



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd December 2025 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

Remembrance Sunday, at the War Memorial, was well attended and £250 was raised for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Nick Padgem and Claire Carle were thanked for caring for the War Memorial during the year and the exhibition at the village hall afterwards.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), J. Cooper, B. Luckhurst and G. Say

In attendance: County Councillor K. Glazier, 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

Parish Councillor P. Allard and District Councillor L. Hacking.

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 4th November 2025 as a true record.

4. The meeting adjourned at 7.37 pm for Public Session

County Councillor Report

County Councillor Glazier had already heard that Kent Highways had put out Road Ahead Closed sign at the Peace and Plenty for roadworks in Small Hythe Kent which lasted several days. It turned out that the road was closed at night but with traffic lights during the day. He advised that there are only two types of signs (Road Ahead Closed or Road Closed) and legislation did not require any further information.

However, it is thought that more informative signage should be considered.

The significantly deep pothole close to the Peace and Plenty T Junction when leaving Iden was brought to the councillor's attention.

Councillor Glazier advised that the Peace and Plenty junction was scheduled for patching this year but funds ran out this year so the work remains on the list for next year.

Residents were asked to continue reporting potholes. The new website can now advise if a pothole has already been reported.

Councillors were offered the opportunity to review the village roads with the Highways Steward. Councillors were willing to take up the offer.

The county council was finding it difficult to balance next year's budget following a further reduction in reserves following the £25 million overspend on children and adult services. It will be asking central government for special financial assistance. The long-promised results of the fair funding review will be released on the 15 December. Meanwhile the CQC have judged adult social care is East Sussex as good with two further children's homes now being rated as good.

The public are being consulted (online) about the two proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in East Sussex.

District Councillor Report

The public consultation on Rother District Council Budget is open till the 5th January 2026.

The District Council Planning Authority had reviewed the Local Plan again following the new building numbers required by central government and the latest version would be out for public consultation mid-January 2026 for 8 weeks. The new plan will run to 2042. The two proposed sites for Iden show an increase in size and numbers of the Conkers site and an increase in numbers for Street Field (opposite Danesbury).

Kerbside food collection will start from April 2026. Food caddies will be issued next year. A campaign will start in the new year to advise residents.

A resident queried why there would be a month break in brown bin garden waste collection (since confirmed as incorrect).

During discussions of the recent Rother District Council affordable housing event, it was noted that as currently, when a planning authority has not built the required dwelling according to their local plan, this gives developers the opportunity to seek planning permission outside of the approved sites in the Local Plan. Neighbourhood

plans offer limited protection against inappropriate development as they are subservient to the Local Plan. It was advised that it would be better to make sure unwanted sites did not make it into the local plan as it is very difficult to remove these once the plan is approved by the Planning Inspector. This will be advised to Rother as part of the forthcoming Site Allocation consultation.

Public Questions 8.00pm

A resident of one of the properties adjacent to the Street Field, believed that the sale of part of Street Field to neighbourhoods contained a covenant that neither part would act to cause damage to retained land.

5. The meeting reconvened 8.10pm

6. Planning

6.1 The Bell Inn Change of Use Application

No further information and a decision by planners was awaited.

6.2 Enforcements and Appeals

The chair had requested an update on the enforcements and a response awaited. It is still difficult to find information on enforcements on the new planning website. Additionally, the situation at Thornsedale regarding the ongoing dumping in the owner's field had been drawn to the attention of the Environmental Health people at Rother, together with the potential fire hazard. Disappointingly, they will not take any action.

6.3 Planning Decisions by Rother District Council - None

6.4 Applications Considered

R/2025/1830/HOU Hedgerow, Grove Lane: Erection of oak framed extension. **It was unanimously resolved to support.**

6.5 Applications For Notification Only – None

6.6 New Local Plan

Under the new conditions for Local Plans, there would be new scrutiny by the planning inspector of the reasons why planning applications are not approved.

6.7 Housing Development Event 28th November

At the event, the Housing Development Enabling Team were introduced whose message was that it was our collective responsibility to build as many houses as is reasonable and that they needed parish councils to help. The presentations highlighted that 60% of residents were not homes owners.

7. Finances

7.1 Noted November Bank Reconciliation

30 th October 2025	£ 23,068.39
Plus total Receipts	5.55
Less total Payments	<u>£ 1,597.75</u>
30 th November 2025	£ 21,476.19

(30th November 2025 statements -Treasurers Account £10,913.05 and Reserve Account £10,563.14)

November Receipts

£5.55 Bank Interest

November Payments

£851.26 Salaries for October including back dating government agreed hourly rate.
£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£192.00 Parish online: .gov email service annual fee (vat £32.00)
£4.25 Lloyds Bank: Account maintenance monthly fee
£50.00 RBL Poppy Appeal Donation (LGA 1972 s.137)
£69.55 Refund M Philo: GoDaddy: iden.uk domain 2 year renewal
£37.50 Pett PC: April to September share of mobile phone for clerk
£150.00 RSR Drains: Pav Cesspit empty 01.11.2025
£9.47 Castle Water: Pavilion
£14.75 EDF : Pavilion Electricity
£47.00 ICO : data handler renewal
Charge Card (17 November)
£7.97 Iden Stores: Stationery
£1.70 Iden Stores: Stamp
£36.28 Iden Stores : gift to internal auditor (chairs allowance)
£84.99 Microsoft: Annual subscription (vat £14.16)
cash back 0.67p

7.2 Payments to Authorised

£673.23 Salaries for November
£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£70.32 JS Fire Protection: Pavilion fire extinguishers annual inspection (vat £11.72)

7.3 Urban Verge Cuts

It was unanimously resolved to confirm with East Sussex Highways, option 2, for 2026 which is two cuts over the course of a year, at no cost to the Parish Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only. It is hoped that the daffodils will be left to die down naturally next spring before cutting.

7.4 Playing Fields Hire

It was unanimously resolved to hold the cricket field hire 2026 season fee at £200.

7.5 Burial Ground Charges

It was unanimously resolved to hold the burial ground charges for 2026, as per 2025.

7.6 Second Draft Budget 2026-2027

It was suggested that the council create a fund and save towards works to the playing field such as drainage or pedestrian path to the play area, starting with adding £3,000 to the budget for 2026.

8. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

8.1 Play Area Gates

The council would not consider a second gate to the play area as it was not legally required and only best practice. A fourth contractor had visited the site and advised the gate could be repaired but it would not be a long term fix. It was unanimously resolved to repair the gate and manhole estimated cost £300, subject to production of Public Liability Insurance. The Footpath Team was thanked for the offer to repair the gate but without Public Liability Insurance this had to be refused.

8.2 Minor Works Required on the Playing Field

Self-seeded tree in wildflower patch in Graveyard needed removing. Clerk will dig out.

Leaning sign on rotting post and rail fencing on the bank beside the access drive needs replacing or removing. A member of the footpath team in the public offered to remove the fencing. The wooden materials would be removed to a neighbour's bonfire.

The sundial block paving needs brushing with a wire brush. The damp weather would make the weed removal easier.

A set of tree protection cross posts need removing or replacing. Councillor Miller would resolve.

9. Council Policies

It was unanimously resolved to agree the IT Policy

10. Risk Assessment

There are some dying ash trees in the Churchyard and playing fields. The clerk is seeking quotes.

11. Information for Councillors

The budget and the precept will be agreed at the January meeting.

The dangerous dead elm on the Cliff Farm footpath had been reported to Public Rights of Way. Iden Footpath Team had cleared the tree.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 6th January 2026, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.