



Minutes 1st September 2026

Iden Parish Council

Clerk: Dr Rebekah Gilbert

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Minutes of the Iden Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 19:30, Iden Village Hall

Present

Parish councillors: Michael Miller, Jeremy Cooper, Bet Luckhurst

Rother District Council: Cllr Dan Bradley, Cllr Paul Osborne.

East Sussex County Council: Cllr Dan Bradley

In attendance: Rebekah Gilbert, parish clerk. Four members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 19:30 and closed at 20:07

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Grey Say. No apologies were received from Cllr Hacking.

2. Disclosures of interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2026 were approved unanimously by councillors and signed by the chairman as a true record, this being the first suitable date for signature.

3B Matters from the previous meeting

- A message was sent to Mr & Mrs Metcalf with best wishes to Maurice, who has been ill.
- A co-option vacancy notice was posted after the retirement of Cllr Allard. One application to stand was received by the closing date of 24th August.
- Guidance on using Rother District Council's (RDC) planning portal has been posted on Iden's website.
- Rubbish has been removed from around the pavilion.
- Hirer's insurance has been added to the council's cover.
- Pension for the clerk: pensions are mandatory over £10,000 in remuneration per annum. To date this figure has not been reached. It will depend on how many hours are worked by the clerk per annum.
- The August meeting of Motorcross was cancelled due to the weather.
- Rye Bay junior football club have declined to hire the field due to potential flooding, however, they will monitor it this winter to see how extensive flooding is.

4. Adjournment of the meeting

The meeting was adjourned for notices and questions time:

a) Notices from the chairman

- The chairman thanked Mrs Chalet for picnic in the park, which raised £570, to be split between two charities.
- Road closures on B2082 causing problems for the village and the shop. It was almost impossible to access the village. The bridge will be shut next week. Asked Cllr Bradley to ask ES Highways for better signs at the Peace & Plenty that Iden remains open for business.
- Restoration of pavilion following winter damage is now complete.
- Fencing in the car park has been repaired, and a new sign awaited.
- On 13th Sept Iden welcomes the ancient trails run via church yard and playing field. Thanks to Mrs Chalet for manning the hydration station.
- Trees topped around church yard. Noted that all poplars need doing as they are vulnerable in the wind. The clerk will get a quote for this.

b) Report from County Councillor Bradley

- Emailed ES Highways about signs, who said it won't happen again.
- The road will be closed at sometime during October to complete road works. He walked with the head of ES Highways around the village. Road Stewards have been asked to show where the road is closed. He regularly brings up the issue at monthly meetings with Highways. One of the difficulties is that Kent and ES don't talk to each other. Cllr Bradley will enquire about improved comms with the bus companies.
- ESCC has spent 96% of the annual budget already.
- From 6th sept bus times are changing. Check the new timetables.
- A consultation is about to start on 8,427 new homes being built across the county. Many parishes note the infrastructure problems this would cause.
- Free school meals have been expanded from today.

c) Report from the District Councillor Osborne

- The changes to local government will mean that RDC and ESCC will shadow the new unitary authority until 1st April 2028 (Vesting day) when the new unitary authority takes over everything. Assume May 2028 election for mayor of Sussex. There is a cabinet of council leaders in place with a budget to manage the run up to this. His guess is that parish councils will continue as they are but be expected to take on more work and costs.
- Scrutiny panel next week includes local plan. The Iden area seems quiet, will find out tomorrow why at Members' briefing.
- Food waste roll-out now mandatory.

d) Public question time

Hedgerows need to be cut back on Cold Harbour Lane from Iden Park. There is a notice on the board asking property owners to cut back their hedges. There is a need to find out who owns this land and to drop them a note.

It was noted that the 'prove you are not a robot' on RDC planning portal was hard to see.

The meeting was re-convened.

5. Parish Council Finances

- a) Members received and approved the schedule of payments and income for Jul-Aug 2026.
- b) Members received and approved the budget monitor for the period July-Aug 2026.
- c) Members received and noted the accounts balance as at 31st August 2026 is £24,444.92
- d) Members received and noted the reserves balances as at 31st August 2026 is £10,604.75
- e) Members asked the clerk to send details of the NS&I bonds to them, to see if a higher interest rate account can be found for parish reserves.
- f) The chairman thanked electrician Tim Barham for his pro bono work on Iden Pavilion.

6. Planning

- a) Members had no objections on the applications below, and the clerk notified the head of RDC planning of this over August recess.

Reference: RR/2026/0814/FULL

Site Address: BARONS GRANGE Readers Lane, Iden, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7UU

For: Partial reconstruction of existing brick boundary wall.

Reference: RR/2026/0699/LBC

Site Address: BOSNEY FARM, Grove Lane, Iden, East Sussex, TN31 7PY

For: Change of use from agricultural to Class E.

- b) There were no enforcements or appeals this period.

- c) Members noted the planning decisions made by RDC on:

Reference: RR/2025/1914/HOU

Park Oast Wittersham Road, Iden, East Sussex, TN31 7XB

Planning permission granted.

Reference: RR/2025/1772/LDE

Site: Old Dairy and The Stables, Thornsedale Oast Wittersham Road, Iden, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7XA

Certificate of lawfulness to use class C3 granted.

7. Matters

Administration

- a) To decide whether to swap from Parish on Line to Uniserve for councillor's emails.
Councillors are struggling with the current Zoho email system. They decided to stay with Parish On Line, who provide a good service, and were asked to inform the clerk of specific details so that these could be followed up by PoL.
- b) The policy on unauthorized access to the field was formally adopted.
- c) The policy on co-optioning new councillors was formally adopted.

Pavilion

- a) The pavilion T&Cs and hiring policy were formally adopted. It was agreed that the field could be hired by Mr Bourne on 13th September.

- b) To decide if we need another fire assessment for the pavilion. It was noted that, despite being asked if an additional fire report was needed on top of the safety report by RB, the insurance company did not respond. The clerk has been in touch with ESFRS about the matter and will undertake a fire risk assessment in the next fortnight on the pavilion and then be in touch with ESFRS to ask for further guidance.
- c) Members formally agreed the recent quotes for new garage door, and other work being undertaken.

Councillors met informally on 5th August to consider work that was required on the pavilion and agreed to accept Mr Garry Dowling's estimate. Furthermore, the pavilion garage door was vandalised twice over August. Acorn doors were invited to quote, which was agreed, together with further fastenings on the door to deter vandalism. The work was completed today.

- d) Members noted works on shower area had been completed to a high standard and asked Cllr Say to thank W S Wright. There is an issue with the urinal's flushing, which will be raised with Cllr Say next week.
- e) The Chairman thanked Mrs Chalet for her fundraising endeavours and for donating £10,000 to the pavilion for its restoration.

Play area

- a) The annual report has been received from ROSPA, with recommendations for repairs. This together with the clerk's weekly report has been sent to councillors. The clerk will contact the installers to see if they can undertake any of the work.

8. Updates

- a) Situation at Thornsedale: It was noted that the clerk, Cllr Luckhurst and Mr Baulding attended Thornsedale on 20th August at 09:00 and observed the current state of the area. Information and photographs were sent to officers at RDC and ESFRS. To date there has been no response from RDC officers and the clerk was unable to contact the ESFRS officer today, but will continue to call her.

- b) Road closures and harm this is doing to Iden and its businesses.

It was noted that the clerk had written to Helena Dollimore MP on 23rd August about the need for national legislation to ensure that when roads are closed it is signposted where and that shops etc are still accessible. To date the clerk has not received a reply.

9. Date of Next Meeting

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

To note that on Wednesday 9th September in the Old Hall a meeting will be held to co-opt a new councillor at 6pm. At the closing date, one person had applied.