



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th June 2024 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

The Chair sent the council's condolences to the Huggett family on the passing, last month, of Ted Huggett who had been a regular at council meetings. The Chair also sent the council's condolences to the family of Paul Abrams who was well known for running his trains for the village open gardens.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), G. Say, B. Luckhurst, and J. Wood who was delayed.
In attendance: County Councillor Glazier, District Councillor P. Osborne, the Clerk M. Philo.
Members of the Public: Seven.

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence

1. Apologies

County Councillor Glazier, District Councillor Hacking and Councillor Allard. Mrs Chalet gave her apologies.

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was unanimously resolved to agree the minutes of the 7th May 2024 as a true record.

The meeting adjourned at 7.35 pm for Public Session

District Councillors Paul Osborne Report

Councillor Osborne is Chair of the Scrutiny committee till the next annual meeting. At the last meeting, a State of the District Report was presented providing performance indicators. 41,000 calls were received a quarter, and the council was encouraging online

contact to help to respond more quickly. Hundreds of Freedom of Information requests were received each quarter, predominantly vexatious or from Students seeking information for dissertations. Missed bin collection numbers were low at 61 bins per 100,000.

Councillor Osborne would be looking to support the village hall application for funding from Rother District Council but requested more information on the scheme idea.

Councillor Wood Arrived at 7.35pm

Councillor Hacking is standing for the General Election in Ashton Under Lyne.

Councillor Osborne had reported two holes on Mockbeggar Hill and advised that County Councillor Glazier had recently surveyed Iden roads with the highways steward and believed that the Peace and Plenty pothole area was down for jet patching.

Public Questions

A member of the public again highlighted that all the roads in Iden were in poor condition.

A village hall committee member asked for assistance to have the large plane tree in the adjoining property reduced in size. Councillor Osborne commented that Southern Housing who was responsible for the property and tree were having to respond to the District Council about the recent poor report on their level of repair to properties and the length properties were left vacant. Councillor Miller offered his assistance.

A request was again made for the hedge along the footpath at the Bell Inn to be cut. The clerk had contacted the owners who had promised to cut the hedge. the Clerk would contact them again.

It was noted that the Bell Inn had agreed to renew the lease for the power substation on the property.

A resident mentioned that their grass verge was not being cut as part the urban cut. The clerk advised that their verge was not shown as being a verge that highways was responsible for however the clerk would ask Councillor Glazier for advice.

The meeting reconvened 7.57pm

4. Polices

4.1 It was resolved to agree the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk in the advent of the council not being able to meet.

4.2 It was resolved to the updated Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Policy. A copy of the policy to be put up in the sports pavilion.

5. Planning

5.1 Enforcements and Appeals

No appeals outstanding and no enforcements.

Despite various recent efforts by councillors and the council to improve communication of motorcross events in Iden, these have been unsuccessful. As another attempt, **it was unanimously resolved to write to the Enforcement Team at Rother District Council about the poor communication from the Motorcross track about events and last-minute events disturbing the village.**

5.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council (since the last meeting)

None. The application on Conkers field is still to be determined.

5.3 Applications considered

RR2024/500/P Spring Farm, Land Adjacent to Military Canal: Existing Store to be restored and extended to accommodate storage facility for sheep farming – Additional Information. **It was unanimously resolved to change its comment to support on the condition that no future use as a dwelling.**

5.4 For Notification Only

RR/2024/544/O Partridge, Main Street: Existing lawful development certificate of existing extension and garage and new link extension to new outbuilding extension to north side with some internal alterations. Internal alterations inc. demolition of plasterboard panel partition between dining and living room on ground floor and erection of partition wall to create bedroom on first floor.

6 Village Hall Grant

The hall committee would like to make more of the rear garden turning it into an accessible area to all with path paving and planting. They would be applying for funding from Rother District Council Community Grant and were gathering quotes as well as looking for written support.

It was resolved in principle that the Chair to write a letter of support for the Hall application. Further background was sought.

7 Finances - Parish Council

7.1 Bank Balances

Bank Balances:

30 th April 2024	£25,150.00
Plus total Receipts	£ 711.12
Less total Payments	<u>£ 5,102.64</u>
31 st May 2024	£20,758.48

(31st May statements -Treasurers Account £10,341.52 and Reserve Account £10,416.96)

7.2 May Receipts

£11.12	Bank Interest
£200.00	Iden Cricket Club
£500.00	Ashes Interment

7.3 May Additional Payments

£1,650.00 Save the Bell
£1,440.00 GSH Trees: Removal of dangerous Cherry tree due to disease in All Saints Churchyard
£200.00 Donation to Air Ambulance (Kent & Sussex)
(£500 transfer to pavilion account is outstanding)

7.4 The Following Payments were Authorised:

£629.20 Clerk's April salary.
£43.00 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70, wallet folder £1.30

Charge Card (6 June) £159.34
£1.10 Tesco: files dividers (vat 18p)
£16.13 Fireproductsonline: Kitchen fire blanket (vat £2.69)
£21.27 Iden Stores: Village Assembly Refreshments (no vat)
£90.89 Cartridgepeople: Set of inks (vat £15.15)
£29.95 Iden Village Stores: Gift for internal Audit.

8. Agreement of the Annual Governance and Annual Return 2023-2024

As the receipts and/or payments for 2023-2024 fiscal year exceed £25,000, the parish council must undergo a limited assurance external audit by PKF Littlejohn LLP.

8.1 Internal Auditor Report and Statement of Internal Control

Having considered the internal auditors report, it was unanimously resolved to agree the statement of internal control.

8.2 Annual Governance and Annual Return Section 1

It was unanimously resolved to agree the nine assertions of the Annual Governance Statement – Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24.

8.3 Annual Governance and Annual Return Section 2

Having considered the associated papers and bank reconciliation it was unanimously resolved to agree section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 of the Annual Governance and Annual Return.

9. Save the Bell

The application for funding had been submitted but was on hold due a general election having been called and following discussions with the pub owners and network power a new sixty lease had been agreed for the substation to remain on the pub land.

10. New Burial Ground and Ashes Area Creation

10.1 Fencing along cemetery and churchyard

It was unanimously agreed to fund the clearance of the field fencing between the Garden of Remembrance and the repair of the chestnut paling fencing around the additional parking area. Cost £54.63 plus VAT.

10.2 Delegation to the Clerk

It was unanimously resolved to delegate to the Clerk to confirm memorial stone inscriptions and locations of plots.

10.3 Plan for Ashes Area

It was unanimously resolved to agree to alter the plan for the ashes area, to lay memorial stones possibly in loose stone/gravel/ woodchip either side of a path. Inscriptions to be carved into the stone (Granite or Portland). Approved text, font, font colour and design to be agreed by the parish council.

10.4 Burial Ground Charges

While the full charges are considered, it was unanimously agreed to charge £500 for a plot for ashes.

11. Pavilion

11.1 Bank Balances

Bank Balances on 31st May 2024 Treasurers Account £586.62.

11.2 May Receipts

£500.00 Iden Cricket Club: Pavilion Hire fee

11.3 May Payments

Castle water bill for April was £29.87 leaving £18.84 From the account credit of £48.71.

£21.69 EDF monthly debit

12. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

12.1 Playing Field Village Picnic

Village groups were happy to work together to organise a picnic and BBQ with a fundraising bar for Save The Bell Inn.

It was unanimously resolved to agree the use of the playing fields, on Sunday 28th July 2024, for a village picnic on the playing fields and to provide insurance cover for the event with the creation of a working party.

It was proposed that at the next meeting the parish council considered donating funds towards costs.

Councillor Miller had contacted St Michael's School about the school using the playing fields for Sports Day. They are using the Peasmarsh ground this year.

12.2 Pavilion Garage Door

The door had been prised open and damaged. The parish council would organise its repair.

13. Risk Assessment

The recent difficulties with escaping sheep invading the playing field have been resolved as new fencing erected.

14. Information for Councillors

Countryside Protection for Rural England were asking parish council to complete a survey about the occurrence of flooding which included sewage or new residential developments resulting in sewage issues. Councillors were not aware of any incidents.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Next ordinary meeting Tuesday 2nd July 2024, 7.30pm Iden Village Hall. There will be no meeting in August except for an urgent item.