

RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 21st January 2025, 7.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall.

Members in Attendance: Cllr Dishington (Chair), Cllr Wettertn, Cllr Hickey (arrived 19.04), Cllr Smart, Cllr Bentley, Cllr Rathbone, Cllr Toye.

Members not in Attendance: Cllr Bentley. **Others Present:** Clerk and RFO Lorna Thwaites.

Members of the Public in Attendance: None. **Questions RECEIVED from the Public:** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Bentley.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS** were received, and no requests were received **FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**, as required by the Members Code of Conduct.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Rodmell Parish Council held on 19th November 2024 were RESOLVED as a correct record and will be signed by the Chair at the next meeting.
4. **FINANCE/ADMIN:**
 - 4.1 December payments were RATIFIED, January payments and the bank reconciliation were APPROVED.
 - 4.2 A date for the Annual Parish Meeting was AGREED as 8th May, 7pm – 8.30pm: The Council RESOLVED to set up a working group of Cllrs Dishington, Toye and Rathbone to plan the meeting; the group AGREED to meet during the week of 13th Feb at 7pm.
 - 4.3 Dates for the ordinary meetings of Rodmell Parish Council for the 2025-2026 financial year were AGREED, subject to hall availability.
5. **2025-2026 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**
 - 5.1 The budget agreed 2025-2026 will be signed at the next meeting.
 - 5.2 The precept form for 2025-2026 will be signed by the Chair and emailed to the Clerk; the minute confirming the precept has been sent to LDC.
6. **REPORT(S):**
 - 6.1 A report was RECEIVED and NOTED from Cllr Spiteri.
 - 6.2 The following reports were RECEIVED:
 - 6.2.1 First Aid Training – Cllr Toye: The course was success and well attended; there is interest in a future course and the instructor suggested a second defibrillator by the cricket pavilion.
 - 6.2.2 C7 Project – Cllr Toye: The next meeting is to be held on 11th February.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 7.1 Meeting on the Partnership Management Plan and Local Plan Review Regulation 18 consultation – SDNP: Cllr Dishington will attend.
 - 7.2 Southern Water’s new Rivers and Seas Watch service – Southern Water: NOTED.
 - 7.3 Trekking to Everest Base Camp – volunteer from Citizens Advice Bureau: The Council wished the volunteer well with their fundraising but agreed not to make a donation.
 - 7.4 Electoral Register Revised 1 Dec 2024 – Lewes Electoral Services: The Council AGREED to request a copy once the .gov emails are available.
 - 7.5 Town and Parish Councils & VE Day 80 – ESALC: The Council RESOLVED to hold their Annual Parish Meeting on 8th May and Cllr Wettertn will light a beacon at 9.30pm; Cllr Smart will raise the parish flag at 9am; the Clerk was asked to register the parish council activities on the official website.
 - 7.6 Lewes District Local Plan Consultation Events: Discussed under item 7.1.
 - 7.7 Village Field Rodmell – M.Tudge: The Council NOTED from M.Tudge that sponsorship has not been secured for the event and that it would not take place; thanks to the Parish Council for their support was NOTED.
 - 7.8 Opening of the SDNPA’s 2024/5 call for projects for CIL funding: The Council RESOLVED that it would submit an expression of interest for the playground restoration, wildflowers and benches.
8. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 8.1 The Council NOTED the hedges at the Recreation Ground have been cut by Barcombe Landscapes.
 - 8.2 The Council RECEIVED and ACCEPTED the quote of Countrymans for grass cutting in 2025-26 as £60+vat per cut and £130 +vat to flail hedge on Mill Lane and top once per year.
 - 8.3 The Council NOTED that match funding for the restoration of the fingerpost had been received and that JAKK will remove the fingerpost in the next few weeks for restoration.
 - 8.4 To RECEIVE an update on the painting of the noticeboard lettering – Cllr Smart. DEFERRED.
 - 8.5 The Council RESOLVED a gesture of thanks for the contributions made by two parishioners as a steak dinner at the Abergavenny Arms - to the value of £65.

8.6 An update on the Old Rectory construction issues was RECEIVED: Cllr Dishington will speak to the project manager.

9. HIGHWAYS:

9.1 The following update on the repairs requested to the Vehicle Activated Speed Signs was RECEIVED: One sign is in the system to be repaired however ESH do not have a timeframe for this; the remaining sign requires a replacement due to a control board fault; this is a longer process due to the lead time when ordering the signs.

9.2 The broken Mill Lane/The Street sign has been removed by ESH who don't plan to replace as it is a non-regulatory sign; the Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Osbourne to ask if she can help have the sign replaced.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: Comments AGREED or RATIFIED:

10.1 **SDNP/24/05289/TCA Proposal:** T1 Catalpa : to remove left and right forks on the branches growing closest to the house; T2 Cherry Plum : to fell; T3 Cherry Plum : to fell; T4 Cherry Plum : to fell T5 Cherry Plum: to fell; T6 Cherry Plum: to fell **Location:** The Mound , The Street, Rodmell, East Sussex, BN7 3HF. (deadline for comments 16 Jan 25). NOTED.

10.2 **SDNP/24/04948/HOUS Proposal:** Replacement of 13no windows and 1no door **Location:** Falcon Lodge, The Street, Rodmell, East Sussex, BN7 3HF (comments by 22nd Jan 25). The Council RESOLVED to remain NEUTRAL with no comments.

11. PROJECTS:

11.1 Village Map:

11.1.1 An update on the application for planning permission for the map was RECEIVED: No application has been submitted; the Clerk was asked to make the application.

11.1.2 Next steps AGREED with regards to the production of the map and quotes received: Cllr Rathbone asked for all cllrs to send feedback directly to him by Friday 24th January.

11.2 Pavilion and Playing Fields:

11.2.1 No further correspondence was received from the Rodmell Football Club and the Council RESOLVED to close the matter; Cllr Smart has had replacement keys cut and has passed the invoice to the Clerk; the Council NOTED that the goal posts are still in place; the Council AGREED to change the key lock code.

11.2.2 Quotes were RECEIVED from AJ Walton for the electrical repairs and the Council RESOLVED to proceed with the quote to install switches.

11.2.3 The Clerk has received some plumber recommendations and will send out the tender document.

11.3 Play Equipment:

11.3.1 An update on the action taken re the 'High Risk' play equipment (as classified by the LDC safety inspection) was RECEIVED: Cllr Dishington has put notices on the equipment to prevent access.

11.3.2 Quotes for repairs to the playground equipment were RECEIVED from RJ Playgrounds and SafePlay; Cosmo Construction provided a quote to remove the equipment; Cllr Dishington has discussed the repairs with a tradesperson, who has made proposals for restoring the equipment and will submit a quote; the Clerk was asked to contact LDC to establish if a playground installer/repairer is required to undertake the repairs.

11.4 Playground Refurbishment:

11.4.1 Cllrs Dishington and Hickey AGREED to meet in February to discuss the playground refurbishment.

11.5 Benches:

11.5.1 Written permission for the benches is still pending; Cllr Dishington will meet Mr Robinson on Wednesday 29th January and Ms Young on Sunday 25th January and ask them to sign the letters.

11.6 Website/Social Media:

11.6.1 Cllrs AGREED to send the Clerk portrait photos for the website.

11.6.2 Two quotes for the hosting of the Rodmell.net website were RECEIVED and the Council RESOLVED to move the hosting to Parish Council Websites at £10+vat per month.

11.6.3 RodmellParishCouncil.org will soon be moved to a .gov domain and then .gov emails can be created.

11.6.4 The Council NOTED that Rodmell Parish Council now has a Facebook page.

12. NO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL were proposed.

13. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL was RECEIVED: Tuesday 18th March, 7pm Rodmell Village Hall.

14. THE MEETING closed: at 20.28.