

## RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL** held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 7.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall.

**Members in Attendance:** Cllrs Dishington (Chair), Rathbone (7.03), Smart, Toye, Wettern.

**Members not in Attendance:** Cllrs Bentley, Smart and Hickey.

**Others Present:** Clerk and RFO Lorna Thwaites, Cllr S.Spiteri.

**Members of the Public in Attendance: 1            Questions RECEIVED from the Public:**

A concern was raised over drainage works on The Street, which are being carried out by Southern Water on 12<sup>th</sup> August (which was originally scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> August) and will impact the organisation of the Horticultural Summer Show; the member of the public has raised the issue with East Sussex Highways and South East Water; the Clerk will also contact both bodies. The member of public reminded the Council of the donation she wished to make towards benches being placed around the village and suggested a bench to be placed on Mill Lane by Admiral's Knock and a further one on The Droveaway; the replacement of the bench under the noticeboard was also discussed. The Horticultural Society and Rodmell Cricket Club are making a donation to Mr P. Toye for all the work he has done voluntarily at the pavilion and a request was made to the Parish Council to do the same. The member of public left the meeting at 19.31

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllrs Bentley, Smart and Hickey.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS** were made **AND NO REQUESTS TO CONSIDER 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 annual meeting of Rodmell Parish Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were SIGNED by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE:**
  - 4.1 The spend vs budget for financial year 2024-5 was RECEIVED and NOTED.
  - 4.2 Confirmation of the direct debit for Business Stream was NOTED.
  - 4.3 Details of the issue experienced with Castle Water were RECEIVED and the Council NOTED that the account is now in credit.
  - 4.4 Confirmation of the insurance policy with Clear Councils was RECEIVED.
  - 4.5 Payments made since the last meeting were RATIFIED, August payments AUTHORISED, and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED.
  - 4.6 The Asset Register for 2025 was RECEIVED and AGREED.
  - 4.7 Details of the savings bank accounts opened were RECEIVED and the Council RESOLVED to move a minimum of £6k to the savings account.
  - 4.8 Cllr Smart is now on the bank mandate.
  - 4.9 Details of the additional hours worked by the Clerk were RECEIVED and the Council RESOLVED to pay the Clerk for these hours at the standard hourly rate.
  - 4.10 The Council AGREED that the Clerk would continue to log her hours and to present any additional hours worked to the council for payment, if required.
5. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR):**
  - 5.1 The results of the Internal Audit were RECEIVED: The audit was completed with no matters of concern; the Council NOTED their thanks and gratitude to S.Webb for her work and Cllr Dishington will arrange flowers; the auditor has offered to undertake the internal audit for 2025/6 on a voluntary basis again, which the Council AGREED to accept.
  - 5.2 The Clerk and Chair SIGNED the Annual Internal Audit form for 2024-5.
  - 5.3 The Clerk and Chair to SIGNED the AGAR Form 2 2024-5.
6. **REPORT(S):** Any written reports to be taken as read.
  - 6.1 A verbal report was RECEIVED from Cllr Spiteri: LDC are undertaking a feedback survey on their move to Alternate Weekly Refuse Collections from November (fortnightly refuse collections); they are also planning to move to a fully electric fleet by 2027; the alternate refuse collections aim to encourage households to recycle more of their waste (food waste collections will remain on weekly basis); Cllr Bella Sankey, has is proposing that Brighton and Hove City Council take over parts of Lewes district including the Kingston ward; Lewes District Council have opened a consultation and residents should be encouraged to complete it; there may be paper copies of the consultation printed and the Council discussed the possibility of distributing these at the Rodmell Horticultural Summer Show.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- 7.1 Your Voice Matters – SDNPA: The consultation was delegated to Cllr Rathbone to complete.
- 7.2 Southease Trains. M.Parkes. NOTED.
- 7.3 Lewes and Eastbourne Open Space, Recreation and Sports Assessment. C.McRoyall: Cllr Dishington met with Ms McRoyall who undertook an assessment of the sports facilities at Rodmell.
- 7.4 South Downs National Park – V.Rowlands. The Council AGREED to invite Ms Rowlands to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2026.
- 7.5 Artwave. C Parsons: The Council AGREED that it supports the event but is not in a position to make a financial contribution to the banner.
- 7.6 Lewes District Council – Asset Devolution. I Fitzpatrick: NOTED.
- 7.7 Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/6: The Council RESOLVED to implement the pay award, to be applied from 01 April 2025.
- 7.8 Invitation to Climate and Nature Partnership Event 2025: Cllr Dishington AGREED to attend.
- 7.9 ACRE/NALC Flooding Survey: Cllr Dishington AGREED to complete the survey.
- 7.10 Brighton and Hove reorganisation: Cllr Spiteri provided an update during item 6.2.
- 7.11 B&H CC Eastward Expansion – petition: Discussed under item 6.2.
- 7.12 Improving Re-cycling in Lewes District – T&P Cllr Session: Updated by Cllr Spiteri under item 6.2..
- 7.13 Draft East Sussex Housing Partnership Strategy Survey: The Council AGREED not to complete.
- 7.14 Consultation over boundary of Lewes District – B.Mabey: Cllr Toye AGREED to put on the noticeboards.

## 8. MATTERS ARISING:

- 8.1 Repairs are required to 2 benches – at the Newhaven Bus Stop and by the lower noticeboard: The Council AGREED to replace the bench by the noticeboard, with a kind donation from Mrs Goldman; a brass plaque will be placed on it and the Clerk will seek prices for the bench; Cllr Dishington will send contact details of a person who can fix the bench in the bus stop.
- 8.2 Cllr Toye has updated The Circuit information for the defibrillator and sent the login details to the Clerk.
- 8.3 The Council RESOLVED to update the Emergency Plan and Cllrs Toye and Dishington will review and update the current plan.
- 8.4 The Council RESOLVED to purchase a First Aid Kit for the Pavilion and allocated £100 for the purchase of some small items; Cllr Toye was thanked for her work on this.
- 8.5 The Council were reminded of the visit of James MacCleary M.P. on 31<sup>st</sup> July at 6.30pm.

## 9. GRASS CUTTING:

- 9.1 An update on grass cutting undertaken to-date was RECEIVED: Cllr Toye has looked at the areas being cut by ESCC vs what is needed/not needed; the Council AGREED that the Clerk would send this information to ESCC for them to consider; the Clerk advised the Council that Countrymans is in receivership and will not be doing any further grounds maintenance work; the Council RESOLVED to confirm prices and insurance with James Botting and to proceed with his new company, ACE Landscapes, if all is in order.

## 10. HIGHWAYS:

- 10.1 There is no progress to report from ESH on the repairs requested to the Vehicle Activated Speed Signs: The Clerk will continue to chase.

## 11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- 11.1 **SDNP/25/02482/HOUS & 02483/LIS Applicant:** Mr M Johnson, Nagan Johnson Architects  
**Proposal:** External works including the erection of 1no dormer to west elevation and 1no dormer to east elevation, single storey side elevation. Remedial works to masonry and addition of hardstanding surrounding the property, and the installation of new window to gable end and the restoration of existing window and doors, and the reinstating of back door and the installation of 1no air source heat pump. Internal works including internal rendering and the installation of a new kitchen and shower room and the restoration of existing fireplaces **Location:** The Old Rectory, The Street, Rodmell, East Sussex, BN7 3HF (comments by 13<sup>th</sup> August). Comments AGREED: Cllr Rathbone will request to view the site and will make a recommendation for the Council to agree.
- 11.2 **SDNP/25/02756/TCA Applicant:** J Stringer, Clarion Housing **Proposal:** T1- Acer- Prune to achieve a minimum of 2m clearance from property **Location:** 8 Martens Field, Rodmell, East Sussex, BN7 3HR (comments by 31 July). AGREED to Support.

## 12. PROJECTS:

### 12.1 Village Map:

- 12.1.1 An update on the application SDNP/25/02073/LIS Listed Building Consent for the map was RECEIVED: The deadline has been extended to 7 August; Block Plans and Elevations are required for the application to be valid; Cllr Rathbone will liaise with Cllr Bentley and supply these for the application by the deadline of 7<sup>th</sup> August.

**12.2 Pavilion and Playing Fields:**

- 12.2.1 The plumbing works undertaken by Plumbwell are now complete; the Council RESOLVED to make a donation of £50 to thank Mr P Toye for all the work he has undertaken to make improvements at the pavilion; this payment will be made via the Rodmell Horticultural Society.
- 12.2.2 Cllr Dishington advised that Sam (Rodmell Football Club) will remove the posts from behind the pavilion; Cllr Dishington will investigate caps to cover the holes left by the posts.
- 12.2.3 The emptying of the waste bins at the pavilion was discussed: Rodmell Cricket Club empty during the summer but not during winter; Cllr Dishington AGREED to empty the bins when required.
- 12.2.4 The Council NOTED that one gate at the pavilion has been mended; the main gate going into the croft will need fully replacing; the Council will monitor.

**12.3 Playground:**

- 12.3.1 The agreed removal of the multi-play unit was DISCUSSED: Cllr Dishington will tape off the equipment again and put fresh notices up; the Clerk will confirm to Cosmo Construction that the Council wish to proceed with its removal and Cllr Dishington will be the contact to arrange a date and access.
- 12.3.2 An update from the playground working group was RECEIVED: a brief has been written, which will be approved at the council meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> September; quotes are still being sought.
- 12.3.3 To AGREE the playground installation brief prepared by the playground working group: DEFERRED.
- 12.3.4 To RECEIVE any updates on funding – grants and donations. No updates.
- 12.3.5 The playground boundaries were DISCUSSED and Cllr Dishington took note of the measurements from the title deeds.

**12.4 Benches:**

- 12.4.1 Two new benches have been installed in the village and the Council RESOLVED to purchase 2 more benches from The Monday Group.
- 12.4.2 To RECEIVE the signed permission letter and map for the bench on Mr Robinson's land: DEFERRED.

**12.5 Website/Social Media:**

- 12.5.1 To REQUEST portrait photos from Cllrs for the RPC website: DEFERRED.

**12.6 Dog Fouling**

- 12.6.1 The Council AGREED to site the notice regarding dog fouling in key locations around the village.
- 12.6.2 No response was received from LDC regarding dog fouling notices.
- 12.6.3 The costs of dog waste bag dispensers were RECEIVED, and the Council AGREE not to install.
- 12.6.4 The Council AGREED to get a cost from LDC for the installation and emptying of an additional dog waste bin which would be sited the Monks House car park/pavilion.

**12.7 Mirror**

- 12.7.1 Costs for a mirror were RECEIVED, and the Council discussed the liabilities associated with the installation of a mirror.
- 12.7.2 To RECEIVE an update from Cllr Dishington on discussions with the landowner where the current mirror is sited: DEFERRED.

- 13. NO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL** were proposed.
- 14. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL** is 30<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm Rodmell Village Hall.
- 15. THE MEETING CLOSED** at 20.28.