

Iden Parish Council First Quarter Financial Report 2020-2021

The first quarter is marked by the Covid-19 lockdown, which central government imposed on the 23rd March. Iden Parish is one of just a few parishes that has held its annual parish meeting this year. During lockdown central government altered a few of the rules for parish councils. The annual meeting of the council at which the Chairman is elected every year can be deferred until May 2020. Thus, Ray Griffin remains Chairman until then. Although the council did not get an opportunity to set up delegation of the daily running of the council to the Clerk until July, it was able to respond to resident's enquiries and pay bills due. As grass maintenance for parks was allowed during lockdown, the playing fields and cemeteries were kept in good order. Unfortunately the April meeting with the attendance of Chief Inspector Sarah Godley, who would have advised on the plans for local policing, was cancelled.

The first quarter's income is almost entirely made up by the receipt of 50% of the precept (council tax share for the parish council) being £8,000. A £100 fee was also received from the burial ground. Bank interest on the council bank accounts is tiny and totalled £1.24 for the period. Total income/receipts for the period was £8,101.24.

Under the council's financial regulations, it was able to pay any invoices due and succeeded in holding the annual insurance cost the same as last year. Online banking made this process ease in the circumstances. The council also donated £250 to Rye Food Bank when it was advertised that supplies were needed in April. Hastings Direct Newspaper has since refunded this amount from its Covid-19 fund. The council offered to cover any costs to Iden Community Emergency Forum but these are likely to be very small.

With the news of some members of the royal family succumbing to the virus, the Clerk acquired a condolence book to be used, as per the instructions from the royal household to parishes, upon the passing of a significant member of the royal family. Setting up the framework for the new parish council website was completed and paid for (£850) from the ring fence funds received to assist with complying with the amended accessibility regulations. The ring-fenced amount is reduced to £992.54. The clerk has designed a new format for the agenda and minutes to comply with the rules. The current website may not be totally compliant, but it is still usable. Total payments were £5,918.81.