

## RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL** held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 7.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall.

**Members in Attendance:** Cllrs Bentley, Hickey (arrived 19.23), Rathbone, Toye. **Others Present:** Clerk and RFO, Lorna Thwaites. **Members of the Public in Attendance:** 2. **Questions RECEIVED from the Public:** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Wetterern.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS AND NO REQUESTS TO CONSIDER 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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:**
  - 4.1 The Clerk has updated the bank mandate with Cllrs Rathbone and Wetterern as bank signatories: Cllrs Wetterern and Rathbone to confirm they have received the email confirmation and to respond to the bank.
  - 4.2 Payments made since the last meeting were RATIFIED, December payments were AUTHORISED including an additional invoice from Aviemore Landscapes, and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
5. **BUDGET 2026-2027:**
  - 5.1 The first draft of the 2026-27 budget was AGREED and the Council RESOLVED to set a precept of £20.5k.
6. **REPORT(S) AND MINUTES:**
  - 6.1 Reports from Cllr Sarah Osborne and James McCleary MP were RECEIVED and NOTED.
  - 6.2 The minutes of the POLO meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> October were RECEIVED and NOTED; the date of the next meeting was RECEIVED as 23 February 2026, 7.30pm (online).
  - 6.3 A brief verbal update on the SDNPA Parish Meeting was RECEIVED: the meeting was interesting to attend.
  - 6.4 To RECEIVE a brief verbal update on the River Ouse Charter Symposium – Cllr Hickey. DEFER.
  - 6.5 The minutes from LDALC AGM of 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were RECEIVED and NOTED.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
  - 7.1 LDALC – next scheduled meeting 2pm Thurs 15 Jan 2026 at the offices of Seaford Town Council: NOTED.
  - 7.2 Plot – Telscombe Village resident: There is no plot available, priority is given to Rodmell residents.
  - 7.3 Safer C7 Bulletin – S.Carroll: NOTED.
  - 7.4 Public Presentation Events, C7 Project – S.Carroll: The presentation was well attended with 40+ people; and it was felt a useful discussion was had.
  - 7.5 SDNPA Draft Active Travel Network Plan and Vision Map – Rights of Way and Access Officer: NOTED.
  - 7.6 LNRS Nature – webinar recording and consultation (ends 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025): NOTED.
  - 7.7 Rodmell CE Primary School: The request was NOTED; the Parish Council have no association with the old school building, but the Clerk was asked to email details of the Charleston Trust to the correspondent.
  - 7.8 Lewes District Emergency Food Winter Fundraiser – Sussex Community Development Association: NOTED.
  - 7.9 SRF Campaign – Sussex Warning and Informing Group: NOTED – the campaign has been promoted on the Rodmell Parish Council website and the Facebook page.
  - 7.10 Rewarding P.Toye: Mr Toye's thanks were NOTED and well-received by the Council.
  - 7.11 Thank you and Follow Up – Stakeholder Liaison team: The presentation has been circulated and was NOTED.
8. **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - 8.1 The Council AGREED that the Clerk should log an insurance claim for the Northease noticeboard; the location was AGREED and the size of a replacement noticeboard to be approx. w140cm and h105cm; the Council thanked Mr Robinson for the new location and AGREED to write to him when the new noticeboard is installed; Cllr Hickey to be the liaison for installation.
9. **GRASS/HEDGE CUTTING:**
  - 9.1 The Dicklands hedge was cut by Barcombe Landscapes; the Council AGREED to cut again when the playing field hedge is cut.
  - 9.2 An update on the request to ESCC to cut the C7 Footpath was RECEIVED: The footpath is not registered and was cut by ESCC when they did the last urban cut; the Council RESOLVED to have it cut by ACE Landscapes up to four times a year, as required.
  - 9.3 The Council RESOLVED option 2 (4 extra cuts at the cost of £265.42 for the year) with the ESCC urban grass cutting service for 2026/7.

9.4 Consultation on Local Government Organisation: The Council AGREED not to make a response, but councillors may respond as individuals should they wish.

9.5 SDNP Planning in Lewes: The change SDNPA taking all responsibility planning services in its area was NOTED.

9.6 C7 Day Time Road Closure: The response to the POLO group was NOTED.

**10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: AGREED:**

10.1 **SDNP/25/04309/HOUS** Proposal: Erection of Single storey rear extension and the installation of 10no solar panels to roof Location: Flints, South Farm Close, Rodmell, East Sussex, BN7 3HW (deadline for comments 15 Dec 25). AGREED: SUPPORT with the comment that Rodmell Parish Council encourage green initiatives.

**11. PROJECTS:**

**11.1 Village Map:**

11.1.1 Listed Building Consent has been AGREED by LDC for the application SDNP/25/02073/LIS.

11.1.2 The Council RESOLVED to proceed with the quote from Fitzpatrick and Woolmer; a contractor is required to mount the map, and Cllr Bentley will liaise with the Clerk regarding the installation.

**11.2 Pavilion and Playing Fields:**

11.2.1 The Council AGREED that the Clerk will write to Rodmell Football Club to request the removal of the goal posts which are stored at the back of the pavilion.

**11.3 Playground:**

11.3.1 The playground working group and volunteers have discussed the requirements of a new playground installation and their wish to create an inclusive community space along with the play items; four suppliers have quoted which they will now review and present to the council.

11.3.2 The Council RESOLVED to set up a GoFundMe account as a fundraising portal and to link to the Parish Council savings account; the Council AGREED that donations could also come directly to the savings account; any donations over £500 would need to be submitted in writing to the Council to agree to accept.

11.3.3 There were no firm updates on other funding, but the group aims to apply for CIL Funding again.

**11.4 Benches:**

11.4.1 Details of repairing the bench by the noticeboard and at the Newhaven Bus stop: DEFER.

**11.5 Dog Fouling:**

11.5.1 The Council AGREED to request a third dog waste bin with LDC installing and emptying at a cost of £450 for the bin, £50 for installation and £6 per empty; the location was AGREED as by the fingerpost opposite Monks House (w3w Duet.spilling.bribing).

11.5.2 The Council did not resolve to purchase dog fouling signs.

**11.6 Emergency Plan:**

11.6.1 The work to update the Rodmell Emergency Plan is still in progress.

**11.7 Mirror**

11.7.1 An update from the discussions with the landowner where the current mirror is sited: DEFER.

**12. CO-OPTION FOR TWO VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR:**

12.1 Two written applications were RECEIVED, and the applicants were given the opportunity to speak and ask questions; Council members asked questions of the applicants.

12.2 The Council did not resolve to exclude the press and public from the meeting.

12.3 The Council RESOLVED to appoint both applicants by co-option.

12.4 The newly co-opted members SIGNED the Declaration of Office, the agreement to receive their meeting summons by email and the Code of Conduct; they were welcomed to the Council.

**13. MEMBERSHIP TO COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES, was AGREED:**

13.1.1 Sportsfield Mowing and Hedge Trimming – Cllr Toye added.

13.1.2 Allotments – Cllr Barnell.

13.1.3 The Street – Cllr Clark-Smart.

13.1.4 The Pavilion and Sportsfield – Cllr Barnell added.

13.1.5 Playground Working Group – Cllr Clark-Smart added.

13.1.6 POLO – Cllr Bentley added.

**14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL:** No items proposed; apologies for the next meeting received from Cllr Bentley.

**15. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL** was RECEIVED as 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 7pm in Rodmell Village Hall.

16. THE MEETING CLOSED at 19.59.