



# *Iden Parish Council*

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.**

### **Presentation**

Tom Warder of Action in Rural Sussex gave a presentation about community land trusts being a vehicle through which the community can work for its benefit. The most recent examples being for the construction and management of affordable housing but it can be used for other community enterprises including pubs, shops, community energy (solar production) and more.

The Chair gave the council's condolences to the friends of Pamela Holt who had recently passed away. Her father who was the Estate Manager at Iden Cottage had helped to build Iden Sports Pavilion.

### **Present**

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

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

Members of the Public: 27

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence

### **1. Apologies**

District Councillor Hacking and Parish Councillor Wood.

### **2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations**

None.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Following minor amendment, the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, were unanimously agreed, as a true record.

#### **4. The meeting adjourned at 7.55 pm for Public Session**

##### **County Councillor Report**

Having inspected the condition of the roads in Iden with the Highway Steward, Councillor Glazier suggested the parish council wrote to Highways backing up his request for the asset management team to schedule a longer-term solution than limited patching.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, the full council will decide on the budget for next year and therefore its share of council tax. It is likely that the increase would be 2.99% and 2% restricted to adult social care. However, to cover planned expenditure, the council would be using some funds from general reserves and from funds allocated for future waste disposal plans. It is still the case that 76% of the county's share of your council tax is spent on 10% of the population. The council would continue to call for central government for a fairer funding formula for rural communities.

Residents thanked Councillor Glazier for reporting the pothole outside Rose Cottage as this was now repaired. Also, for the new name sign for Grove Lane which had been damaged during a car accident. However, the kissing gate delivered to Memorial Bungalow had still not been installed. The footpath group offered to install it for the owner.

Iden Footpath Team now consists of Andy Lane, Rob Bauling and Paul Philip as the lead and others.

##### **District Councillor Report**

The full council will be deciding the budget in the next few days. The district council will also be using reserves to cover spending for next year which will bring down the council's general reserves to £3.5 million.

The council planning department will shortly have a new Chief Planning Officer with the temporary stand in leaving. Furthermore, a new Development Manager Strategy and Planning, Directorate of Place and Climate Change has been recruited.

Councillor Miller again spoke on the poor communication from the planning enforcement team. It made it difficult for parish councillors to be able to help residents to get answers.

##### **Public Questions**

In response to query, it was confirmed that the broken glass in the K6 Kiosk had been reported to BT and had been scheduled for repair. BT provided no time scale.

#### **5. The meeting reconvened 8.07pm**

##### **6. Planning**

###### **6.1 Enforcements and Appeals**

No further information received.

###### **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 is unusually delayed.

### **6.3 Applications considered - None**

### **6.4 For Notification Only - None**

## **7. Finances - Parish Council**

### **7.1 January Bank Balances**

31 <sup>st</sup> of December 2024	£ 14,339.62
Plus total Receipts	£ 2,773.91
Less total Payments	<u>£ 698.71</u>
31 <sup>st</sup> of January 2025	£ 16,414.82

(31st of January 2025 statements -Treasurers Account £5,921.12 and Reserve Account £10,493.70)

### **7.2 January Receipts**

£8.90	Bank Interest
£2,765.01	HMRC: vat reclaim

### **7.3 January Payments**

£629.20	Clerk's September salary.
£41.70	M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£8.64	Castle Water: Pavilion water
£19.17	EDF: Pavilion electricity
Charge Card (December): Nil	

### **7.4 The Following Payments were Authorised**

£629.20	Clerk's January salary.
£41.70	M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£46.56	Pett PC: Recharge of Clerk Mobile Phone
Charge Card (January): Nil.	
Pavilion Electricity and Water unknown.	

## **8. Health and Safety Policy**

Following minor amendment, it was unanimously resolved to agree an updated Health and Safety Policy.

## **9. Training for Clerk**

It was unanimously resolved to pay £15 bite size training on new Financial Regulations for the Clerk.

## **10. Save the Bell Report**

Following the closure of the Community Support Fund announced last month the group had been looking at all other funding opportunities. They had identified some promising resources. More news to follow.

At a later date the Save the Bell Community Benefit Society may consider joining a Community Land Trust covering the village should one be formed.

### **11. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion - Iden Pavilion Working Party Update**

The Cricket Club had noted the 26th of July has been made available for the Iden Pavilion Trust first Iden Summer Fayre.

This will be a 'souped up' picnic in the park with more stalls and demos by local crafts people but at its heart a Country Fayre with the popular dogs show and races for all the family. Many of Iden groups such as the Footpath team, Village Hall, Bowls Club and WI will help on the day.

The team is looking for things to sell on the bric a brac stall and Debbie chalet can be contacted regarding donations of glass , china , toys , clothes , vases books etc on 07867904806 or [debbiechalet@gmail.com](mailto:debbiechalet@gmail.com). She is willing to collect items and will store until the event

### **12. Risk Assessment**

The playing fields continued to be very wet. A couple of small branches had fallen on a small tree in the churchyard and needed to be tidied.

### **13. Information for Councillors**

A public consultation about the condition of public rights of way and the county policy and its priorities is open till the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

### **14. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2025, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.