



Iden Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on
18th May 2023 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.**

Present

Councillors M. Miller, P. Allard, G. Say and J. Wood.

In attendance: County Councillor K. Glazier and the Clerk M. Philo.

Members of the Public: Eleven.

1. Election of the Chairman

It was resolved to elect Councillor Miller as Chairman till the annual meeting of 2024.

The new chairman thanked Ray Griffin for having chaired the parish council for the last 6 years.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

It was resolved to elect Councillor Say as Vice-Chairman till the annual meeting of 2024.

The Chairman thanked the organisers of the Coronation Picnic for a delightful community event. The boggy ground conditions on the playing field dried out just in time. Around 100 people attended.

The Chairman congratulated colleagues on being re-elected uncontested. Out of 54 parishes in East Sussex, only 4 had contested elections.

3. Apologies

District Councillors L. Hacking and P. Osborne.

4. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following amendment, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the 4th April 2023 as a true record.

6. Co-option

It was resolved to hold a paper ballot. The 3 candidates declined an invitation to speak. Following ballot, Bet Luckhurst was co-opted on to the parish council. Bet signed her acceptance of office and joined the other councillors.

The meeting adjourned at 7.45 pm for Public Session

County Councillor Report

Balfour Beattie had taken over providing highways services from Costain. There had been a few teething problems at the call centre and with the website. They had employed another team to deal with the backlog which was expected to take till the end of June. Pothole repair criteria is set by County Council. Councillor Glazier had written to the government about the state of the roads where the estimated costs for East Sussex are above the County Council's financial resources. Residents were asked to continue to report potholes.

Councillor Glazier confirmed that County Council did own the layby by New Bridge, Wittersham Road and he would ask about a waste bin being installed though it is not usually their domain.

Public Questions

None.

The meeting reconvened.

7. Councillor Appointments

It was resolved to elect the following councillors to serve or represent the council on the following bodies:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| a) Iden Community Emergency Forum | Councillor Wood |
| b) Rother Association of Local Councils | Councillor Allard |
| c) East Sussex Association of Local Councils | Councillors Allard and Miller |
| d) Police Liaison | Councillor Luckhurst |

8. Meetings Schedule

It was resolved that meetings will continue to be held the first Tuesday of the month except for August when there will be no meeting, except for emergencies.

9. Policies

It was resolved to agree the following policies:

Financial Regulations amended to increase emergency spending to £2,000 (Budgetary Control 4.1) and emergency spending by the Clerk to £2,000 (Budgetary Control 4.5)

and explanation of variances to budget greater than £300 or 15% (Budgetary Control 4.8) plus other minor amendments.

Standing Orders

Co-option Policy

Complaints Policy

Document Retention Policy

Receipt of Donations Policy

Equal Opportunity Policy

Grievance Policy

Disciplinary

Health and Safety Statement

Safeguarding Policy

Sickness and Absence Policy

Staff Expenses Policy

Media Policy

Email Disclaimer

Privacy Notice

Information and Data Protection Policy

It was suggested that emergency delegation to the clerk be agreed at the next meeting.

10. Confirmation of Borrowing Approval for a Charge Card for the Clerk

It was resolved to confirm borrowing approval for a charge card for the clerk with a limit of £500 in any one month.

11. Delegation to the Clerk regarding the New Burial Ground

It was resolved to delegate to the Clerk to confirm memorial stone inscriptions and location of plots. LGA 1972 s 101

12. Planning

12.1 Enforcements and Appeals

ENF /26/23/IDE May House: Breach of condition 7 on appeal decision App/U1430/D/21/32881 discharge of condition 7 application RR/2021/2508/ P approved. Enforcement statement there has been no breach has been queried and the enforcement officer would be returning to check the right condition.

12.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council since the last Meeting

RR/2023/371/P Windfalls, Main Street: rear single storey extension, front porch and new proposed cladding. Approved.

RR/2022/2968/P The Bell Inn: Internal minor alterations with an external staircase and escape door to improve the fire safety; external landscaping works including covered seating area to improve business viability (listed building). Approved.

RR/2022/2969/L The Bell Inn: Internal minor alterations with an external staircase and escape door to improve the fire safety; external landscaping works including covered seating area to improve business viability (listed building). Granted.

12.3 Applications Considered

RR/2023/313/P Iden Bowls Club: Erection of a new open sided timber trellis to front façade of existing building. It was resolved to support.

13. Year End

Report is available at the end of the minutes.

14. Council Finances

14.1 Bank Balances

Bank Balance as of 30th April 2023 Parish Council Accounts £ 28,353.45 (being Treasurer's Current Account £18,061.36 and Business Reserve £10,292.09).

14.2 April Receipts

£6.51 April Bank Interest

£8,000.00 Precept (Council Tax): First instalment

14.3 The following payments were authorised

£520.00 Clerk's May salary

£41.70 Clerk's May Allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70

£453.03 Refund Mrs Bauling: Coronation Celebration costs £418.03 and ICE leaflet £35 (already agreed at a previous meeting)

Charge Card (9th May) Nil

15. King Charles III Coronation Celebrations

On Sunday May 7th a Coronation Picnic was held in Iden Park. The event was blessed by a sunny day, with no showers as were forecast. There were about 100 villagers there and their friends and relations. Tables were laid out with banquet roll and decorated for when the villagers came with their own picnics.

Teas, coffees and cakes were served after the picnic, during which the villagers had a very social lunch together.

A dog show was held in another part of the field, which was extremely well attended, rosettes were won for different categories.

After this many villagers young and old took part in some running races, egg and spoon and sack races. There was also a tug-of-war contest for the children.

The event closed with an enjoyable rounders match.

The committee and many villagers then tidied the field and pavilion, a wonderful way in which to commemorate the King's Coronation.

It had been a very successful event and appreciated by all. It is the hope that this kind of event could be held annually to bring the community together and also support the Pavilion.

16. Public Consultation on the Future of Iden Pavilion

There was a consensus of the 42 people in attendance that the pavilion should be maintained and kept for the future but that more use of the pavilion should be found. Also, that a separate group should be set up in some way to look into this and any possible grants, as well as the structure that a future group might take to manage the pavilion in the future.

17. Iden Pavilion

At the public meeting and consultation on the future of the sports pavilion, residents had confirmed that the pavilion should continue to be used and supported. A few residents have offered to investigate taking over the management of the pavilion. The Clerk has met with the Debbie Chalet to review how they would work with the council till the group came to the council with a management strategy and to provide some background information. It was resolved that Iden Pavilion working party be formed and that the group would report to the council when ready.

18. Pavilion Finances

18.1 Bank Balance

Bank Balances on 30th April 2023 Treasurers Account £5,546.31.

18.2 April Receipts

None.

18.3 April Payments

£23.00 EDF monthly direct debit payment 15th of the month.

19. Iden Playing Fields

The Clerk was reminded to invoice Iden Cricket Club and ascertain the insurers view on the need for the Cricket Club to provide indemnity.

20. Risk Assessment

Nothing to report.

21. Information for Councillors

The pavilion roof work is now scheduled for the 3rd July.

Pavilion safety inspection Thursday 1st June 10am.

Elmsmead bus shelter paint Wednesday 31st May 10am subject to no rain.

Police Focus Group – 23 May 10.30 to 12.30 Rye Town Hall.

Residents had enquired about dates for Motorcross at the Iden track. Clerk to enquire.

The council insurance would renew on the 18 July 2023 for a premium of £795.51 plus insurance tax and administration fee, total being £915.97. As the council had signed a three-year long-term agreement the clerk would not be seeking quotes. It was highlighted that insurers required any buildings to be surveyed by a competent person to provide an up-to-date replacement value every three years. The insurers are also being asked what the Council needs to do regarding the obtaining of indemnities for groups using the Pavilion.

The head of East Sussex Association of Local Councils has requested that a mobile phone contact number be available, on parish council websites, for the emergency / resilience groups. The Clerk to enquire what details to put on the website.

22. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday June 6th at 7.30pm Iden Village Hall.

Iden Parish Council Year End Financial Report 2022 -2023

Parish Council

Bank balances as of 31st March £ 22,481.28

Receipts £21,183.99

Anticipated receipts were £17,000.

Receipts for the year were as anticipated £16,000 from council tax and £1,400 from the new burial ground. Total receipts are marginally more because of refunds from Pett and Appledore PC for sharing some stationary costs (£249.31) and the increase in interest rates (£19.49) plus one playing field hire of £50 was taken. Bodium Cricket Club paid their fees to the pavilion account.

Two vat reclaims were made bringing the council up to date were collected for £2,790.42.

Net Expenditure £16,812.02 (gross £17,924.43)

Anticipated net expenditure £16,753.60.

This represents the running costs of the council £9,081.62; donations to the Jubilee celebrations £439.50 and £250 to Rother Rural Trust; other asset repairs and urban verge grass cutting £1,320.30; £570 on the play area grass and safety inspection; £1,850 on the playing fields grass cuts and tree work and finally £1,370 new burial ground grass/hedge and closed churchyard grass and trees. With the return of the sport pavilion from the lease holders the parish council spent £1,930.60 on outstanding bills but it should be noted that about £700 had to be paid to Castle water while the water meter and billing were sorted out. £629 was later refunded.

The grass cutting costs were less than expected and is due to the weather as the wet ground conditions may prevent the grass being cut. The budget for other asset repairs was exceed as the 100th birthday of the War Memorial was celebrated with an exhibition

and additional work was completed on the verges and bus shelter. The running cost for the council was reduced due to the lower insurance cost, no solicitor fee, no security fee for the laptop and reduced website fees. Plus, only half of the contingency budget was used (on the Jubilee celebrations).

Outstanding bill to pay for the period

£910.80 (vat £151.80)	new bins for the playing fields to replace the broken dog bin
£250.00	Coronation celebration picnic and games
£1,115.00	Refurbishment of Elmsmead Bus Shelter roof, window and some weather boarding plus a seat for inside
£250.00	Commemorative plaque for Elmsmead bus shelter

The council bank balances stood at £22,481.28. It holds a reserve of £8,000 so it does hold in hand £14,481 less the outstanding sums of £1,766.80, being £12,714. Until the pavilion repairs are completed it will not be known how much of this amount may have to be spent on the pavilion. To stop the roof leaking the most recent repair quote for installing a flat roof over the cricket score board is £2,790. Other work is required on the pavilion and the funds in the pavilion account will not cover these.

Pavilion Accounts

The transfer of funds from the leaseholders account put £5,954.69 into the account in June 2022.

A full year has now been completed so most services expenditure is known except for business rates as the facility is not registered yet. Additionally, until next year, when regular billing from Castle water is achieved, there is some uncertainty to the actual total costs for running the sports pavilion.

Whilst on the other hand it is a certainty that the receipts for the facility will not cover the cost of running it. Currently only the cricket club usually make use of it and will be paying £500 in the next financial year (£200 playing hire fee is additional). There is also only a few occasional other hirings.

Total receipts were £6,493.91 and total payments including vat, were £1,102.83.

As at 31st March 2023 the balance stood at £5,569.31.