

RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 30th September 2025, 7.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall.

All Members in Attendance: Cllrs Bentley, Hickey (7.05), Rathbone, Toye, Wettern. **Others Present:** Clerk and RFO, Lorna Thwaites. **Members of the Public in Attendance:** 4.

Questions RECEIVED from the Public: What is the progress of the playground? The Council to respond during item 17.3.

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR:

1.1 Cllr Oliver Rathbone was ELECTED as the Chair for Rodmell Parish Council for the forthcoming year.

1.2 The Chair SIGNED the Declaration of Office form.

2. ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR. Cllr Wettern was ELECTED as the Vice-Chair for the forthcoming year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None received.

4. NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS OR REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO AGENDA ITEMS.

5. FUTURE ENERGY LANDSCAPE EVENT IN RODMELL: Community Energy Pathways is a non-profit organisation that support communities to consider the future of their energy consumption; funding has been received from Lewes District Council; Rodmell is the first event on 9th October in Rodmell Village Hall; data will be presented showing current parish energy consumption and the mix of energy type; a discussion will be held over what is acceptable to the parish and in the landscape and the event will explore what that might look like using an interactive tool.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Rodmell Parish Council held on 29th July 2025 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

7. THE COUNCIL RESOLVED TO FILL THE VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR BY CO-OPTION: Both vacancies to be advertised from 7th October.

8. MEMBERSHIP TO COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES:

8.1 Appointments AGREED: Map project - Cllr Bentley; sportsfields/mowing/hedge trimming – Cllr Wettern; POLO – Cllr Wettern to attend the POLO meeting on 6th October.

9. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

9.1 The Council RESOLVED to add Cllrs Rathbone and Wettern as bank signatories.

9.2 Payments made since the last meeting were RATIFIED, October payments AUTHORISED, and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.

9.3 A report on spend vs budget was RECEIVED: The Council NOTED that 46% of the budget has been spent.

9.4 The Council RESOLVED to move £3k from the current bank account to the savings account.

9.5 The Clerk's leave was AGREED.

10. BUDGET 2026-2027:

10.1 The key priorities for the 2026-27 budget were AGREED and the current strategy to be maintained.

11. REPORT(S):

11.1 RECEIVED and NOTED from James MacCleary, MP for Lewes.

11.2 James MacCleary summer visit was well received and well attended with good audience participation.

11.3 Cllr Rathbone advised the village hall doors are going back in, aiming for completion before Christmas.

12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

12.1 Rodmell Road Safety Measures – J.Stevenson: NOTED; the Council Members don't have any historic experience to share and asked that the Clerk forward the email to the SaferC7 team.

12.2 Save the Lewes Bus Station – R Jeffery: AGREED to provide the Clerk's email address for contact.

12.3 Lewes and Eastbourne Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy Survey: Cllr Toye to complete.

12.4 LGA Update – B.Mabey: NOTED.

12.5 Wealden District Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Town and Parish feedback: NOTED; no councillors are able to attend; the Clerk to email regarding the issue with electric motorbikes and hare coursing.

12.6 Invitation to SDNPA Parish Meeting (virtual) 01 Oct 2025: Cllrs Rathbone and Bentley to attend.

12.7 River Ouse Charter Symposium 22nd Oct: Cllr Hickey to attend.

12.8 Remembrance Service – H.Spearman: The Clerk to contact J. Brown for details.

13. MATTERS ARISING:

13.1 The decision to write a formal letter to Jim McMahan MP regarding the proposed Unitary Authority Expansion was RATIFIED.

13.2 Cllr Wettern AGREED to assess repairs needed to the bench at the Newhaven Bus Stop and advise.

- 13.3 Safety at the Northease bus stop location and the need for a potential shelter was DISCUSSED; Cllr Hickey has contacted the SaferC7 project, and bus stop location and safety is under consideration by the team.
- 13.4 The replacement of the bench by the noticeboard was DISCUSSED: The Clerk has sought several quotes but there are issues with finding a bench of the exact same size that will fit into the metal feet; Cllr Wettern will assess the bench for repairs and will forward a quote from a contractor, if viable.
- 13.5 All Council Members AGREED to have their mobile numbers on the Emergency Plan; Cllr Toye will continue updating the plan and Cllr Rathbone will help with laying it out.
- 13.6 Cllr Toye has set up a First Aid kit at the pavilion and a handbook of procedures; attendees at the Summer Show appreciated the improvements; the Council expressed their thanks to Cllr Toye.
- 13.7 It is suspected that the Northease noticeboard has been hit by a car; Cllr Hickey will contact the farmer about relocating the board to a safer location; Cllr Hickey will send noticeboard dimensions to the Clerk.

14. GRASS CUTTING:

- 14.1 The response of ESCC concerning their contracted urban and rural cuts was RECEIVED: The Clerk and Cllr Toye will liaise with the Rights of Way team to establish if the footpath is registered.
- 14.2 ACE Landscapes have done a good job with good liaison with the Clerk and Cllr Toye.
- 14.3 Quotes for hedge cutting at the Dicklands were RECEIVED and the Council AGREED to appoint Barcombe Landscapes to cut the hedge, as soon as possible and prior to the cutting of the recreation ground hedge.

15. HIGHWAYS:

- 15.1 An update on the repairs requested (since October 2024) to the Vehicle Activated Speed Signs was RECEIVED: ESH have advised that the signs will be replaced with new signs, during the next financial year; the work has yet to be scheduled.

16. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: None received.

17. PROJECTS:

17.1 Village Map:

- 17.1.1 Application SDNP/25/02073/LIS Listed Building Consent: the LDC decision date is 18th November; the Clerk will seek a current quote for the production of the map and frameless mounting option.

17.2 Pavilion and Playing Fields:

- 17.2.1 The fire safety check has been undertaken by Pyrotec and the certificate received.
- 17.2.2 Cllr Toye will take the meter readings at the Pavilion.
- 17.2.3 Cllr Toye will investigate the goal posts left by Rodmell Football Club and dismantle if feasible; the holes left by the posts have been filled.
- 17.2.4 The Council AGREED to trial taking bins away from the pavilion at the end of the cricket season.

17.3 Playground:

- 17.3.1 The multi-play unit was REMOVED and the work by Cosmo Construction was neat and tidy.
- 17.3.2 The Council AGREED the playground design and installation brief of the playground working group.
- 17.3.3 The application for CIL funding for the playground was not successful; the Council AGREED to resubmit their request in the next funding round.
- 17.3.4 Further grants and donations for the playground installation will be pursued via volunteers.

17.4 Benches:

- 17.4.1 2 further benches have been installed in the village by Admiral's Knock and Mill Lane.
- 17.4.2 Replacing the bench by the noticeboard was discussed under item 13.4.
- 17.4.3 The procedure for accepting any donations/gifts towards cost of the benches was RECEIVED from ESALC: Under Section 139 of the 1972 Act, the parish council can accept gifts; a resident can make a donation to the parish council for a specific purpose providing it will be of benefit to the community; the offer of the donation needs to be in writing from the donor as well as the intended purpose of the gift; the Council will need to agree by resolution of the council whether to accept the donation.

17.5 Dog Fouling

- 17.5.1 Cllr Toye will put up another sign to try and alleviate dog fouling in the parish.
- 17.5.2 Costs of a third dog waste bin by the Monks House car park/pavilion were RECEIVED; the Council did not AGREE to proceed at this location, but Cllr Rathbone will look at other potential sites.

17.6 Mirror

- 17.6.1 Cllr Wettern will speak with the landowner where the current mirror is sited

18. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL: Additional dog bin.

19. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL:** 25th November, 7pm.
20. **THE MEETING CLOSED** at 20.05.