



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2022 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

Fred Cummings Royal Academy Artist and Roma Holland had recently passed away. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the parish meeting on the 28th June. Cream teas would be available at the village hall on the 2nd July.

Present

Councillors R Griffin (Chairman), Phil Allard, M. Miller, and Jim Wood
In attendance: District Councillor Lizzie Hacking and Clerk Mary Philo
Members of the Public: Four

1. Apologies

County Councillor Glazier, District Councillor Hacking and Councillor Say.

2. Disclosure of Interests

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following minor amendment, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the 7th June 2022 as a true record.

The meeting adjourned at 7.37pm for Public Session

District Councillor Hacking Report

Along with councillors Osborne and Glazier, Councillor Hacking had attended an informative seminar regarding the local development plan for Rother. Avian Flu is in the neighbourhood and the Defra control zones are available from Rother District Council website. Concern was expressed about the lack of early consultation with district councillors on the plans for the 14.6 million Bexhill Town Hall development and the short notice period for the public open day which was poorly attended. Working practices following Covid had changed and the need for the development was questioned.

The Chairman complained that it continued to be difficult to get through to planning officers. A member of the public mentioned that if you do get through to the district council reception, you are asked to complete an online form, but the promised copy is not emailed back. A councillor stated that he believed that Iden needed new housing, yet no developer had shown an interest in the approved site accessed from Elmsmead.

Public Question

A member of the public requested the parish council to agree, at the next meeting, to fund a small exhibition regarding the war memorial and those dedicated on it for the next Armistice Day as the war memorial will be 100 years old.

Wilder Iden Report

The pilot wildflower patch in the churchyard was not doing well and advice received was to start again. The Readers Lane triangle had only seen grass grow and it was noted that the triangle should have had a metre strip around the edge cut to allow for visibility. The triangle at Grove Lane had been planted with plug plants and seeds and had been more successful in the first year. The highways promise of the wildflower verges being cut in September had not been fulfilled. The late cutting had reduced the natural reseeding and resulted in a poor show this year.

The council's support was requested to place two small signs at the playing field woodland edge advising of the flora and fauna within. Funding from the Woodland Trust is available. The council responded that they would wish to agree the location and see details.

The meeting reconvened at 8.02pm

4. Planning

4.1 Enforcements and Appeals

None.

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

RR/2022/812/L East View, Main Street: Amendments to a previously approved listed building consent 2020/1692. Additions to the previously approved include clarification of window opening type, window details, adjustment of the location of patio door and application for an additional window to the west and application for a fabric awning face fixed to the west elevation – Refused.

RR/2022/981/MA East View main Street: non-material amendment to planning permission RR/2020/1691/P to allow a change of double door on north elevation to a double door with adjacent window, a change of ledge and brace door to four panel, clarification of window opening types and addition of an external awning – Refused.

4.3 Applications considered:

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. The council voted to make no comment as it did not have the expertise to be able to comment.

It was resolved to ratify support for RR/2022/1031/P Coldharbour: Retention of existing building for 5 years

5. Finances – Parish Council

5.1 Bank Balance

Bank Balances on 30th June 2022 Council Treasurers Account £11,486.39 Reserve Account £10,266.35.

Iden Parish Council Year End Financial Report 2021 -2022

Bank balances as of 31st March 2022 £19,221.72 Parish Council Accounts (Treasurer - current and Business Instant Access reserve) and Iden Pavilion Account £178.23

The council's main source of income remains the precept which is the parish council's share of council tax being £16,000 for the year. In addition, a small sum from the new burial ground, this year being £1,400. Iden Cricket Club also paid the annual playing field hire fee of £200. The previous year's payment also fell in this financial period. The Pavilion Association paid the nominal £15 annual lease fee and as usual we saw the funds for the pavilion building insurance from the Pavilion Association passing through the parish council accounts £1,505.40. Compensation, for erroneously cutting of the wildflower verges, from Highways contractor Countryman of £60 for Wilder Iden also passed through the account. The council received £10 refund for Appledore PC's share stationery. Another £10 from Pett was outstanding until recently. Matters have been complicated with the return of the pavilion building to the parish council. Whilst it was difficult to set up a separate bank account for pavilion funds, funds relating to the pavilion have gone into the parish council funds for the moment. £200 from the Cricket Club for the use of the pavilion and the funds from a NS&I account for the pavilion association of £727.14. A vat reclaim still has to be made but there is still time as there is a three-year period of grace.

The council's regular costs were as estimated, the grass cutting of the playing fields, play area, the new burial ground and closed church yard came to £4,100 net of vat (charges increasing next year), dog bin £130 net of vat, play area inspection £68.50 net of vat. IPC also pay for additional urban verge grass cuts (up to four) costing £364 net. £40.80 for new bulbs and plants for the war memorial were refunded to Claire Carle who must be thanked for looking after the war memorial and its garden. As well as the usual £50 donation to the Poppy appeal IPC has been financially assisting Wilder Iden covering the cost of wildflowers and seed for various area around Iden £218.15 including the £60 from Countryman. The council's running costs including the clerk's salary and admin costs plus subscriptions, insurance, room hire, chairman's allowance, etc remain constant but for small inflation at £8,423.72. Unfortunately, there was a late payment of £1,146.10 net for work agreed for the previous year being the ramp in the new burial ground and some of the cost for the new signs on the playing fields. During last summer, the benches on the playing fields and at the shop and new burial ground gates had a through refurbishment costing £775 and covered by the contingency fund. The website has now gone live and the hosting fee of £151.20 and domain name £28.78 came from the ring-fenced grant money for a new website. The accounts have become more complicated with the council taking on running the pavilion. While awaiting the pavilion funds transferred to the parish council, the pavilion bills – water, electricity, new locks for the exterior toilet block, safety inspection have been paid from council funds. These will be reimbursed later. There have been considerable bills for water and electricity with meters not having been read. Cost to the end of the year is approximately £1,600.

Within the year end bank balance of £19,221. the council holds £8,000 as a general reserve and £661.36 ring fenced for the website and £246 garden society donation for natural enhancements around the village. I believe that all major bills for the year are paid.

5.2 June Receipts

£0.09 June Bank Interest
£49.73 Appledore Parish Council share of two sets on ink cartridges

5.3 June additional payments

£851.65 BHIB council insurance – 3-year long term agreement

5.4 The following payments were authorised

£488.55 Clerk's July salary
£41.70 Clerk's July Salary Allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70
£564.00 Nigel Gibbs – 2 x tree works Iden churchyard/playing fields and goal post removal (vat £94.00)

£2,670.00 Nigel Gibbs – Half year grass cutting charge (vat £445.00)
£146.32 East Sussex Association of Local Councils – annual membership of it and NALC
Charge Card (payment 7th July):
£72.80 Iden Village Stores: refreshments (note a credit for one bottle of wine £6.50 to go through and the clerk to refund cheese and fruit juice not used)

6. Finances – Pavilion

6.1 Bank Balance

Bank Balances on 30th June 2022 Council Treasurers Account £5,938.89.

6.2 June Receipts

£5,964.69 Closure of Iden Pavilion Barclay's Account

6.3 June payments

£33.60 EDF
£23.00 EDF new monthly payment

The clerk mentioned that Castle Water now held some £600 of the council money due to its insistence that an incorrect bill was paid. If the council had not paid, then £40 charges would have been accrued fortnightly. There was no statement on the bill how and if the council could get this sum paid back. Additionally, the next bill had been overestimated. The clerk would try to have the money returned.

7. Agreement to add another Bank Signatory

It was resolved to authorise Greg Say as full signatory for Lloyd's Bank Accounts. All other signatories to remain unchanged.

8. Council Communication

This item was deferred but the clerk would look at if there was a cascade email system available via the website.

9. Iden Pavilion

Funds £ 5,964.69 from Barclays Bank for Iden Pavilion Association has now been transferred into the new parish council account.

The sale of ice lollies at St. Michael's Sports Day raised around £50 for pavilion roof repair. The damaged football posts had been removed as they were a danger. The council will monitor the pavilion for evidence of balls being kicked against the walls.

As a precursor to holding a public meeting to discuss the future of the sports pavilion, a paper providing the background to the pavilion and the quotes for work had been circulated to councillors. As a matter of urgency to make the pavilion safe and avoid cost escalation, this agenda item would deal with these works. There will be full public consultation on the future use of the sports pavilion with a meeting on a Saturday morning plus a survey/questionnaire. The cricket club also needed to know about playing next year.

It was resolved to contract Tollets to carry out the two repair works to the roof with a new flat roof for the cricket score board and the internal floor and wall repair works due to an internal leak and the gutter and roof works. The quotes (total £3,990) will have to be updated. Funds will come from the pavilion account. The clerk was concerned about leaving enough funds in the account to cover running costs. Councillors requested a survey of the pavilion septic tank to check all was in good order.

It was resolved that the parish council should meet with the cricket club to explain and discuss why the fees for 2023 are as follows:

Iden Cricket Club

For storage and use of pavilion £500

For Playing Field hire £200

For Sunday Games

per match £ 60

It was further resolved that a proper letting arrangement be put in place including indemnities.

10. Risk Assessment – Report on Parish Assets

The broken branches on a tree on the boundary with the churchyard and additional parking areas have been cut free and logged for Wilder Iden have been left with the other arisings being removed.

Tree branches were rubbing on the Grove Lane bus Shelter and the area around the shelter needed tidying up.

11. Information for Councillors

Clerk has completed surveys on sporting facilities in the parish.

A replacement tree for the hall has been bought but will be planted in the autumn.

12. Date of Next meeting

No meeting in August. Next meeting Tuesday 6th September 2022, 7.30pm Iden Village Hall.