



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd February 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

The Chair thanked everyone for making the effort to attend in such terrible weather. Progress continues with the offer for the Bell Inn.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), P. Allard, J. Cooper, B. Luckhurst, and G. Say
In attendance: County Councillor K. Glazier, and the Clerk M Philo.
Members of the Public: Four

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence.

1. Apologies

District Councillors L. Hacking and P. Osborne

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the 6th January 2025 as a true record.
Councillor Allard abstained having not attended the meeting.

4. The meeting adjourned at 7.32 pm for Public Session

County Councillor Report

At the next cabinet meeting the county council will be voting to request permission of central government to borrow £70 million. If agreed the council would only draw on the loan as required to keep the council solvent and the cost would have to be added to the next year's budget. All parties are involved in discussions.

Councillor Glazier will be driving the local roads with the Assistant Director later in February. Iden is considered the worst patch in east Sussex. He was also aware of the growing petition calling for the roads into to Iden to be resurfaced.

A resident mentioned again the about the potholes beside each other not being marked up at the same time. The Clerk will post pothole criteria on the website. Councillor Glazier suggested that the Highways Steward might attend a council meeting or annual meeting. This was welcomed and the Annual Meeting may be the best way

Central government will comment on the local government reorganisation proposals submitted in early March.

Public Questions

Nothing further.

5. The meeting reconvened 7.41pm

6. Update on the Purchase of The Bell Inn

The change of use application remains on hold and the share option would be open for a further 10 days. So far, 80 people had purchased shares and raised over £200,000.

7. Planning

7.1 The Bell Inn Change of Use Application

See item 6 above.

7.2 Enforcements and Appeals

As agreed the Chair had written to the head of planning regarding the outstanding enforcements. The email had been acknowledged and the council awaited a full response.

7.3 Planning Decisions by Rother District Council

RR/2025/1560/O Ground Floor at The Granary Oxenbridge Farm, Wittersham Road: Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of the ground-floor of the building as a single dwelling house and associated access. Lawful certificate

7.4 Applications Considered

RR/2025/2050/HOU The Granary, Wittersham Road: Replacement windows. It was unanimously resolved to support.

RR/2025/1978/HOU The Elms Grove Lane: Proposed internal alterations and extension to the Main Dwelling; Proposed external and internal alterations to the Outbuilding and proposed replacement of adjacent Greenhouse. Proposed site wide hard and soft landscaping including alterations to access driveway, installation of PV

panels and reinstatement of existing Tennis Court. It was unanimously resolved to support.

RR/2025/2008/LBC The Elms Grove Lane: Proposed internal alterations and extension to the Main Dwelling; Proposed external and internal alterations to the Outbuilding and proposed replacement of adjacent Greenhouse. Proposed site wide hard and soft landscaping including alterations to access driveway, installation of PV panels and reinstatement of existing Tennis Court. It was unanimously resolved to support.

7.5 Applications for Notification Only – None

7.6 New Local Plan and Propose Site Allocations

The public consultation is now open until 5pm on the 23rd March 2026, there was so ambiguity about the number of dwellings proposed for Iden. The site at Conkers is included for 15 dwellings but states that it is approved and Street Field has 10 dwellings proposed. A leaflet drop had been proposed but the details needed confirming. There was some discussion as to whether a public meeting would lead to any better outcome as previous meetings and representations had not changed planners allocations.

8. Finances

8.1 Noted January Bank Reconciliation

31st December 2025 £ 20,566.39

Plus total Receipts 1,205.39

Less total Payments £ 890.77

31st December 2025 £ 20,881.01

(31st January 2025 statements -Treasurers Account £10,307.44 and Reserve Account £10,573.57)

January Receipts

£5.39 Bank interest

£1,200.00 Burial fees

January Payments

£375.78 Salaries for December

£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70

£54.87 Refund M Philo: Share of Clerk's Society membership.

£35.75 Refund M Philo: Grave marker (vat £5.96)

£31.17 EDF: Pavilion electricity

£15.25 Castle water: Pavilion Water

£4.25 Bank Monthly account charge

£32.00 RALC Annual subscription

Charge card - Nil

8.2 Payments Authorised

£723.60 Salaries for December

£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70

£4.25 Lloyds monthly bank charge

8.3 Payroll Provider

To agree to contract Maiden Accountancy for pay roll services as of 1st April 2026. Cost £10 a month plus VAT.

8.4 Budget for 2026-2027

It was unanimously resolved to agree the budget for 2026-2027 as being £25,121.00.

8.5 Precept for 2026-2027

Having considered general reserve, restricted earmarked funds and other funds available it was unanimously resolved to set the Precept for 2026-2027 at £18,000 per annum, being for the average household (Band D) £74.20 noting that £5,360 will be coming from funds in addition to the general reserve and restricted earmarked funds.

9. Policies

9.1 It was unanimously resolved to agree the Freedom of information Publication Scheme

9.2 It was unanimously resolved to agree the Information and data protection policy.

10. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

10.1 Water Leak

On Saturday 10 January it was discovered that there was a water leak in the pavilion as the pipes had burst following very cold weather. Luckily, much escaped water had flowed down the shower drain. However, there had been substantial damage. The water was closed off and during the following week the damaged walls ceilings and floors were removed and heaters and dehumidifiers were set up to dry the building. Loss adjusters have seen live footage and photos and been supplied with room details. The council is waiting to hear from insurers. The chair thanked Councillor Say for stopping the water and managing the clearance.

Cricketers will soon be wishing to use the facility to play and a preseason safety inspection due.

10.2 Cricket Season hire

This is still to be finalised.

10.3 Iden Trust

The Trust will soon be meeting and is working on a application with Sussex Community Foundation for funding.

11. Risk Assessment

Various trees in the churchyard had been felled for safety reasons. A bonus is that the squirrels will no longer be able to get at the church flashing.

The funeral directors had been contacted to deal with a sunken grave.

12. Information for Councillors

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 3rd March 2026, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

DRAFT