

## RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL** held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 7.01pm in Rodmell Village Hall.

**Members in Attendance:** Cllrs Rathbone (Chair), Wetttern (Vice-Chair), Barnell, Bentley, Clark-Smart, Cllr Hickey, Toye.

**Others Present:** Clerk and RFO, Lorna Thwaites. **Members of the Public in Attendance:** 5 **Questions RECEIVED from the**

**Public:** The Rodmell Horticultural Society has offered a £100 donation for wildflower planting – Council Members expressed their thanks for the generous donation; A member of the public spoke of their planning application for the Old Poor House and brought the latest plans to show the size and scale of the windows – they have undertaken pre-application advice with the SDNP Conservation Officer and discussed the best way to put in a room in the loft room - there has been extensive work already done to the back of the house over last 50-60 years; the recommendation of the Conservation Officer was to put in two small dormer windows; a heritage report has been done and a timber specialist has advised there is nothing of historical value in the loft.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None received.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA,** as required by the Members Code of Conduct: Received from Cllr Barnell re item 11.1 – Cllr Barnell is the property owner; Cllr Rathbone re 11.4 - Cllr Rathbone's brother-in-law is the Architect.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Rodmell Parish Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:**
  - 4.1 Cllr Rathbone is now a bank signatory; pending NatWest to add Cllr Wetttern as a signatory.
  - 4.2 The Team4 new direct debit mandate was AUTHORISED with the last two invoices to be paid via BACS.
  - 4.3 Payments made since the last meeting were RATIFIED and the bank reconciliation RECEIVED and SIGNED.
  - 4.4 An update of spend vs budget (at 05 March 2026) was RECEIVED: 91% of the budget has now been spent and the Clerk is chasing any outstanding invoices.
5. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:**
  - 5.1 Items AGREED for the Annual Parish Meeting: No newsletter to be produced; speakers to be invited - a member from the Rodmell Horticultural Society; Cllrs Osborne and Spiteri (subject to election); Ms V Rowlands, Chair SDNP, and a Speedwatch representative; a budget of £120 for the meeting was AGREED; a Resident of the Year nomination box (along with slips) to be placed in the Abergavenny Arms – winner to be agreed by the Council via email.
6. **ALLOTMENTS:**
  - 6.1 To RECEIVE an update on plot 5a: This plot has now been taken by Mr Maddison.
  - 6.2 To RECEIVE a request for additional rules at the allotments: The Parish Council does not set rules for the day-to-day management of the allotments; holders are encouraged to discuss and agree items that are not on the Allotment Agreement; the Parish Council encourages allotment holders to be environmentally friendly and to use biodegradable materials where possible.
  - 6.3 Allotment Tap: This has now been fixed.
7. **REPORT(S) AND MINUTES:** Written reports/minutes from external meetings taken as read.
  - 7.1 Reports from Parish Cllrs, Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes: NOTED.
  - 7.2 A brief verbal update on the POLO meeting from Cllr Bentley was NOTED.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
  - 8.1 Community Speedwatch and C7 – S.Pearce via S.Carroll. NOTED.
  - 8.2 Introduction from Alzheimer's Society – Exploring Local Collaboration: The Clerk was asked to send details of the Rodemll Summer Show on 16<sup>th</sup> August.
  - 8.3 LDALC Annual General Meeting: NOTED.
  - 8.4 Summer Visit from James MacCleary MP: AGREED as 28<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm – 8.30pm.
  - 8.5 Your 2026-27 Price Changes – Business Stream. NOTED.
  - 8.6 Donation to RPC – Rodmell Horticultural Society: ACCEPTED with thanks; Cllr Toye to purchase and the Council AGREED to fund an additional £25 from reserves.
9. **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - 9.1 The site location needs to be agreed before a noticeboard and installation details/ costs can be finalised; Cllr Hickey to progress.

9.2 Progress of ESH to repair the speed activated signs and the request made to alter to a different style/camera: The Clerk has emailed and left a voice message requesting an update from ESH but no response has been received.

9.3 To RECEIVE further plans/designs for a unified Rodmell website – Cllr Rathbone: DEFER.

9.4 The Council RESOLVED to support the River Ouse Charter.

## 10. GRASS/HEDGE CUTTING:

10.1 First cut grass cutting has been undertaken to-date by AceLandscapes, and Aviemore.

10.2 The provisional dates for grass cutting by ESCC were RECEIVED as 15 April, 26 May, 01 July, 20 Aug, 29 Sept.

## 11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: Comments AGREED:

11.1 SDNP/26/00458/HOUS & 00376/LIS – The Old Poor House. Loft conversion including 2no dormer windows (comments by 25<sup>th</sup> March). Cllr Barnell left the meeting. The Council AGREED to OBJECT with the following comments: The Council have concerns with the dormer windows being placed on the front of the building which would alter the historic façade of the street; they are supportive of the inclusion of dormer windows at the back of the building.

11.2 SDNP/26/00337/LIS - Northease Lodge. Installation of solar panels to roof (comments by 25<sup>th</sup> March). The Council AGREED a response of NEUTRAL with no comments.

11.3 SDNP/26/00438/LIS - Pear Tree Cottage. External repair works to roof including rebuilding of rear chimney stack, replacement of roof battens, lead flashing and gutters, repair and replacement of roof tile: The Council AGREED to SUPPORT.

11.4 SDNP/26/00795/HOUS - Admiral's Knock. Installation of 2no roof dormers and 1no skylight to roof. Installation of balcony. Reconfiguration of conservatory to include removing doors and windows and replacement with inset windows, bifold doors and external timber deck (comments by 27<sup>th</sup> March). Cllr Rathbone left the meeting: The Council AGREED a response of NEUTRAL with the following comments: The Parish Council would like to request the glare from the new windows in minimised with the use of glare reducing material/glass.

## 12. PROJECTS:

### 12.1 Village Map:

12.1.1 The invoice for the map production has been paid, the artwork approved, and the map is in production.

12.1.2 Cllr Bentley will install the map when received.

### 12.2 Pavilion and Playing Fields:

12.2.1 The Council AGREED to change the padlock to a combination lock and to request a donation from the Cricket Club; a spend of £100 was AGREED.

12.2.2 No response has been received from Rodmell Football Club further to the Parish Council declining to purchase their goal posts for £1000.

12.2.3 The Council AGREED that the posts would be removed at the next pavilion clear out.

12.2.4 The Council AGREED that they would all review the Pavilion and Playing Fields Hire and Usage Policy and reach a decision at the next meeting.

12.2.5 The dates of the Rodmell Cricket Club matches were RECEIVED and the Council AGREED that Cllrs Rathbone and Toye would speak with the Cricket Club informally about their terms of use.

### 12.3 Playground:

12.3.1 The preferred designs and supplier options were RECEIVED from the playground volunteers and parish council working group; the Council RESOLVED to appoint Play Safe subject to final designs and funding; Play Safe have installed lots of playgrounds in the area; the design is based on feedback from the public consultation where wooden equipment was preferred and equipment for a wide age range; the designs were shared at the recent playground fundraiser and had good feedback; the Project Manager for the Rodmell School building was invited to speak – the planning process for the development has not yet started; the working group will meet with the project manager to discuss boundaries and the siting of equipment.

12.3.2 The SDNPA CIL deadline is 31 March and Lewes CIL bidding is now open.

12.3.3 A GoFundMe page has been created, and donations have been gratefully received via the site as well as offline.

### 12.4 Benches:

12.4.1 Details of repairing the bench by the noticeboard and at the Newhaven Bus stop: Cllr Barnell has spoken to Mrs Goldman regarding the bench and plaque; Cllrs Barnell and Weterren will confirm

which bench and supplier for the clerk to order; R Ford and B Dartnell have repaired the bench at the Newhaven Bus Stop and advised the bus shelters are in a poor condition; the Clerk was asked to thank them and to ask for more information about works needed to the bus shelters.

13. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL:** Fruit tree planting at several locations in the village – Cllr Clark-Smart.
14. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL:** 19<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council; 14<sup>th</sup> May is the Annual Parish Meeting/Assembly.
15. **THE MEETING CLOSED** at 20.32.