



# *Iden Parish Council*

**Minutes of the Meeting held on  
7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.**

## **Present**

Councillors R Griffin (Chairman), Phil Allard, M. Miller, G. Say and J. Wood.  
In attendance: County Councillor K. Glazier and District Councillor P. Osborne.  
Members of the Public: Twenty-Seven.

## **1. Apologies**

District Councillor Hacking.

## **2. Disclosure of Interests**

None.

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

**Following minor amendment, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 as a true record.**

**The meeting adjourned at 7.35pm for Public Session**

## **County Councillor's Report**

County Council set the council tax for the next financial year. This will increase a by 2.99% plus 2% ring fenced for adult social care. Adult social care takes 70% of the council funds.

A review of Foster Care will focus the council future work on prevention measures aimed at keeping families together.

The number of teams out filling potholes has been doubled and they are working longer hours. If there is too much water in the pothole these can only be temporarily filled, and teams will return later to complete the work.

A member of the public asked for a review of the ditch in Cold harbour Lane which is filling up with rubbish washed down into it.

A resident advised that new replacement chevron signs had been erected.

## **District Councillor's Report**

District council tax for the next financial year would be considered at the next cabinet meeting and is likely to increase by 2.99%. The community grant officer had been asked to contact the clerk to organise a meeting with the parish council in time for the next round of applications around the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

## **Public Questions**

### **The Bell Inn Planning Application**

The plans had been available before the meeting. A group of residents brought the following concerns to the council's attention:

- The exterior free standing fire escape included a veranda which would overlook the neighbouring property further reducing the amenity of their garden. A straight fire escape would be preferable.
- Would the current sewage system and toilets cope with the additional use of frequent large events?
- The lack of detail on the number, frequency and kind of events that a marquee would be erected for, had raised concerns about the marquee being left up all the time and then being used for the regular music evenings leading to a general increase in the level of noise and disturbance to neighbours.
- The recently erected building in the garden was not included in the application.
- Protection of the walnut tree should be ensured with any approved application.

Further information on the expected usage of the marquee was requested but the landlord advised that a marquee would be a new option to increase business potential and thus had no experience to be able to answer this query.

### **Conker's Field Development**

It was confirmed that Iden Parish Council had written to the head of Climate Change and Place about the legality of the action taken on the field. No response had been received from the addressee, but the enforcement officer responded to the resident requesting enforcement. The parish council had queried the response as being inadequate with the head of Place and Climate Change. There had been no reply. It was not the first time that enforcement officers had been found to release information on a request prior to informing the resident seeking assistance. This is seen as being an unhelpful procedure that could be simply remedied.

Following query, the tree leaning into Cold harbour Lane had been reported to Highways for review.

**The meeting reconvened at 8.02 pm.**

## **4. Planning**

### **4.1 Enforcements and Appeals**

ENF/16/21/IDE Cues Meadow River Rother South of Iden Lock: Caravans being used as residential.

## **4.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council since the last meeting**

None advised.

## **4.3 Applications considered**

**RR/2022/2968/P and 2969/L Bell Inn Main Street: Minor internal alterations with an external staircase to improve the fire safety; external landscaping works and temporary structure to improve business viability. It was resolved to support subject to satisfactory amenities and consideration of environmental concerns.**

The council wished to support the well being of the pub whilst protecting the neighbouring properties.

For information only

RR/20222917/O Windfalls, Main Street: Proposed Lawful Development Certificate for a rear extension and new front porch.

## **5. Council Finances**

### **5.1 Bank Balances**

Bank Balances on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 £ 22,976.23: Council Treasurers Account £12,700.73 and Reserve Account £10,275.50.

### **5.2 January Receipts**

£ 1,000.00      New Burial Ground ashes interment and memorial  
£ 4.39            January Bank Interest

### **5.3 The following payments were authorised**

£516.53    Clerk's February salary  
£41.70    Clerk's February salary allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70  
£400.00    Iden Village hall: Annual room hire  
Charge Card (January) - Nil

### **5.4 Internal Audit**

**It was resolved to contract Mr. P. Philip to complete a suitable internal audit.**

### **5.5 Clerk's Professional Society Subscription**

**It was resolved to pay a share of the Clerk's subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks. Cost £51.97**

### **5.6 Dog Bin on Playing Fields**

Rother District Council has confirmed that the bin is owned by the parish council. **It was resolved to acquire a replacement dog waste bin of the same design which is suitable for the countryside situation.** £700.00 – 800.00. It may be cheaper to buy a double bin that is in the sale. The current bin lasted over 10 years. The spare waste bins could be passed on to other parish councils.

### **5.7 Grass Cutting Contract**

**It was resolved to contract Nigel Gibbs to cut the grass on the playing fields, play area and cemeteries, noting the price increases advised during budgeting.**

## **6. Millennium Sundial on Playing Field**

It was considered that the dial should be repaired and tidied up with provision for protection of the dial's edges from strimming. Clerk to obtain quotes for repair. A plaque for the coronation year could also be erected.

## **7. Elmsmead Bus Shelter**

The shelter had been built by Jed Say. Following a resident's advice that it was leaning the shelter had been inspected. It would benefit from some diagonal braces and needs a new roof. Swallow boxes should be fitted in the new roof to allow for the swallows that are believed to nest there. The shelter is also a suitable location for a Coronation Plaque.

An application for listing of the Grove Lane bus shelter had been rejected. The shelter will be 70 years old this June.

## **8. Pavilion Finances**

### **8.1 Bank Balance**

Bank Balances on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 Treasurers Account £5,465.31

### **8.2 January Receipts**

Nil

### **8.3 January Payments**

£47.00 EDF monthly direct debit payment 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Unfortunately, EDF were unable to process the agreed reduction to £23.00 as there was not the 12 days needed to ensure the direct debit was changed in time. It has been confirmed that the February debit will be £23.00.

### Note

Refund to Iden PC current account, agreed at the July 2022 meeting has not been made but has been reduced to £1,308.83 following a refund by Castle Water. A request was made for this to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **9. Iden Playing Field and Pavilion**

Following an email from a resident, an agenda item for next month was requested for approval to use the pavilion and playing field for coronation celebrations and to provide the public liability insurance required, both for free. An amount to be budgeted for the event. Rother District Council would also be offering a small grant.

## **10. Risk Assessment – Report on Parish Assets**

Nothing new to report.

## **11. Information for Councillors**

Clerk is taking the Certificate of Introduction to Local Council Administration

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.