**BODIAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19 May 2014 at 7.00 p.m. in Bodiam Parish Room**

**Present:**

Councillor G Goodsell (Chairman)

Councillor Barbara Napper

Councillor R Mitchell

Councillor Janet Gardener

In attendance:

Mrs V Davies (clerk)

ESCC Angharhad Davies

PCSO Demi Georghiou

**0048/2014 Election of Chairman**

Councillor Mitchell nominated Councillor Goodsell to be the Chairman. This was seconded by Councillor Gardner.

**0049/2013 Election of Vice Chairman**

Councillor Mitchell proposed Councillor Napper as vice chair. This was seconded by Councillor Gardner.

**050/2013. Apologies for Absence** were accepted from:

Councillor Graham Peters, RDC Councillor S Prochak

**051/2014.**  **Disclosure of Interests**

Councillor Mitchell disclosed an interest with Benton Cottage and Marsh Cottage as he lived at Marsh cottage.

Councillor Goodsell declared an interest with Senlac and Claremont School

**052/2014. To approve the minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28.4.14 had been previously circulated. The minutes were signed by Councillor Goodsell as a correct record of the proceedings.

**053/2014 East Sussex County Council**

ESCC Councillor Davies had looked into the situation regarding parking at the Curlew Crossroads. She advised that ESCC had parking enforcement for Hastings . Lewes and Eastbourne to prevent parking on the verges but did not have this enforcement in Rother. She had passed on the concerns which had been raised regarding parking at the Curlew. ESCC was looking at how to introduce a verge ban in particular areas later in the year.

Consultation on mobile library. Fortnightly visits would be changing to 3 weekly.

Michelle Georgeson was the Grass Cutting contact.

**054/2014. Crime and Disorder**

PCSO Georghiou advised there were no crime reports. Overnight high visibility patrols had been conducted. PCSO Georghiou would be meeting with the new reception parents regarding parking safely. An email had been received by the Parish Council from the chairman of Seddlescombe Parish Council requesting that Bodiam Parish Council contribute towards funding the purchase of a car for the parishes served by PCSO Georghiou. Councillors disagreed with the suggestion in the email that a large amount of PCSO Georghiou time was spent dealing with issues in areas in Bodiam where there was social housing. PCSO Georghiou advised if the parish did not contribute towards the costs of the car there would be no adverse effects to the police service.

Resolution:

The parish council would not be prepared to fund the cost of the car. The clerk would respond to Seddlescombe Parish Council.

**055/2014** **To appoint councilors to all areas**

Councillors were appointed to the following areas.

Representatives to RALC Councillor G Peters

Councillor for community safety Janet Gardner

Councillor with responsibility for Recreation Ground

Health & Safety Councillor G Goodsell & Councillor B Napper

Councillors for Financial Control Councillor G Peters/ B Napper

Councillor for Fire Risk Assessment Councillor R Mitchell

**Other Appointments**

Tree Warden Councillor R Mitchell

Footpath Representative Councillor R Mitchell

**To outside bodies:**

**Parker & Ashcombe Trust**

1 nominative Trustee:

Cllr G Peters appointed 19.8.06 for 4 years August 2010

appointed 20.8.10 for 4 years August 2014

Resolution

As councilor Peters was not at the meeting the issue of nominative trustee to Parker Ashcombe Trust would be discussed at the next meeting.

**0056/2014 Meetings attended by the Chairman and other councilors**

Councillor Goodsell reported that he had attended the following meetings:-

* Rother District Council Chairmans leaving event at Bodiam Tea Rooms.
* Meeting with Amiscus Horizon representative
* Councillor Goodsell would be meeting the highways representative this week and would discuss the Curlew Crossroads and the hedge along Claremont School.

**057/2014 – Trees and Foopaths**

Councillor Mitchell reported that the woodland trust was running a scheme of planting saplings to commemorate WW1. Councillor Mitchel would apply for a pack to be planted in an appropriate place on the Recreation Ground.

Councillor Mitchell had raised the issue of Footpath 10b at Elms Farm and ESCC would come out to look at the issue.

**058/2014 – Planning Applications**

**RR/2014/993/P** -Retention Of Benton Bungalow without complying with Agricultural Occupancy Condition 1 imposed on A/73/0745 & transfer of Occupancy Restriction to Marsh Cottage, Bodiam.

Councillors considered the application. The parish council supported the application but would like it to remain as affordable occupancy for full time local residents.

**059/2014 - Parish Council**

1. **To receive the report of the Internal Auditor and assess effectiveness of audit.**

The council received the Auditors report and considered the items raised. The council believes the audit to have been effective in checking the Council’s risks, financial records, and procedures as detailed in the letter of engagement.

1. **To Approve and complete the audit return**
2. The statement of Accounts (Section 1 of the Annual Return) was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.
3. The Council completed the Statement of Governance (Section 2 of the Annual Return) which was signed on behalf of the Council by the Chairman. Notices are on the boards advertising the Rights of the Public to inspect the accounts
4. War Memorial. Councillor Goodsell reported that a request had been made to remove the plastic cone beside the war memorial. This would be removed . The parish council would also collect the pump stored by Dora Churcher.
5. Drive carefully sign. Discussion took place regarding the Please drive careful sign. This would be raised at the next meeting.
6. Parking Restriction – Bodiam Castle. Ewhurst Parish Council had written with their intention to request for the seasonal parking restrictions be extended to a permanent parking restriction. The Parish Council would fully support Ewhurst Parish Council in this matter.
7. **Parking at Curlew Crossroads -** Ewhurst Parish council had also raised the issue of parking at the Curlew.

**Resolution:**

Councillor Goodsell would speak Giles Perin regarding the signage.

**060/2014 - Rother District Council**

There was no report.

**0061/2014.** **Recreation Ground**

1. **Changing rooms: general up-keep, inspections and security**

* A fridge had been installed in the kitchen.
* Discussion took place regarding painting of the kitchen area in the pavilion.

Resolution:

Councillor Mitchel would obtain quotations for painting.

* Discussion took place regarding the refurbishment of the noticeboards.

Resolution:

Councillor Goodsell would approach a local builder to complete the refurbishment.

Grass Cutting: Disscussion took place regarding the quality of the grass cutting as the benches on the recreation ground and the edge of the pavilion had not been strimmed.

Resolution:

Councillor Goodsell would contact the grass cutting contractor.

**Bookings:**

Senlac 15th June.

Discussion took place regarding the arrangements for Senlac.

Resolution:

The clerk would contact George Bailey at the National Trust regarding parking on the access road.

Councillor Mitchell would be at the Recreation Ground at 7pm on 12th June at 7pm to assess the condition of the ground.

Resolution:

Clerk to contact Senlac to confirm that they would send a representative to meet Councillor Mitchell.

Further bookings:

Claremont School – athletics

Bodiam Cricket Club

West Ridge Construction.

**0062/2014**. **Finances**

1. **RFO report**:

The monthly financial reports and balances were presented.

Balances: Current and Deposit accounts as of 12.5.14: £14,631.32, outstanding cheques**:** £521.85 The balances were verified by Councillor Napper. Councillor Goodsell scrutinized the invoices and vouchers.

1. **To authorise payments and note receipts:**

**Cheq No Payee Amount Description**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1530 | V Davies | £159.98 | clerk expenses | S111 |  |  |  |
| 1531 | V Davies | £180 | Clerk salary | S151, S112(1) |  |  |  |
| 1532 | Ralc | £25 | Subscriptions | S143 |  |  |  |
| 1532 | T Barratt | £162 | Internal Audit | S21(6) |  |  |  |

**0064/2014**. **Dates of future meetings 24 June 2014**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.