



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th March 2025 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

The Chair thanked the Village Hall Committee for providing Pancakes this afternoon for Shrove Tuesday. The event was well attended and the pancakes enjoyed by all.

The chair had to advise of the sad news of the recent passing of Alan Vidler who had lived in the village all his life. He was always very friendly and well-known as he looked after many people's gardens. It was good to hear his two boxer dogs to which he was devoted are being rehomed

Present

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

In attendance: District Councillor P. Osborne and the Clerk M Philo.

Members of the Public: Four.

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence

1. Apologies

County Councillor Glazier and District Councillor Hacking. Martin and Debbie Chalet.

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following minor amendment, the minutes of the 4th February 2025, were unanimously agreed, as a true record.

4. The meeting adjourned at 7.32 pm for Public Session

County Councillor Report

The Chair and Clerk had written to the Head of Highways complaining about the condition of the roads including photos of potholes on the roads entering Iden. Having had a perfunctory reply, there was a change of heart, possibly following contact with

Councillor Glazier, and a further response was given that Highways would look to put the works on the schedule but importantly without any commitments

The letter from the Council and the second reply from Highways was circulated by email to residents to keep them advised and also to give them some limited degree of comfort that their serious concerns are being heard

The road to Tenterden is closed this side of the Tesco's turn for the next three weeks. Residents complained that the signs on the main road advising of the closure need to say where the closure is as they are set up so far from the roadworks. It currently appears that Iden is closed. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Councillor Glazier. The Clerk advised that residents could look up information on roadworks on the national site one.network.com.

District Councillor Report

Rother Cabinet had agreed the budget and set their share of council tax. The increase of 2.99% for the average household (Band D) is £6.11 making the annual total £210.65. Rother also decided to devolve property in parishes to parish councils before the demise of the district council, unless the property had some value which thus will be kept and passed on to the new authority. Parishes had until the 31st of September to submit an expression of interest.

A vote was supported by Rother Councillors requesting their cabinet to look into ways to support the hospitality sector recognising the importance in the local economy.

Public Questions

None.

5. The meeting reconvened 7.45pm

6. Planning

6.1 Enforcements and Appeals

Requests for action to be taken on tree house at a property on Randolph Lane and its removal had not been responded to and the Clerk requested to write on behalf of the parish council as residents are still concerned, especially as the property appears to be unoccupied.

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

None. Idenwood Farm Barn, Coldharbour Lane application for Certificate of Lawful Development has seen an extension of time for a decision.

6.3 Applications considered

RR/2024/2277/P Park Oast, Wittersham Road: proposed double garage. It was resolved by majority, to support.

6.4 For Notification Only - None

7. Finances - Parish Council

7.1 February Bank Balances

The Chair confirmed the figures

31st January 2025 £ 16,414.82

Plus total Receipts £ 9.20

Less total Payments £ 780.96

28th February 2025 £ 15,643.06

(28th February 2025 statements -Treasurers Account £5,140.16 and Reserve Account £10,502.90)

7.2 February Receipts

£9.20 Bank Interest

7.3 February Payments

£629.20 Clerk's January salary.

£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70

£20.54 Castle Water: Pavilion water

£20.54 EDF: Pavilion electricity

£46.56 Pett PC: Share of Clerk Mobile up to year end

Charge Card (December): Nil

7.4 The Following Payments were Authorised

£629.20 Clerk's February salary.

£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70

£24.00 Mulberry Local Services Limited: Financial regulations bite size training (vat £4)

£63.40 Refund share of SLCC annual subscription

£4.25 Lloyds Bank: Account maintenance monthly fee

Charge Card (March)

£32.00 Lloyds bank: Annual charge card fee

Pavilion Electricity and Water unknown.

8. Iden Community Emergency Forum (ICE)

Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Wood would remain, for the time being, the council representative for ICE. The group is looking for volunteers.

The chair thanked Anne and Rob Bauling for looking after Alan Vidler before his sudden passing. This demonstrated only too well that our community cares for each other which is important in a small village such as Iden

9. Dog Bins

Councillor Luckhurst reported that several dog walking residents had mentioned the lack of dog bins. However, following information that dog waste could now be placed in any street bin, Councillor Luckhurst suggested that the council should advertise this on the noticeboard and consider putting a sticker to that effect on the bins before contemplating new dog bins and associated costs.

10. Public Rights of Way Survey

The views of the Footpath group had been collated, councillors Luckhurst and Miller had suggested additional comments highlighting the problems with footpaths 20 and 3. It was resolved to agree the amended responses.

11. Save the Bell Report

On-going, no news to report but funding is being worked on to be able to purchase the pub. Martin visited Tom Warder of Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) at his office in Lewes in order to discuss that the way the pub is being set up i.e. as a Community Benefit Society (CBS) is suitable should a Community Land Trust (CLT) be set up in Iden. Tom confirmed a CBS was the correct structure and could fold into a CLT if there was an appetite in the village to create one. Tom mentioned that in Beckley and Rye they have carried out Housing Surveys in order to be clear on the needs before looking at Housing opportunities. Martin is clear on how this would work and about £3,000 would be required to do this with a professional team. This is to be considered at some stage.

12. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

a. Iden Pavilion Working Party Update

Donations have been made for the bric a brac stall, Debbie passes on thanks and welcomes more donations

She paid a visit to Beckley Farmers Market and approached a number of stall holders to request they sell their wares at our Fayre in July. 3 have signed up and a couple more will be chased to confirm.

Debbie, Martin and Bet went down to the Pavilion in the last week and are going to get a group of helpers together in a couple of months to empty the container.

To keep costs down, most of the rubbish to be disposed of, will be handled by Martin Chalet, there are some items that can be repurposed for the fayre.

There will be a clear out of crockery from inside the pavilion and this can be replaced by a donation of matching crockery.

There are a couple of handyman tasks to complete and a set of new industrial toilet roll holders to be purchased.

Brenda Abrams has kindly donated some gazebos and bins for the village to use at any events. Debbie and Martin will sort storage for these and Rob Bauling can access these, if required for Bowls or Village Hall events.

Morganne Fiddimore has sorted the beer for the event and Bernie, her mum will run the Dog Show. Morganne is also in discussion with the RNLI to attend and Charles Palmer to attend and sell their English Sparkling Wine.

A logo has been created and Morganne will use this on social media sites she is creating so that posts re the event can reach further than Iden Residents.

Additionally, Councillor Luckhurst advised that the group had investigated the contents of the container and what would not be used would be taken to the tip by the group.

The council wished Debbie Chalet luck with the outstanding grant application.

- b. It was unanimously resolved to agree the use of the playing fields on the 26th July for the village fayre subject to risk assessment. It was further unanimously agreed that the council insurance will cover the event subject to the council insurer's conditions including those for events, inflatables, etc. These terms had been accepted by the pavilion working party. Additionally, all profits are to be restricted to be spent on the pavilion.

13. Risk Assessment

The playing fields are still wet and the time of year mean there is some badger and mole damage.

The churchyard is looking very pretty with the snowdrops out. The fallen tree branch has been removed

Councillor Miller mentioned the amount of soil creep on the church path. The clerk would take a look at what might be done.

Work has been begun on the fingerpost near Iden Stores and Grove Lane. The Clerk will check on progress with the council handyman.

14. Information for Councillors

Councillors considered that there had been quite a few parish meetings in the past year and so it might be better to wait for an important issue before calling another one.

The electricity contract for the pavilion with EDF will be ending on the 19th April. Nearer to the time the clerk will compare prices.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1st April 2025, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

16. Motion to exclude the Press and Public

Pursuant to section 1) 2 of the Public Bodies Admission to meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved to agree that, because of the confidential nature of business transacted the Public and Press leave the meeting during the consideration of Clerk's Salary

1972 LGA sch.12A, part 1, 5

It was unanimously resolved to increase the clerk's salary as per central government settlement to £18.67 per hour. Back pay of £276 to be paid in March.