



Iden Parish Council

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on
3rd June 2025 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.**

Notices

Jim Wood resigned for personal reasons. He was very influential in the setting up of Iden Community Emergency Forum. The council thanked him for his many years serving on the council. The deadline for 10 residents to request a bye election would soon pass. Once the council hears from Rother, the clerk will post a notice for residents to come forward for Co-option. The council will ask for CVs and perhaps to say a few words to introduce themselves. Hopefully the council will be able to co-opt to fill the vacancy at the July meeting.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), P. Allard, B. Luckhurst and G. Say.
In attendance: District Councillor P. Osborne, and the Clerk M Philo.
Members of the Public: Five.

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence.

1. Apologies

County Councillor Glazier and District Councillor Hacking.

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following minor amendments, the minutes of the 6th of May 2025 were unanimously agreed, as a true record.

4. The meeting adjourned at 7.37 pm for Public Session

District Councillor Report

The annual meeting saw no changes to the cabinet but there will be two deputy leaders. The planning committee numbers had been reduced by two members. Councillor Osborne remained the chair of the Scrutiny meeting. Following the resignation of Chas Pearce there will be a bye election in Catsfield and Crowhurst. The plans for Local Government reorganisation were being readied for submission to central government by the end of September.

Public Questions

A resident mentioned that the hedge on the bend along the Bell Inn had been trimmed but much more was needed. The clerk would write to the owners again.

Councillor Miller had emailed County Councillor Glazier again chasing for a response on the murderous early cutting of the daffodils and wildflowers on the verges last month. Conversation revealed that the same had happened in Peasmarch and Pett.

The meeting reconvened 7.43pm

5. Councillor Appointments

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

- a) Iden Community Emergency Forum was well organised and perhaps the new councillor might take on this role.**
- b) Rother Association of Local Councils – Councillor Allard with Councillor Miller.**
- c) to attend the East Sussex Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting: Councillors to asked nearer the time**

6. Code of Conduct – Civility and Respect

Following some discussion, it was resolved to NOT sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge. Councillors stressed that this did not mean they were against the principles but saw this as something that was already natural to them without having to agree a formal resolution.

7. Policies

Following review of the proposed amendments, it was unanimously resolved to agree the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. It was further unanimously resolved to agree the proposed Schedule of delegation with the amendment to clarify a three-month time period to have passed before the authority would come into play.

8. Council Insurance

The council insurance will renew on the 18th June 2025 for the final year of a three-year long-term agreement. However, the broker Clear Council through which the insurance has been acquired with Aviva Insurance Limited, has decided to change

its partner to Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc and as a result Clear Council is offering a new three-year fixed rate contract with Ecclesiastical from this year. Current insurance premium is £911.82 and the offered renewal premium is £1,131.07. Having checked if the event cover was suitable for the coming fayre, **it was unanimously resolved to take up the offer of a 3- year long term agreement with Ecclesiastical.** Consideration should be given to obtaining an update replacement cost for the pavilion. Thanks were expressed to Martin Chalet for his assistance.

9. Council Emails and Domaine Name

The clerks hoped to provide details next month.

10.Planning

10.1 Enforcements and Appeals – None

10.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council (since the last meeting) - None

10.3 Applications Considered

a) RR/2025/608/L and 607/P Bosney Farm, Grove Lane: Alteration and restoration including insertion of new windows and rebuilding of external stairs. It was unanimously resolved to support.

b) RR/2025/617/L and 616/P Old Tudor, readers Lane: New/replacement outbuilding for garage and storage and associated works: Extended rear terrace area. It was unanimously resolved to delegate the response to the Clerk.

10.4 For notification only - none

10.5 Delisting of the Bell Inn

Historic England were still considering the request.

11.Finances

11.1 Noted May Bank Reconciliation

30 th April 2025	£ 22,826.21
Plus total Receipts	£ 92.10
Less total Payments	<u>£ 844.26</u>
31 st May2025	£ 22,074.05

(31st May 2025 statements -Treasurers Account £11,547.24 and Reserve Account £10,526.81)

May Receipts

£7.21	Bank Interest
£84.46	Pett PC refund for supplies
£0.43	Charge card cash back

May Payments

£647.23	Salaries
£41.70	M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70

£84.46 Charge Card – for Pett PC supplies
£43.94 Castle Water: Pavilion water
£22.68 EDF: Pavilion electricity
£4.25 Lloyds' Account Management Charge
Charge Card (May): Nil

11.2 Payments to Authorise

£647.23 Clerk's May salary.
£200.00 Donation to Air Ambulance (1972 LGA s.137)
£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£4.25 Lloyds Bank: Account maintenance monthly fee
£594.00 R B Health and Safety Solutions Ltd: Pavilion Safety Inspection
Charge Card (May) Nil
Pavilion Electricity and Water unknown.

11.3 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024-2025

a) Asset register as at 31st March 2025

It was unanimously resolved to agree the asset register as at 31st March 2025

b) Internal Auditor report and Statement of Internal Control

The Internal Auditor's Report was noted and it was unanimously resolved to agree the Statement of Internal Control.

c) Section 1 AGAR Assertions

Having considered the assertions and responses it was unanimously resolved to agree the responses. The clerk and Chairman signed section1.

d) Section 2 AGAR Accountability Report

Having considered the figures, it was unanimously resolved to agree the figures. The chairman signed Section 2.

Note: dates of public inspection 10th June to 21st July inclusive

The Council expressed its gratitude once again to Paul Philip its internal auditor.

12. Report from Save The Bell Inn

It was agreed that this matter is not normal Parish Council Business although its support for the cause remains and it would no longer be a formal agenda item In the circumstances. It was noted that the Group would continue to update residents by calling their own open meetings.

13. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

13.1 Iden Pavilion Working Party Update

After almost a year, the Iden Pavilion Trust was now registered as charitable trust 121327. It has already been agreed that the Trust will take on the management of the pavilion and suggested being the point of contact on the website. The trust would appreciate the parish council continuing to cover the building's ongoing running costs

for the time being. The priority must be the Pavilion's restoration and future marketability which meant that all income and cash resources have to be directed solely at these objectives.

A meeting was suggested to discuss how the Trust and Parish Council would collaborate and to define lines of responsibility. Applying for any grant would wait till after the Fayre.

A meeting with a representative from Northiam FC is to be arranged

13.2 Footpath Gate by Stream Cottage

PROW had offered, should the grant funding come through as shortly expected, to supply a metal gate. This would be on the proviso that the landowner would install the gate. The advised the clerk to confirm that the parish council through the footpath team would install the gate. The Clerk would first check the suitability of the gate with the neighbouring landowner. The council accepted that it would pay for the group to hire a cat scanner.

14. Risk Assessment

Nothing to report

15. Information for Councillors

The footpath team had investigated a cyclist's report of an obstructed bridlepath at Boon's hill. The clerk was requested to report this.

In the absence of an Annual Parish Meeting for 2025 the Chairman said he would write a short report for the village to be on the web site and on the noticeboard.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 1st July 2025, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.