BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 16 November 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.

In attendance: RDC Cllrs Tony Biggs and ESCC Cllr Paul Redstone. Clerk: Lynsey Willard & 6 members of the public (MoP).

242/2026 **Meeting Chair:** As Cllr Linda Stevens was unable to attend the beginning of the meeting, the Vice Chair, Cllr Tim Porter, chaired proceedings.

243/2026 **Apologies**: RDC Cllr Tony Ganly & Cllr Nick Gilbert.

244/2026 **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 Robert Lynes occasionally does work for him.
Clerk, Lynsey Willard, declared a personal interest as a family member of G Willard Construction.

245/2026 **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 19 October 2026**

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

246/2026 **Matters arising**

Action points from the previous meeting are cleared or on the agenda.

247/2026 **Public questions**

No questions raised

248/2026 **Councillors' meetings with outside bodies**

No meetings attended

249/2026 **Planning – Dark Skies Policy**

As Cllr Gilbert was unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed to defer this item to a future agenda.

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

250/2026 East Sussex County Council Report

Councillors have received the previously circulated reports from ESCC. The report can be read on the Bodiam Website. A meeting with SE Water is currently being arranged, with Staplecross Village Hall the proposed venue. A meeting is being arranged by Cllr Redstone with the Head of Highway Safety and Bodiam Primary School Headteacher to discuss possible road safety improvements.

251/2026 Rother District Council Report

Councillors have received the previously circulated report from RDC, and the full report can be read on the Bodiam Website. It was reported that incidents of rural crime are increasing in the area. Unmarked police cars are conducting patrols and are currently monitoring for specific vehicles. Residents were encouraged to report any suspicious activity or criminal incidents. Members were also advised that new PCSOs will shortly be taking up duties in the area.

252/2026 Pavilion & Recreation Ground

Cllr Page reported that the Pavilion has been winterised, with the water supply and utilities switched off for the winter period. It was noted that the redundant pheasant feeder on the Recreation Ground should be removed, as it is currently being used as a litter bin.

Action 1: Pheasant feeder to be removed from the recreation ground

253/2026 Hawkhurst United Jnr Football club fundraising tournament & funday 2027

The possibility of HUJFC holding its tournament on the Recreation Ground was discussed with the residents present. Concerns were raised regarding traffic management, the number of vehicles attending the event, and the use of the upper section of the field for matches. It was agreed that an on-site meeting should be arranged involving representatives of HUJFC, Cllrs Stevens and Peters, and Mr Lloyd, preferably at the Recreation Ground during a weekend, to discuss these matters further.

Action 2: The Clerk to liaise with HUJFC to arrange a meeting between club representatives, Cllrs Stevens and Peters, and Mr Lloyd to discuss matters relating to the Recreation Ground.

254/2026 Pavilion Cladding

The cladding on the pavilion's riverside wall has been replaced and the scaffolding removed. The invoice was presented for approval of payment at this meeting.

255/2026 Road safety sign position

It was agreed that the most appropriate location for the 5 mph sign on the lane leading to the Recreation Ground would be on a post adjacent to the existing signage.

Action 3: Cllr Peters to seek confirmation from Mr Lovering that a further signpost may be installed adjacent to the existing post.

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

256/2026 Projects for consideration in 2027/2028 budget

It was agreed that renovation of the War Memorial should be treated as a priority to ensure that necessary works are undertaken before its condition deteriorates further.

Action 4: Cllr Peters to arrange for Robert Lyne to undertake an assessment of the War Memorial and advise on the restoration work required.

Action 5: All To investigate potential grant funding opportunities to support the renovation of the War Memorial.

257/2026 Urban Grass Cutting Options 2027/28

It was agreed that, due to the significant increase in costs, the Parish Council would opt for the two free grass cuts only during the 2027/28 financial year.

258/2026 Crime and Disorder

It was reported that tools and dogs had been stolen from Northlands Farm; however, the dogs have since been returned to their owners. A break-in at Sternbergs was also reported, together with an incident involving a vehicle overturning on Dagg Lane. Members were further advised that a new PCSO will be joining the local area.

259/2026 Trees and Footpaths

It was reported that fallen trees had been cleared from one of the footpaths following last month's storm. Members agreed that Cllr Peters should contact tree specialist Frankie Nowne to discuss undertaking a survey of the trees on the Village Green.

Action 6: Cllr Peters to contact Frankie Nowne to arrange a survey of the Village Green trees and provide recommendations on any necessary management or maintenance work.

260/2026 Finance

It was noted that the CIL return for 2025/26 is due to be submitted by 1 December. The Clerk will complete the return and publish it on the Parish Council website. Members were advised that the remaining CIL funds have now been fully expended ahead of the expiry date of April 2027.

261/2026 Payments

Dated	Method.	Payee	Description	Amount
31.10.26	Unity Online	Unity bank charge	monthly charge for Unity bank	£7.00
18.11.26	Unity BACs	G Willard Construction	Pavilion Cladding	£2227.80
18.11.26	Unity BACS	Rother Association of Local Councils	RALC Fee 2026/27	£26.00
24.11.26	Unity SO	Lynsey Willard	Clerk/RFO Salary November 2026	£460.12
24.11.26	Unity SO	Lynsey Willard	Clerk expenses – HP printing monthly fee November	£6.49

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

24.11.26	Unity DD	EDF	Pavilion electricity - Nov invoice	£23.68

262/2026 Finance - Monthly Finance Reports & Bank reconciliation

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank statements with the monthly financial reports and budget reports up to 16 November 2026, which were signed at the meeting by Cllr Stevens. All financial documents and invoices are circulated to Councilors for inspection before the meeting.

263/2026 Date of next meeting

It was noted that, due to the induction of Reverend Captain Paul Tyler as Vicar of the Benefice of St Giles and Rector of the Benefice of St James, to be held at St James, Ewhurst, on 14 December at 7.30 pm, the Parish Council's December meeting would be rescheduled. It was agreed that the meeting would instead take place on **Tuesday 15 December 2026 at 6.30 pm in the Parish Room.**