



Iden Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd July 2024 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), P. Allard, G. Say and B. Luckhurst.

In attendance: County Councillor Glazier, District Councillor P. Osborne, the Clerk M. Philo.

Members of the Public: Six.

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence

1. Apologies

District Councillor Hacking and Councillor Wood.

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved, by majority, to agree the minutes of the 4th June 2024 as a true record. Councillor Allard had not attended the meeting.

4. The meeting adjourned at 7.35 pm for Public Session

County Councillor Report

Regarding road conditions through Iden, the road out to Tenterden had been added to the jet patching list. This is a quick and effective way of spraying an asphalt mix into a defect to repair it and sealing it. It was noted that the road to Iden from the Peace and Plenty needed resurfacing and that the potholes were mainly where the utility companies had replaced the water main.

The year end accounts reported an overspend that led to £10 million reduction in reserves. Reserves are anticipated to fall again this year and there is a concern that reserves will be inadequate by 2026.

Residents reported that there was a visibility issue from long grass not being cut on the village sign side of Randolph Lane and the Bell Inn hedge needed cutting back from the footpath.

Councillor Miller had noted the dead trees and overgrown hedge along the footpath in front of field opposite Iden Coach House. Contact would be made to ask for the hedge to be tidied to re-find the footpath so people could safely use the footpath.

District Councillor Report

There have been staff moving on: the Head of Place and Climate and the Biodiversity officer. The District Council Community Grant has reopened.

Public Questions

Residents around Elmsmead had been left without power and Open Reach connections following a large lorry hitting the telegraph pole opposite Elmsmead entrance, on the 26th June at 2.15pm. Whilst the power had been secured quickly, communication via phone and broadband were only available via mobile connection which was difficult due to poor reception.

A member of the public asked for Councillor Glazier's assistance with the rotten footpath style at Memorial Bungalow. The footpath team that works for the County Council had been banned from replacing the step. People are still regularly using the path, but some walkers are mistakenly climbing the nearby field gate. Councillor Glazier gave an assurance that he would see that the resident's enquiry to the Footpath Team would be answered.

The Footpath Team would be tidying up the fencing on the playing field side of the churchyard and new burial ground, in the coming week.

A member of the public advised that the residents of Main Street close to Street Field are concerned about the field being included in the Local Plan currently out for consultation. It was believed that historically Planning Officers were against developing on Street Field side to maintain the rural aspect of the village.

Councillor Luckhurst had attended an exhibition on the Local Plan and commented that there was a genuine wish to garner public opinion and that the plan may therefore go through several changes.

Councillor Miller noted that the consultation on the plan had been much wider, and presentation was improved.

5. The meeting reconvened 7.57pm

6. Planning

6.1 Enforcements and Appeals

ENF/134/20/IDE - The Hay Field Malthouse Lane: Breach of Condition Imposed on Rr/2018/2938/P - Metal Corrugated Sheeting Has Been Used for The Walls Instead Of Shiplap Weatherboarding – No further Action as Immune from Enforcement

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

- a) RR2024/500/P Spring Farm, Land Adjacent to Military Canal: Existing Store to be restored and extended to accommodate storage facility for sheep farming. Approved conditionally.
- b) 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 including demolition of plasterboard panel partition between dining and living room on ground floor and erection of partition wall to create bedroom on first floor. – Not lawful.

6.3 Applications considered

- a) **RR/2024/867/L Bosney Farmhouse, Grove Lane: To insert an oak post under a broken oak beam spanning the large lounge. It was resolved to support.**
- b) **RR/2024/921/P 2 Gardners Hill, Wittersham Road: Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Extension of loft conversion with installation of roof light Proposed erection of a home office. It was resolved to comment that the Parish Council felt unable to come to a decision as they are not aware of the size of extension allowed and would like to mention that access to the property may be difficult.**

6.4 For Notification Only

RR/2024/910/O The Granary Oxenbridge Farm, Wittersham Road: Lawful Development Certificate for the Existing Use of building as dwellinghouse for a continuous period exceeding 10 years.

6.5 Response to the Local Plan 2020-2024 consultation and HELAA sites for Iden Parish.

It was resolved to submit the draft response which would be made public.

6.6 Planning Delegation to the Clerk during August Recess

It was resolved to delegate to the clerk responding to applications during recess in consultation with the Chair. An extraordinary meeting will be called for any applications if the Clerk and Chair consider it necessary. The clerk will contact councillors for their thoughts on the application.

7. Update on New Burial Ground Ashes Creation Area

Following a meeting of councillors on site with the contractor who will be laying the path in the area, 10 place marking granite stone of 600m by 400mm have been acquired and will be laid out almost flat to the ground in such a way to indicate the rows on either side of the path. Work was underway.

8. Finances - Parish Council

8.1 Bank Balances

Bank Balances: to be confirmed

31 st May 2024	£ 20,758.48
Plus total Receipts	£ 11.87
Less total Payments	£ 831.54
30 th June 2024	£ 19,938.81

(30th June 2024 statements -Treasurers Account £9,509.98 and Reserve Account £10,428.83)

8.2 June Receipts

£11.87 Bank Interest

8.3 June Additional Payments -none

8.4 The Following Payments were Authorised:

£629.20 Clerk's April salary.

£46.03 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70, Laminator sheets £4.33

£65.00 Refund B Burdet: repair of Elmsmead bus shelter shiplap

£22.94 Pett Parish Council: Share of Mobile for Clerk

Charge Card (4 July)

£12.99 Webbs: Creosote for Elmsmead Bus shelter

(£500 transfer to Parish Council Pavilion Account is outstanding)

9. Save the Bell

The fundraising quiz night had been well attended and enjoyed by all.

The team at The Bell Inn Community Iden Ltd advised that by the close of the pledge window on June 17th they had received pledges worth £257,500. This gave the group confidence that they can reach their target of raising £300,000 from shares when they launch their share offer for real, hopefully in the autumn. They will have more certainty on timing once the general election is behind us and the grant situation is clear.

The lease for the substation on the property had been renewed for a further 15 years for £75 a year.

10. Pavilion

10.1 Bank Balances

Bank Balances on 30th June 2024 Treasurers Account £ 524.37

10.2 June Receipts – none

10.3 June Payments

Castle water bill for May was £30.07. The credit of £18.84 was exhausted and payment of £11.23 was made

£51.02 EDF monthly debit for May – Automatic read.

11. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

11.1 Playing Field Village Picnic

It was resolved to allocate £200 to cover the cost of running the village picnic – prizes, medals, etc.

11.2 Pavilion Working Party Update

The Fete funds bank account had been reopened with new signatures. The funds would be released into Iden Pavilion Trust account with Metro Bank in Ashford. The signatories were Debbie Chalet and Bruce Luckhurst. There would be an open discussion and how the funds would be distributed.

The Oliver Curd Trust would be holding its 15th Birthday Anniversary on the playing fields using the pavilion on Saturday 20th July from 2-11pm. This is a thank you to the volunteers that look after the two caravans made available to families with their children to have a break. A couple of marquees will be raised to provide shelter. There will be a bouncy castle and games as well as a couple of bands. Tea and cake and other refreshments will be available.

The village Picnic in the Park on Sunday 28th July will include a friendly dog show, races, B&Q, and other refreshments. Villagers are asked to bring their own picnic. A team of volunteers will be cleaning the pavilion ready for the Curd Trust and the decorative bunting will stay up for the Village Picnic.

The pavilion garage, the container nearby and the bowls club had been broken into. The break-in was not an isolated one. Barry Burdet was thanked for repairing the garage door.

The group is looking at some second hand goal posts to install to provide local lads with a goal rather than using the cricket strip.

The group was experiencing difficulties setting up the Trust.

Rye Ancient trail run was happy to include an Iden group but those interested would need to sign up by the 28th. The water station was being organised by Nice Work.

The parish council highlighted that the Fete committee should publish its accounts and formally dissolve itself. A clear line should be drawn under the Old Fete Committee so that residents were clear that any new group would be seen as a separate new entity. In the past residents and village organisations had been able to apply for funding from the fete profits.

12. Risk Assessment

Ash trees in the wooded area of the playing field are showing initial signs of die back.

13. Information for Councillors - none

14. Date of Next Meeting

There will be no meeting in August except for an urgent item. Next ordinary meeting Tuesday 3rd September 2024