



# *Iden Parish Council*

## **Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.**

### **Notices**

The Chair thank everyone for the wonderful community spirit over the Christmas period. The lunch and carol services were well attended and enjoyable. Additional thanks were expressed to those who helped and supported events in some way.

The chair expressed the council's sadness at the passing, before Christmas, of Ken Fairhall at the grand age of ninety-six and Iden's oldest man. He had lived in Iden throughout his life and opened his collection of self-grown bonsai trees as part of the village Open Gardens.

It was noted that the village's oldest female and male residents had died withing a month.

### **Present**

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), B Luckhurst, and G. Say  
In attendance: District Councillor P. Osborne, the Clerk M. Philo.  
Members of the Public: Five.

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence

### **1. Apologies**

District Councillors Hacking and Osborne, Parish Councillors Allard, and Wood.

### **2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations**

None.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Following minor amendment, the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2024, were unanimously agreed, as a true record.

#### **4. The meeting adjourned at 7.32 pm for Public Session**

##### **County Councillor Report**

He gave his apologies for missing the last meeting again. County council focus continued making ends meet regarding the planned expenditure for next year. Following the release of minute details of central government main funding for the various levels of government, county council looks to be short by £10-£14 million. The general reserve is now depleted so funds would have to come from funds allocated to other purposes or savings by reducing services would have to be made. Council tax would have to be the maximum allowed being 2.99% plus 2% restricted to adult social care.

Government had published, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December a white paper on the reorganisation of local government with the creation of unitary authorities replacing district/borough and county councils. It proposed directly elected mayors overseeing several unitary authorities. In East Sussex, the unitary authorities would be Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, and West Sussex. Local authorities had until the 10 January 2025 to put forward their proposals which would include a decision to postpone the planned elections for county councillors in 2025. Elections for the new bodies may be timed to fall with the district elections in 2027 and the mayors being elected the year before. The new structure ought to make it easier for the public as there would be only one authority to go to. Financial savings are anticipated nationally.

A resident raised the condition of the road into Iden from Rye.

The Chair thanked our County Councillor for the time he spends coming to our meeting when so many issues demand his attention. The Parish Council also appreciates that he always responds to any problems we raise with him.

Councillor left the meeting with the Chair's blessing and thanks after giving his report.

##### **Public Questions**

A resident advised that the fly tipping at the rear of conkers by Elmsmead had been in the main cleared away. The landowner had mentioned that they had cleared the site only two years previously.

#### **5. The meeting reconvened 7.47pm**

##### **6. Planning**

###### **6.1 Enforcements and Appeals**

Although there had been no further advice regarding enforcements, an application for the tree house along Randolph Lane is now outstanding for several months.

###### **6.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council (since the last meeting)**

None. However, the application for conkers is not yet shown on the website as having been decided. The clerk was requested to ascertain why there was a delay.

###### **6.3 Applications considered - None**

###### **6.4 For Notification Only**

RR/22024/1968/O Idenwood Farm, Barn, Coldharbour lane: Lawful development certificate for the continued use of the building known as black barn, as residential dwelling. It was unanimously resolved to comment as follows: The Parish Council has

considered the Planning Statement but cannot find any reference to permission being given for the property known as Black Barn, although we note occupancy was over 10 years ago It is also unclear whether the occupancy restrictions placed on the Farmhouse also applies to Black Barn and why lawful development permission is now being sought. Is livestock still being kept there?

## **7. Finances - Parish Council**

### **7.1 Precept for 2025-2026**

A final budget has been circulated with an updated monitoring document. It was unanimously resolved to set the precept for 2025-2026 at £18,000 per annum. Band D Property (average household) would pay around £73.42 (this year for an annual precept of £16,000 the annual Band D charge is about £68).

### **7.2 December Bank Balances**

30th November 2024	£ 17,879.38
Plus total Receipts	£ 409.60
Less total Payments	£ 3,949.36
31st December 2024	£ 14,339.62

(31st December 2024 statements -Treasurers Account £3,854.82 and Reserve Account £10,484.80

### **7.3 December Receipts**

£8.04	Bank Interest
£200.00	Memorial Stone
£201.56	Transfer from Pavilion Account

### **7.4 December Payments**

£629.20	Clerk's September salary.
£41.70	M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£518.40	Refund M Philo: Wix next 3-year website host fee
£2,754.00	Gibbs & Son: Outstanding grass and hedge cutting (vat £459.00)
£6.06	Castle Water: Pavilion November
Charge Card (December): Nil	

### **7.5 The Following Payments were Authorised**

£629.20	Clerk's October salary.
£41.70	M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
Charge Card (January): Nil.	

Pavilion Electricity and Water unknown.

### **7.6 Lloyds Bank Accounts Update**

Then the pavilion account is now closed.

## **8. Grass Contract**

**It was unanimously resolved to contract, for 2025, Gibbs & Son to cut the grass on the recreation ground and cemeteries. Estimated cost. £5,000.**

The Chair commended Gibbs for the excellent work they always do for the Council with added value on many occasions.

## **9. Save the Bell Report**

Central Government advised on Christmas Eve that the Community Offer Fund was closed. The Save The Bell Inn group were meeting the day after the council meeting to consider options available: share prospectus, grants, and private finance. They are also taking advice from a Public House landlord about what is involved in managing this type of business. The valuation for The Bell Inn would need to be updated in the future but funds were available to cover this from the Co-op grant. The group planned to update residents soon. The Chair remarked that the recent Quiz night demonstrated that the support to save the Bell remains solid despite the frustrating delays.

## **10. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion**

### **10.1 Iden Pavilion Working Party Update**

The group were looking to expand on the picnic and produce a revitalised Summer Garden show as well as running a grand draw. The clerk was asked to request that the cricket club keep the last Saturday in July free.

## **11. Risk Assessment**

The playing fields had escaped any major damage following the recent stormy weather.

## **12. Information for Councillors - None**

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall. There would be a presentation from AiRS starting at 7pm.