

RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 27th January 2026, 7.04pm in Rodmell Village Hall.

Members in Attendance: Cllrs Rathbone (Chair), Wettern (Vice-Chair), Barnell, Clark-Smart, Cllr Hickey, Toye. **Others Present:** Clerk and RFO, Lorna Thwaites. **Members of the Public in Attendance:** 1 **Questions RECEIVED from the Public:** A parishioner, who has been responsible for the hoisting of the village flag by the cricket pavilion for the last 20 years would like to find someone else to take over the responsibility; the flag is raised approx. 12 times per year; Cllr Barnell volunteered to take it over with the possibility of finding a second hoister.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Received and accepted from Cllr Bentley.
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: Agenda item 9 - Cllr Wettern with regards to the mowing of the playing fields.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Rodmell Parish Council held on 25th November 2025 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair; Cllr Clark-Smart AGREED to put items on the noticeboards in Cllr Toye's absence in February.
4. **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:**
 - 4.1 An update on the bank signatories- Cllrs Rathbone and Wettern have not received emails from NatWest; the Clerk to speak to the bank.
 - 4.2 Payments made since the last meeting were RATIFIED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
 - 4.3 Cllr Wettern attended the recent Chairs training; Cllrs Smart and Barnell will try and attend the new councillor training on 10th March and will confirm to the Clerk.
 - 4.4 Meeting dates for financial year 2026-27 were AGREED by the Council but remain subject to the village hall availability; the Annual Parish Meeting date was AGREED as 14th May (subject to hall availability); the Council AGREED to invite Vanessa Rowlands to speak.
 - 4.5 The revised Standing Orders were ADOPTED.
 - 4.6 The revised Financial Regulations were ADOPTED.
5. **BUDGET 2026-2027:**
 - 5.1 The LDC precept form for 2026-27 was SIGNED by the Chair and the Clerk.
 - 5.2 The reserve allocations for 2026-7 were AGREED to remain as currently allocated.
6. **REPORT(S) AND MINUTES:**
 - 6.1 Reports were RECEIVED and NOTED from James MacCleary MP and Cllr Sarah Osborne; the draft minutes for the LDALC meeting were RECEIVED and NOTED.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 7.1 ESALC Subscription Fees 2026/7 – ESALC: The increase of 10% was NOTED.
 - 7.2 Safer C7 Project Recruitment – S.Carroll: The Council NOTED that the project team are looking to recruit new members with expertise in the following areas: finance, legal, communications/media, website design.
 - 7.3 Invitation to a meeting to discuss the transfer of the planning services to SDNPA: No cllrs are able to attend.
 - 7.4 Rights of Way Training – ESALC: The Council AGREED there is currently no requirement for this training.
 - 7.5 Request – parishioner: The Council discussed the request but AGREED that it was unfortunately outside of the jurisdiction of the Parish Council.
 - 7.6 Northease Lodge – parishioner enquiry: Cllr Hickey will send the photos to the Clerk to send to the ESH Customer Services Manager.
8. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 8.1 The Council AGREED to accept the payment of £698.15 which includes the deduction for the £250 policy excess; the Council AGREED to select a replacement noticeboard and to agree the location with the landowner and neighbouring property.
 - 8.2 An update on the allotments was RECEIVED: Cllr Barnell has a map and a list of allotment holders; Mrs L Smart offered to receive the annual allotment fees and to pass onto Mr Wettern; the Council AGREED and thanked Mrs Smart; it is believed that half an allotment is available and this will be advertised on the Council website and Facebook page once current allotments have been renewed.
 - 8.3 ESH have not provided an update on their progress in repairing the speed activated signs; the Council discussed changes to a different style incorporating a speed camera and the Clerk will enquire of ESH.

8.4 Cllr Rathbone detailed plans for a unified Rodmell website with links to the Parish Council website; Cllr Rathbone will obtain quotes.

9. GRASS/HEDGE CUTTING:

9.1 The cutting of the Dicklands hedge by Barcombe Landscapes was undertaken in January 2026 and considered a good job.

9.2 Grass cutting arrangements and contractors for 2026-7 were AGREED: ACELandscapes and Aviemore Landscapes were appointed; Aviemore Landscapes to undertake 13 cuts and if more are required these are to be agreed by the Council.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: None received.

11. PROJECTS:

11.1 Village Map:

11.1.1 Cllr Rathbone has prepared the artwork and will send to Fitzpatrick Woolmer.

11.1.2 Cllr Bentley has agreed to install the map once produced.

11.2 Pavilion and Playing Fields:

11.2.1 The Council RECEIVED the offer of Rodmell Football Club to purchase their goal posts for £1000; the Council did not wish to purchase the goal posts and agreed to request that they are removed by the end of February.

11.2.2 The playing fields and pavilion are no longer required for the weekend of 8th August for a wedding function.

11.3 Playground:

11.3.1 The Playground working group have recently received 2 further quotes which they have yet to discuss; they have been reviewing the space and liaising with suppliers and feel that designs are improving; designs are to be sent to the rest of the Council for consideration; the Council AGREED to invite the project manager for the old school refurbishment to the next parish council meeting.

11.3.2 The Council AGREED to submit a DINPP enquiry.

11.3.3 The Council AGREED to bid for £10k from both the LDC and SDNP CIL funding; it was NOTED that children who attend Northease Manor used the playground during visits including wildflower planting and that the area is an important wildlife habitat and home to owls.

11.3.4 No update on any further donations received.

11.3.5 The Council RESOLVED to make a donation of £3k towards the playground equipment.

11.3.6 The Council RESOLVED that the working group should make a grant application to Veolia.

11.4 Benches:

11.4.1 Cllr Wettren is liaising with the donor regarding the bench and plaque by the noticeboard and will co-ordinate the work to repair the bench at the Newhaven Bus stop.

11.5 Dog Fouling:

11.5.1 The third dog waste bin is installed and appears to have been a success.

11.6 Emergency Plan:

11.6.1 The Rodmell Emergency Plan has been updated by Cllr Toye and will be circulated to Councillors.

11.7 Mirror

11.7.1 To RECEIVE an update from the discussions with the landowner where the current mirror is sited – Cllr Wettren. AGREED to remove from future agendas.

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL: The use of the playing fields and pavilion by the Cricket Club; to consider a playing fields and pavilion booking policy; agenda and notification of the Annual Parish Meeting.

13. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL: 24th March 2026, 7pm.

14. THE MEETING CLOSED at 20.13.