

## BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL

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**Please note these are draft minutes until formally approved at the next Parish Council meeting.**

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room

**Present:**

**For Bodiam Parish Council:**

Councillors Geoffrey Goodsell (Chairman), Richard Mitchell, Graham Peters,  
 Linda Stevens, , Clerk Christine Burgess.

**For East Sussex County Council:**

County Councillor Angharad Davies

**In Attendance:** Richard Parker-Harding, Licence Office, Rother District Council,

9 members of the public were present.

Cllr Goodsell, welcomed the members of the Public to the meeting, and invited them to the Parish Assembly on the 21<sup>st</sup> March at the C of E Primary School.

**11/2019 Apologies for Absence –**

Cllr Barbara Napper, D Cllr Sue Prochak, D Cllr Grahame Browne

**12/2019 Disclosure of Interests.**

Cllr Peters declared an interest as the Chairman of the Parker& Ashcombe Trust.

Item16 /2019 ) RR/2018/2313/P 5 Blacksmiths Field. Cllr Goodsell declared an interest as he known to the agent for Blacksmiths Field

Item 16/2019 RR/2018/2907/L Lower Northlands Farm, Cllr Peters declared an interest as a personal friend of the applicant.

Item21/2019 Cllr Peters declared an interest as he swam at Claremont School

Item24/2019 Cllr Goodsell declared a prejudicial interest as he is related to someone who lives in Sandhurst, and left the room for this item to be taken by Vice Chairman Richard Mitchell

**13/2019 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and the Financial Report were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

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

**14/2019 Councillors Meetings with Outside Bodies**

Cllr G Goodsell attended the Transport Group at Hawkhurst Christmas meal.  
Cllr Mitchell had a meeting with Steve Bryant at the Recreation Ground in regards to a quote for mowing.

**15/2019 East Sussex County Council Report**

County Councillor Angharad Davies, reported that the Highways department had notified that East Sussex is on Amber Alert for snow on Tuesday and Wednesday night (29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of Jan). They have been out gritting just 20 times so far this year, compared with 40 times last year) so still have a good store of grit available.

**16/2019 Planning****a) Applications**

**(a) RR/2018/2998 FN Park Farm Oast**-Proposed agricultural storage barn to be built in place of the one approved under **RR/2018/1801/P** ( Marked for Notification only, permission already granted) **Supported**

**(b) RR/2018/2907/L Lower Northlands Farm**- Localised superstructure repairs and redecoration to main building including more modern front porch. **Supported**

**(b) Decisions**

**(a) RR/2018/2313/P 5 Blacksmiths Field**- Loft conversion with rear dormer and 2no.rooflights. Front entrance porch **Granted with Conditions**

**(b) RR2018/1801/P Park Farm Oast** – (as above) **Granted with conditions**

**(c) RR2018/2789/A National Trust, Bodiam Castle**, Multiple signage across the site directing visitors to attractions and facilities.. **Granted with Conditions**

**17/2019 Public Participation**

**(a) Junction Road Filling Station** – Members of the public expressed concerns about the increase of activity over this site since last year and the property is now surrounded by a high fence. There are one or two fields bordering this area, which they suspect might have an application for planning permission pending. Although this in Salehurst and Robertsbridge Parish, it also affects Bodiam residents who would like to know as a matter of urgency. Cllr Goodsell had spoken to D Cllr Prochak who has brought the matter to the attention of the planning Committee.

Tim Hickling from the Enforcement Office has informed us that they are currently investigating for any breaches of planning control. The Planning Enforcement Officer visited the site last week and has spoken with the new owner who states he is keeping the site as a car related business, refurbishing the old shop, and has put up some fencing. A twin unit caravan has been put on the site which will require planning permission (if used for residential purposes). Once the investigation is concluded the Enforcement section will report back to the complainants.

Residents stated that there were now 3 caravans on the site.

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

Cllr Mitchell assured the public that it had been on the agenda of Bodiam Parish Council since it was first reported last year and that we would continue to monitor the situation. Cllr Peters will make enquiries regarding to whom the land belongs. Cllr Goodsell assured everyone that we would do our best.

**(b) Sedlescombe Rangers FC Tournament-6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> July**

A representative from the Club informed us of the arrangements for parking on the field, specifically to the Pavillion side of the gate half way along the field. Volunteers will help visitors park correctly on the Field. Cllr Mitchell informed the Club that there is a Covenant on part of the field that prevents parking and permission would be required if it was thought that there would not be enough room. The peak time for arrivals will be 8.30 in the morning for the morning session, and beginning of the afternoon session., SR FC are very organized and have done these events before successfully. There will be a Refreshments Tent and a Barbecue during the day, all rubbish will be cleared from the site, also overnight Security.

Clerk to write to as a matter of courtesy to Mr and Mrs Lovering and consider distributing leaflets around the area close by. Sedlescombe Rangers FC volunteered to distribute the leaflets to nearby houses.

Article to go into the Parish News nearer the time.

**(c) Recent Meeting of the PCC, Road Sign**

Members of the PCC asked if it would be possible to have a sign on the T junction here directing people to the Church. The Church is part of the Village but visitors have difficulty finding it. The Castle is signposted as is the Pub and it was felt that it would be good to have the Church signposted as well. There had been a sign many years ago and this would be replacing a previous sign. The Church would cover the cost. **Supported**

Chairman Cll Goodsell thanked all members of the Public for attending as they left the meeting.

**18/2019 Environment**

**(a) Noise Pollution –Richard Parker Harding Head of the Licensing Office RDC**

Mr Parker Harding attended the meeting by invitation from the Council, to inform the Council how the Licenses work.

If there are more than 500 people attending a venue a Premises Licence must be applied for. If there are no objections the Licence is granted automatically. If there are objections, it would then go to a hearing to the Licensing Panel, who decide whether to grant the Licence or not and at that point conditions can be imposed. Normally an applicant would offer up conditions and at that point it would be negotiated before issuing. Once a Licence is issued there is no time limit on it. A Licence can be reviewed after granting.

In reference to the Licence granted to the TN32 Festival at Quarry Farm, which included alcohol and live entertainment, time limits were imposed at negotiations. A

Management Plan must be submitted 75 days before the event and 60 days before for a Noise Plan. At that stage the Emergency Services are informed. There were also conditions applied to this event for all households nearby (and the Council) to be notified, with a mobile numbers for complaints, in case there are any problems while the event is on. At the event last year letters were not sent out by the organizers and no mobile number provided.

Rother District Council, during the summer period operate a Noise Patrol to visit venues within the area. There were concerns raised re noise control last year and if a Licence is applied for again there will be recommendations regarding the orientation of the stage to control the sound. Any member of the Public can ask for the Licence to be reviewed. Cllr Peters commented that problems arose last year because negotiations and consultations were conducted with Ewehurst it being in there Parish. Mr Parker Harding advised that if it were to go ahead again, the Licensing Department and the Organisers would consult with Bodiam as well.

Cllr Peters asked regarding the situation of Pubs using live music outside during the Summer. Mr Parker Harding advised that since Deregulation Act in 2015 Pubs can have live music up to 11 pm. Residents can register a complaint (earlier rather than later) if they consider it to be detrimental to the locality and quality of life, and it would be advisable to have a list of dates and times. Complaints may be sent to [pollution@rother.gov.uk](mailto:pollution@rother.gov.uk)

Cllrs thanked Mr Parker Harding for attending the meeting and had found it very informative and helpful. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks.

**19/2019 Crime and Disorder**

Information from Cllr Peters.

Police are reviewing the way that we are policed and PCSO's may be coming back and also they will be improving the response to 111 number calls.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January a workshop on Levetts lane had been broken into.

**20/2019 Trees and Footpaths**

Cllr Mitchell reported that in December, the footpath from the Green up to Knowle Cottage had had the hedge trimmed and the rubbish from this had fallen on the path, but when it had been inspected it had already been cleared. There was also a tree down on the path from the Castle up to Court Lodge Farm which was dealt with and cleared.

**21/2019 School Parking**

Cllr Stevens has had a couple of complaints regarding parking at the Primary School which is worsening, as cars are parking right on the corner. Also complaints have been made about the Claremont School Buses parking on the road, rather than on the Claremont Drive. The Clerk will invite a couple of representatives from Bodiam Cof E Primary School to meet with the Councillors to discuss the matter.

**22/2019 National Trust Treatment Plant**

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

The General Manager Karen Stafford from Bodiam Castle, has advised progress is being made to install a suitable system to eliminate odours, some will require planning consents but she will be able to provide a confirmed plan of action by March, and would be happy to attend a meeting to update the Council at that time.

The Council were advised that there is a maintenance programme in place and is being monitored by the Installation Company who designed the system.

If there are any issues the Duty Manager can be contacted on 01580 830 196.

**23/2019 Oldwood Surgery and Battle Health Centre Patients Participation Group**

In December the Council was contacted by the Vice-chair of the above group. Bodiam just borders into this area. The PPG is very keen to better reflect the patient demographic. If residents using this Surgery would like to participate and join the group the contact Email address is [oldwoodandbattleppg@gmail.com](mailto:oldwoodandbattleppg@gmail.com).

**24/2019 Housing Meeting Sandhurst**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 it came to the Council’s notice that Sandhurst PC were holding a private meeting to discuss the possibility of building 150 houses adjacent to the Bodiam Road. Consequently because of objections raised by residents the meeting was cancelled. The Clerk contacted Tunbridge Wells Planning Dept and asked as a bordering Village Bodiam be kept informed of any plans and if there were any more details available. No plans had been submitted. The Planning dept will send through notifications of applications through to the Clerk.

**25/2019 Grass Cutting Service 2019**

**(a) quotes received from contractors**

The P C have received 3 Quotes for grass cutting services, to mow the Recreation Ground, The Green and the War Memorial area:-

- |    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 1. | Landscape Services,<br>Rec Grd 20 cuts, Green and Memorialx15 cuts | *2063.00 per year |
| 2. | George Groundscare and General Services Ltd<br>325.00 per cut x 20 | 6500.00 per year  |
| 3. | D Catt per 150.00 per cut x 20                                     | 3000.00 per year  |

*\* for comparison if 5 more cuts were added to the quote from Lanscape Services for the War Memorial and The Green this would add 258.00 equate to 2321.00*

It was agree that the quote from Landscape Services be accepted and the Clerk should sign and date and return the form of acceptance.

**(b) ESCC grass cutting services – decision**

It has been confirmed that ESCC agreed at the Cabinet meeting 19/12/2018 to fund grass verge cuts for a further year and should be formally agreed at the full Council In February.

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

**26/2019 Recreation Ground**

**(a) Upkeep and Inspection**

Cllr Goodsell informed us that after talking to the Caretaker/Cleaner there had been a problem after one of the football matches. The changing rooms had been left in a disgusting state and towels had been used in the toilets. Cllr Goodsell consulted with Cllr Mitchell at the time and it was agreed to pay an extra hour to the Caretaker/Cleaner for the distress and extra work. Cllr Mitchell has informed Sedlescombe Rangers FC who will police the Changing rooms more intensively.

A Shower Screen has been kindly donated for the Referees changing Room, and will be fitted shortly.

**(b) Bookings**

Sedlescombe Rangers FC have completed a booking for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of June and 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July for a tournament. Council agreed a fee for £80 per weekend, £160 total to reflect the intensive use of the grounds and changing rooms.

Bodiam Primary School Sports day dates have been confirmed as Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**27/2019 Finances**

The Precept agreed at the previous budget meeting in January of 9.900 was proposed by Cllr Peters and seconded by Cllr Mitchell. Clerk to complete forms and return to Rother District Council.

**(a) Receipts**

None

**(b) Payments**

Castle Water Ltd	Pavillion	37.90
Direct Fire Protection	Pavillion	65.52
Clerk	Salary (5weeks)	525.00
Clerk	Admin (postage)	11.52

**(c) Monthly Finance Report**

The Clerk/RFO presented the report showing movement on the accounts. It was reported that a Bank Statement to 28<sup>th</sup> of December had been received, and Cllr Stevens initialed the payments in the Receipts & Payments book. Cheques signed by Councillors.

**28/2019 Information for Councillors**

**29/2019 Date of Next Meeting**

February 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 in the Bodiam Parish Room.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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