing use of the recreation ground and associated noise during the season beginning in September 2026. HUJFC proposed the following reduced schedule and agreed to move games further down the recreation ground to help minimise noise:

Tuesday, 6.00–7.00 p.m.: U7, U8 and U12

Wednesday: no play this season (reduced hours)

Thursday, 6.00–7.00 p.m.: U9 and U11; 7.30–8.30 p.m.: U14 and U16

Saturday, 9.00 a.m.–1.00 p.m.: matches, with occasional overruns (reduced hours)

Sunday, 9.00 a.m.–12.00 noon: matches, with occasional overruns (reduced from 9.00 a.m.–1.00 p.m.)

A query was raised because the minutes of the 29 July meeting recorded the spring season end date as 15 May 2027, one month earlier than expected.

Action 5: Clerk to contact HUJFC to ask if they could marshal traffic at peak times to prevent problems and clarify the date for the end of the season in the spring.

197/2026 New House Farm (Bodiam) Ltd Proposal

There have been no further updates regarding the proposal from Mr. Lovering to provide an alternative football field.

Action 6: Cllr Peters to email Mr. Lovering on behalf of the council about the New House Farm proposal.

198/2026 Recreation Ground bench

A quote has been received to restore the broken bench on the recreation ground to its former state for £720. Cllrs agreed to put this project on hold for the time being so finances can be considered nearer the end of the financial year.

Action 7: Clerk to contact the person who kindly provided a quote to restore the bench to inform them their quote would be put on hold and to ascertain where the bench ends are currently.

199/2026 Levetts Lane skate ramp

A notice was received from Rother district Council regarding the removal of the skate ramp on Levetts Lane as it needs restoration work, and they feel that it sees little use as a skate or bike ramp. A response has not been received to the questions posed by the Parish Council and objections have been raised by some residents about its removal.

Action 8: Clerk to chase RDC for a response for the email about the skate ramp and let them know that objections have been received from residents.

Confirmation received from RDC 25.9.26 that the ramp will be kept in the short term. The surface will be prepared and re-painted in the next few weeks. It would be helpful if we could somehow establish an idea of the level of use as the ramp is old and will need to be removed and / or replaced at some point.

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200/2026 Posts around the residential side of the Village Green

Councillors agreed that this project should be put to pause and be reconsidered at the end of the financial year.

201/2026 Slow down pedestrian signage

The Castle pub landlord has agreed that a slow speed restriction sign can be placed on the end of the pub outbuilding to encourage drivers to slow down when approaching the recreation ground gates.

Action 9: Clerk to arrange for a 5mph sign to be put up on the pub outbuilding. To be arranged with the Castle Inn landlord.

202/2026 Crime and Disorder

PCSO reported on the 3 August in Levetts Lane two cars were keyed down their sides and on the 14 August a bag was stolen from Bodiam castle. The National Trust digger was also vandalised meaning the holes dug by the archaeology team were left open longer than originally planned.

203/2026 Trees and Footpaths

Some of the footpaths are becoming overgrown again now the brambles are growing quickly again.

Action 10: Clerk to contact RDC about cutting back the hedge alongside the footpath from Levetts Lane to the rear entrance of Claremont School.

204/2026 Tree record and Inspection

Councillors agreed that we should get someone to check the trees around the Village green to ensure there are no issues.

Action 11: Cllr Stevens to contact a local tree person to see if they can check the trees around the green.

205/2026 Finance - Monthly Finance Reports & Bank reconciliation

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial reports and budget reports up to 21 September 2026, which were signed at the meeting by Cllr Gilbert. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before the meeting.

206/2026 S137 donation to Campaign to Protect Rural England

Payment has been successfully made by annual direct debit of £60 as agreed in the 2026/27 budget under the S137 donations to Campaign to Protect Rural England. This will need to be cancelled if donation is not considered in future budgets.

207/2026 Receipts – Includes 2 receipts omitted from June 2026 minutes

Dated	Method.	Payee	Description	Amount
28.5.26	BACS Payment received	HUJFC	Invoice 3 - 1-week fees – 10.6.26 – 16.6.26	£110.00
24.6.26	Internal transfer	Bodiam Parish Council	Transfer from Savings account to current account	£1000.00
28.7.26	BACS Payment received	Bodiam Parish Council	HUJFC contribution towards Apr/May/June Mowing	£900.00
3.8.26	BACS Payment received	Bodiam Parish Council	Invoice 4 - 4 weeks fees – 2.8.26 – 29.8.26	£440.00
3.8.26	BACS Payment received	Bodiam Parish Council	Invoice 5 - 4 weeks fees – 30.8.26 – 26.9.26	£440.00
28.8.26	BACS Payment received	Rother District Council	2 nd half of precept for 2026/27	£8189.00
28.8.26	Internal transfer	Bodiam Parish Council	Transfer from Current account to Savings account	£7000.00

208/2026 Payments

Dated	Method.	Payee	Description	Amount
17.8.26	Unity DD	Castle Water	August water invoice – Estimated reading	£101.45
31.8.26	Unity Online	Unity bank charge	monthly charge for Unity bank	£7.00
21.8.26	Unity DD	CPRE	S137 donation to Campaign to Protect Rural England	£60.00
24.8.26	Unity DD	EDF	Pavilion electricity - Aug invoice	£22.68
28.8.26	Internal transfer	Unity Savings A/c	Transfer from Unity Current to Savings account	£7000.00
1.9.26	Unity DD	National Trust	Water Easement 2026/27	£206.44
18.9.26	Unity DD	EDF	Pavilion electricity - Sept invoice	£19.15
21.9.26	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary August 2026	£411.00
21.9.26	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk expenses – HP printing monthly fee Aug/Sept	£12.98
21.9.26	Unity Online	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary September 2026 – Includes NALC pay increase & back pay	£493.08

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209/2026 Information for Councillors

Councillors were informed of the NALC pay increase for the Clerk/RFO which was backdated to April 2026. Total clerk salary will be less than budgeted for the year.

210/2026 Date of next meeting

Monthly Council meeting, 19 October 2026, in the Parish Room at 6.30pm.

Apologies received from Cllr Linda Stevens

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