



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th November 2023 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

The Chairman extended the Council's sympathy to the family of Jenny Chater Robinson who had lived at The Elms since 1966. Jenny played an active role in village life.

The Chairman expressed the council's thanks to those who had refurbished the bus shelter and to Ken Fairhall for opening it again in commemoration of King Charles III's Coronation.

The Chairman expressed the council's thanks to all those who helped with the Halloween Lunch which had been very enjoyable.

A short Remembrance Sunday Service would be held at the War Memorial starting at 10.50am. Refreshments would be available in the hall afterwards.

Outline plans for the development at Conker's Field would be available to view and comment on at the village hall on Monday 13th November from 4pm to 6pm.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (chairman), P. Allard, B. Luckhurst, J. Wood and G. Say.

In attendance: County Councillor K. Glazier, District Councillors P. Osborne, and Lizzie Hacking; the Clerk M. Philo.

Members of the Public: Ten.

1. Apologies

None.

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 3rd October 2023 as a true record.

The meeting adjourned at 7.35 pm for Public Session

County Councillor Keith Glazier Report

Councillor Glazier had received several calls from residents following the recent heavy rainfall which had been very close to flooding properties in Pett, Winchelsea Beach and Rye.

A review of pothole repair performance recommended more patching and larger patches going forward. Patching repairs would continue whilst the weather allowed it.

This years' county budget has a £15million overspend.

Expenditure for the next financial year would be exceeded by £40 million should no reductions in services be made. Proposed service reduction will bring the difference to £16 million which could be covered by reserve funds and the allowed increase (3%) in council tax.

Questions and comments

Councillor Miller raised the poor condition of Gardiner's Hill. Drainage/ lying water on the road at the bottom is also an issue.

Councillor Wood arrived.

District Councillor Paul Osborne Report

Central government had granted £100,000 and £60,000 to Bexhill and Rye Leisure pools.

The budget for the next financial year currently had about a £3 million gap to be closed. The council also wished to rebuild reserves.

Changes were being made regarding car park charges. Meters would no longer accept cash to reduce running costs and charges would go up. Camber car park would have hourly rates again.

District Councillor Lizzie Hacking Report

The council was still in discussion with staff regarding a pay settlement.

There would be no change to the dog control orders in Iden.

Public Questions – None.

The meeting reconvened 7.51pm

4. Planning

4.1 Enforcements and Appeals

No further enforcement advice since the last meeting.

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

None.

4.3 Applications Considered

RR/2023/2156/P Spring Farm – Land adjacent to Military Road: Extension and restoration to existing store for agricultural use. **It was resolved to make no comment.** Councillor Edwards abstained.

The Chairman reported that the decision on the Twin Sisters application was being delayed by ecological concerns.

5. Council Finances

5.1 Bank Balances and Second Quarters Financial Report

Bank Balances:

30 th September 2023	£31,439.94
Total Receipts	£ 396.71
Total Payments	<u>£ 626.19</u>
31 st October 2023	£31,210.46

(31st October statements -Treasurers Account £20,872.18 and Reserve Account £10,338.28)

Unpresented payments £22.18 and amounts due £37.20 making the running balance £31,225.48.

Iden Parish Council First and Second Quarter Financial Report 2023-2024

Receipts First Quarter (£9,119.02)

The first half of the precept £8,000 was received along with the Coronation grant of £209 from Rother District Council and £21.10 from coronation mug sales. Additionally, the Burial ground saw an interment of ashes £250 and playing field hire from the cricket club of £200. £18.92 was received from interest and £21.10 recharge for ink from Appledore Parish Council. There was also a refund from the pavilion account of £420 for the safety inspection.

Receipts Second Quarter (£8,847.57)

The other half of the precept £8,000 along with £700 for a new 5-year plot reservation and a renewal of a current 5-year reservation. £50 was received to the playing field use and £24.27 in interest, plus £73.30 from Beckley and Pett Parishes for ink recharge.

Payments First Quarter net of vat £4,806.89

£2,942.61 Council running costs; £1368.67 being £253.67 Elmsmead bus shelter refurbishment/dedication and £1,115 new roof was previous years expenditure); Annual Dog Bin fee £143; Additional urban verge cut £318.96 and £33.65 on the litter pick.

Payments Second Quarter net of vat £2,160.80

£75 play area safety inspection; £21.23 Elmsmead bus shelter paint/brushes and £2,064.57 council running costs.

At the 30th September the balance stood at £ 31,476.07 taking into consideration unpaid and uncollected.

At the six month point payments appear in line with projections but no grass cutting has been paid for. The council has received more than anticipated in income and holds enough reserves to cover additional expenditure due to the creation of an ashes interment area, tree work around the pavilion/tree damage following storms on the playing field and donation towards the Bell Inn condition survey.

Earmarked reserves total approx. £ 8,900 (reserve of £8,000 and two other ring-fenced sums (Website £661.36 and garden society donation £246).

It was suggested that the reserved amount from the garden society could be used to buy bulbs for volunteers to plant around the village.

5.2 Budget 2024-20245

A first draft had been circulated. Residents and councillors were welcome to suggest work schemes to be included.

5.3 October Receipts

£9.51 October Bank Interest
£350.00 Renewal of burial plot reservation
£37.20 Beckley Parish Council: Share of ink

5.4 The following payments were authorised:

£525.20 Clerk's November salary
£41.70 Clerk's November room and cat allowance
£35.00 Information Commissioner: Data handler registration (direct debit)
£1,320 GSH Tree Surgery: Clear fallen oak branch and cut back tree branches overhanging the pavilion (vat £220)
£540.00 C D Rye Properties Services: Sundial Refurbishment
£413.50 Iden Village Hall Annual room hire plus bus shelter dedication.
£52.75 Refund M Philo Go Daddy: Domain renewal for 2 years (vat £8.79) Payment card details transferred to the parish council card for future payments.

Charge card (9th November) Microsoft payment of £59.99 advised in October.

(Nb. no RALC invoice received yet nor any from Gibbs for grass cutting)

5.5 Donation to the Royal British legion Poppy Appeal

It was resolved to donate £50 to the appeal.

6. Urban Verge Cuts – 2024

Highways will provide two cuts for free. **It was resolved to contract highways for at least two extra cuts for urban verges. Cost £595.**

7. Community Asset – The Bell Inn

Report from The Bell Inn Working Party

The meeting was adjourned for the report 8.15pm

The group's application to join the Plunkett Association had been approved. The group's next step is to set up its legal identity as a community benefit society and organise a bank account. They would hold a pop-up pub in the village hall on Wednesday 22nd November 6.30pm with an update for residents. A questionnaire would be delivered to residents in the next couple of weeks.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.20pm

8. New Burial Ground - Garden of Contemplation – Interment of Ashes

The Clerk was still reviewing the available stone slabs to ensure appropriateness.

9. Council Policies – Information Publication Scheme

It was resolved to update and agree the scheme to the latest version provided by the Information Commissioner's Office. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, public bodies are required to make freely available, in an accessible format and form, as much information as possible whilst abiding with the Data Protection Act/Regulations 2018.

10. Pavilion Finances

10.1 Bank Balance

Bank Balances on
31st October 2023 £3,175.13

10.2 October Receipts

£350.00 Castle water passed on the compensation payments for the June water disruptions.

10.3 November Payments

£23.00 EDF monthly direct debit payment 15th of each month

10.4 Payments Authorised

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

£67.20 JS Fire Protection: Fire extinguisher check

The guttering work bill is outstanding and a water bill is due shortly.

11. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

11.1 Pavilion Working Party Report

Following the report provided at the October council meeting, **the following were resolved:**

- a) To note the working party's request that a Community Interest Organisation be formed to take on a lease for the pavilion.
- b) To agree that the Parish Councillors meet Representatives of the working party as soon as possible to consider their proposals and the options available to the Parish Council which can be agreed at a subsequent meeting.
- c) To agree to the working party assessing the pavilion for interior works.
- d) On behalf of the Fete Committee, to agree to the working party creating an inventory of the container.
- e) To agree to allow the group to hold a fundraising event on Saturday 27th July 2024. Iden Cricket Club have confirmed they will schedule no matches that day.

12. Risk Assessment

Another tree branch had fallen in the last windy weather and would be cleared away with the cemetery tidy/clearing works.

13. Information for Councillors

Some residents reported cleaning the signs on their road on the 9th October.

Rain stayed away for the re-dedication of Elmsmead Bus Shelter on the 28th October. The residents that laid the base and erected the shelter, in May 2002 included Bill Headde, Tim Barham, Ged Say, Jim Wood and Chris Wood. The shelter building was acquired from Kent Sectional Buildings.

Drop-in Session for outline plans for Conker's field development on Monday 13th November 4pm to 6pm Iden Village Hall.

Remembrance Sunday Service 12th November 10.50am at the War Memorial.

Civility and Respect Pledge – survey for councils that had not signed up to the pledge.

ESALC AGM & Conference 14th November at Uckfield Civic Centre.

Online planning training on 12th December by Rother District Council.

Rother District Council Annual Meeting with Parishes, 5th December 2pm – 4pm Brede Village Hall.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7.30pm Iden Village Hall.