



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2022 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

Iden of Yesteryear (film footage and exhibition), is taking place on 9th and 10 September in the village hall.

The Bell Inn is welcoming Iden residents to wine and nibbles on Friday 9th 2pm to 6pm to meet the new governor.

Present

Councillors R Griffin (Chairman), M. Miller, Greg Say and Jim Wood

In attendance: District Councillor Paul Osborne and Clerk Mary Philo

Members of the Public: 10

1. Apologies

District Councillor Hacking and Councillor Allard.

2. Disclosure of Interests

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the 5th July 2022 as a true record.

The meeting adjourned at 7.39pm for Public Session

County Councillor Glazier Report

The county councillor apologised for missing the last meeting. Budget planning is the current major issue with the difficult national financial position. The council is experiencing problems recruiting any staff to cover its social care provision and it is working with universities to try to attract people. Winter is approaching and residents were requested to keep reporting potholes.

Following query, the county council does not get its tarmac from the Ukraine but from the U.K.

A councillor queried if the Rye Festival posters should be allowed on the triangle by Iden Stores and mentioned that they are not collected after the event. Highways' view is to allow temporary advertising for local events. It was suggested that the council write to the event organiser about the issue. The clerk will remove them.

District Councillor Osborne Report

Councillor Osborne reminded residents to complete the electoral register form that had been recently delivered to every home which will allow them to vote in the elections for 2023. The recycling centre at Rye Leisure Centre has been closed due to excessive fly tipping.

The scrutiny committee had reviewed the decision on Bexhill Town Hall refurbishment and redevelopment plans and the committee has required more information. The district council will have to borrow money alongside the earnings from letting office space within the building to cover the 15 million bill for the scheme. There is concern about being able to get the letting income in full and in time to cover costs, particularly as building cost prices are not fixed and are increasing. In response to query Council Osborne advised that the new Bexhill Town Council is not located in Bexhill Town Hall. Furthermore, the council had considered relocating their offices to North of the Bexhill Bypass but the current position provides very good train, bus, cycling and walking connections for staff and visitors, plus the office brings business to the area whilst other sites will increase the council's carbon foot print as staff will have to drive to work.

The district council has dedicated £500,000 from the Community Levy Infrastructure pot to assist village halls across the county to make energy efficiency improvements. All village halls had been contacted. An energy audit would be completed prior to considering what measures were needed.

A member of the public requested Councillor Osborne's assistance with a planning enforcement issue. There had been no communication between the enforcement officer and the complainant before the officer had made their decision and published the decision.

Public Question

Wildflower/Meadow Verges

A resident queried the long grass on Readers Lane triangle as they considered it unsightly, a fire hazard and makes visibility from the junction difficult. A discussion following in which it was clarified that the parish council had agreed to the three wildflower meadows two years ago. There had been problems with highways incorrectly cutting these in the first year. Regarding, the Readers Lane Triangle, this year, Highways had not cut a one metre edge around the triangle to allow for visibility. The Wilder Iden group had therefore cut the strip and tidied away the cuttings in July. A resident had since taken it upon themselves to cut again and had left the triangle looking as it currently did. It was further explained that wildflower meadows take a few years to establish. Yellow rattle (a yellow wildflower) has to establish to keep the grass down. As the years progress and the wildflowers establish the regular rye grass (which is very long) disappears leaving the more attractive shorter wild grass. On that triangle, the yellow rattle was still not established. Prior to the dedication as meadow verge, residents near the triangle had experienced issues with the grass cuttings

not being collected and then being blown into the drains. The advantage with the meadow is that Wilder Iden collect the grass after it is cut.

Wilder Iden had recently cut the Grove Lane Triangle and laid donated hay with seeds to restart the area which was slow to grow due to incorrect cutting by Highways. The hay had been netted to prevent it blocking drains. Care had been taken to not trouble the bulbs. This was due to be taken up in the coming days but an unknown resident had taken it upon themselves to remove it. The clerk requested to have their garden staples returned. The chairman commented that the netting was dangerous for those using the tiny triangle as a footpath.

Parking on Meadow Verge by the Bowls Club

Contractors for Park Farm had been parking on the verge which is a meadow verge and planted with daffodil bulbs. The chairman advised that contractors had been parking within the property while the works required the drive space. The verge had been used rather than causing an issue on the road. A member of the public confirmed that it would be better if the contractors parked on the road close just 10 metres further down, it would act as a traffic calming in an area that suffers from speeding. The bulbs there will not benefit from heavy vehicles parking on them.

Local Plan Approved Site for Development – Field behind Conkers

The new resident of Rose Cottage had heard that the number of houses proposed is being increased. The parish council had received no new information on the site and the public consultation on the Local Plan which will run to 2032 is due to open this autumn but may be delayed.

The meeting reconvened at 8.25pm

4. Planning

4.1 Enforcements and Appeals

None.

4.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council since the last meeting

RR/2022/1497/P Mi Cottage, Wittersham Road: Variation of condition 4 as imposed on RR/2021/675/P to change to a more robust wording to be in accordance with the district licence. Approved

4.3 Applications considered:

RR/2022/1884/P Grove Farmhouse, Grove Lane: Demolition of existing 3 bay garage block and replacement with 4 bay oak framed garage with additional games room and storage space. **It was resolved to ratify the agreement to support given during recess.**

5. Finances – Parish Council

Bank Balance

Bank Balances on 30th July 2022 £21,752.74: Council Treasurers Account £11,486.39 and Reserve Account £10,266.35.

Bank Balances on 31st August 2022 £25,266.53: Treasurers Account £14,999.75 and Reserve Account £ 10,266.78

July and August Receipts

£50.00	Rye Retreat Hire of pavilion
£0.09	July bank interest
£0.34	August bank interest
£8,000.00	Rother District Council: precept payment

August Payments

£488.55	Clerk's Salary
	Charge Card
£71.71	Buy ink cartridges (vat £11.95) correction to July agenda. paid 7 th July
£65.81	Idea Stores: Parish meeting refreshments, paid 8 th August

Jubilee Celebrations

It was resolved to pay the full £500 for the cost of the 50 jubilee egg cups distributed to children first and residents attending the jubilee picnic. Not all present received one.

The following payments were authorised

£488.55	Clerk's September salary
£83.40	Clerk's August and September Salary Allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70
£49.58	Refund S Pyrah Holly Tree for village hall (vat £8.26)
£7.04	Refund M Philo office costs: stamps £2.56, stationery £7.98 (vat £1.33)
	Charge Card (12 th September)
£95.99	HP Inc Limited: set of ink cartridges to be shared with Pett and Appledore Parish Councils (vat £16.00)

It was also advised that Iden Parish Council had been fined £100 for not paying PAYE in a timely manner. Councillor Miller will ask for a refund bearing in mind the advice given by HMRC.

External Auditor

It was resolved to remain as part of the Smaller Authority Auditor Appointment sector led auditor appointment regime, for the next 5 years, starting with the 2022/23 year.

6. Finances – Pavilion

Bank Balance

Bank Balances on 30th July 2022 Treasurers Account £5,968.11

Bank Balances on 31st August 2022 Treasurers Account £5,773.11

6.2 July and August Receipts

£52.22	Cash deposit profit from selling ice lollies at sports day
£80.00	Bodiam Cricket Club Hire for 2 matches (22 nd May and 19 th June)
£40.00	Bodiam Cricket Club hire for match on 21 st August

It is expected that there will be no further income for this calendar year.

6.3 August payments

£150.00	RSR Waste Management: waste system inspection
£23.00	EDF monthly direct debit payment. Six monthly review of usage completed and monthly payments will remain unchanged.
£7.00	Direct Debit charge for incomplete transfer due to insufficient funds. Lloyds

Bank has agreed to refund.

£135.00 RSR Waste Management waste removal

Note

£1,938.61 Refund to Iden PC current account, agreed at the July meeting has not been made. Castle water has received readings and will amendments according to the next bill. It still holds 100s of pounds of the council money.

6.4 Agreement of payments

£23.00 EDF monthly direct debit

£45.00 Quantec: wasp nest removal from score board

7. War Memorial

A discussion of the ideas put forward for the 100th birthday celebration ensued. Councillors were happy with the exhibition ideas but were indifferent to improvements to the memorial and its garden. Councillors requested that it should be checked that the missing name from the memorial not on the roll of honour, is not already included on the Peasmarch memorial. A separate plaque/stone could be included to remember E B Phipps. It was suggested that more recent wars should be considered. A book covering the history of the memorial and those named is also suggested along with troughs and turf/paving. Councillor Miller would work with Nick and Clare who currently care the garden on the finer details and requesting a grant. However, the grant is not for maintenance. **It was resolved to fund £300 towards everything.**

8. Wildflower/Meadow Verge by Bowls green

It was advised that once a wildflower meadow is up and running properly the only requirement will be to cut the area after the meadow has dried for about 4 weeks. This will depend on the weather and can be as early as August. There is no need to leave the hay and the area can be cut regularly thereafter and kept tidy. To consider taking on cutting this of this verge for three years. The meadow would not be cut in the spring as this will cut the growing meadow. Concern was expressed about the increase in ferns in the area which may be carcinogenic. It was noted that, before the dedication of meadow, highways strimmed this area as part of the regular cuts for urban verges. **It was resolved to take on the grass cutting for the three years with consideration being given to the fern issue. The first year to include some scarification.** First year cost including scarifying £150 plus vat.

9. Grove Lane Bus Shelter

It was resolved to cut back the trees around the shelter, est. cost £ 180.00 plus vat.

10. Council Communication

Residents that would like to receive information on village events can subscribe on the village website ran by the parish council. The only information held is the email address.

11. Iden Pavilion

It was resolved to have the effluent tank emptied at least once a year.

12. Iden Playing Fields

No comments.

13. Risk Assessment – Report on Parish Assets

No issues

14. Information for Councillors

The local plan will be out for consultation autumn 2022. The plan is slightly behind schedule.

Rural Rother Trust request for financial support will be addressed at the next meeting.

Parish Independent Remuneration Panel had asked for councillor's thoughts on rates for councillors' allowances

Roads review with Highways Steward. The clerk has inspected the local roads with the steward mainly considering roads that flood or have lying water during the winter.

15. Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 4th October 2022, 7.30pm Iden Village Hall.