



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd December 2024 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

The Chair thanked Claire Carle and Nick Padgham for ensuring the memorial looked its best for Remembrance Sunday and organising the tea and coffee afterwards.

The chair announced the passing of Joy Jordan at the age of 98. She was Iden's oldest resident.

On Sunday 8th December, there would be a carol service in aid of Rye Food Bank, at 3 pm, All Saints Church.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), P. Allard, B Luckhurst, and J. Wood

In attendance: District Councillor P. Osborne, the Clerk M. Philo.

Members of the Public: Two.

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence

1. Apologies

County Councillor Glazier, District Councillor Hacking and Councillor Say.

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following minor amendment, the minutes of the 5th of November 2024, were unanimously agreed, as a true record.

4. The meeting adjourned at 7.37 pm for Public Session

District Councillor Report

The current year overspend is in the region of £3 million. The council is looking at measures to bring in income next year to rebuild its reserves, including renting out

previous public conveniences and charging for car parks previously free.
Central government settlement finer details will be available on the 18 December 2024.

Councillor Miller reported residents' displeasure with planning enforcement. There was a long delay in responding to submitted enforcement requests, suggesting an acknowledgement of receipt would be mannerly. Further the responses to requests came across as dismissive.

Public Questions

A resident reminded the council that the BT K6 Kiosk had a broken pane of glass and should be reported. The clerk to report.

It was also raised that the new stile for the footpath at Memorial Bungalow was not yet in place. Clerk to advise the County Councillor Glazier.

5. The meeting reconvened 7.44pm

6. Planning

6.1 Enforcements and Appeals

No advice since the last meeting.

6.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council (since the last meeting)

RR/2024/1628/L and 1627/P Park Oast: Proposed two storey side infill extension and proposed double garage. Changes to existing fenestration on southern side to improve traditional façade. Internal wall exteriors. Refused.

Councillors noted that the application had been refused despite the withdrawal of the first application and reapplication with alterations following discussions with planning officers and enforcement officers. Councillors expressed their concern.

6.3 Applications considered - None

6.4 For Notification Only - None

7. Finances - Parish Council

7.1 Budget for 2025-2026

Councillors considered the latest budget monitoring for the parish council and the pavilion. The clerk advised that the grass cutting contract annual cost was much lower than usual as the early wet weather prevented cutting from starting in April. Additionally, further income was received for another burial. The two together has saved the council from any significant incursion into funds held outside of the reserve. The current budget allowed for a reduction in funds held as these had built up over time. The second draft budget proposed a total spend of £22,000 including the cost of the expansion of the Employers National Insurance . Whilst the burial ground receipts are unpredictable and cannot be depended on, the council did have additional funds that could assist. The precept had remained unchanged at £16,000 for several years. At the January meeting the clerk would recheck the predicted financial position at the end of the year.

7.2 November Bank Balances

31 st October 2024	£ 18,785.51
Plus total Receipts	£ 9.46

Less total Payments	£ 915.59
30 th November 2024	£17,879.38

(30th November 2024 statements -Treasurers Account £7,402.62 and Reserve Account £10,467.76)

7.3 November Receipts

£9.46 Bank Interest

7.4 November Payments

£629.20 Clerk's September salary.
£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£50.00 RBL Poppy Appeal (LGA 1972, s. 137)
£35.00 Information Commissioner's Office: Data handler fee
£100.00 B. Burdet: Honorarium
Charge Card (18 November)
£59.99 Microsoft Office

7.5 The Following Payments were Authorised

£629.20 Clerk's October salary.
£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£518.40 Refund M Philo: Wix next 3 year website host fee
£2,754.00 Gibbs & Son: Outstanding grass and hedge cutting (vat £459.00)
Charge Card (December): Nil

£250 of £500 transfer to pavilion account will no longer be made as the account is being closed.

7.6 Lloyds Bank Accounts Update

The change of EDF direct debit (from the Pavilion Account to the Parish Council Account) had been signed and emailed to EDF. There is a 10 day wait for the bank to process. Then the pavilion account could be closed.

8. Save the Bell Report

The recent quiz was well attended and a profit of £400 made. The Save the Bell Group met the new MP Dallimore and requested assistance with support to chase for a clarification of the situation following the freezing of the Community Ownership Scheme before the election. The group, as a member of the Plunkett Association, had been invited to attend the House of Commons. However, the position remains unchanged in that there has not been any announcement from the Government.

Mr Strangeways has been making enquiries and was looking into Community Land Trusts as an option which might be of interest for the Pub and Shop Association. Action in Rural Sussex could advise on these trusts. The clerk was tasked to book AiRS to give a presentation at 7pm before the February meeting.

9. Pavilion - Finances

9.1 November Bank Balances

Bank Balances on 30th November 2024 Treasurers Account £ 220.05 (30th September £333.90).

9.2 November Receipts - nil

9.3 November Payments

£18.95	EDF monthly direct debit
£25.30	Castle water – no credit left
£69.60	JS Fire Protection: fire extinguisher check.

9.4 Payments Authorised – direct debits unknown

10. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

10.1 Iden Pavilion Working Party Update

The year's events had raised £1,000 from the sponsored run, the Oliver Curd Trust event and Picnic teas and coffees at the village picnic had made £300. A grand total of £1,300. A further £2,000 was received from the old fete funds. Two grant applications were in progress. Following assistance from Sussex Community grants, an application for up to £10,000 towards refurbishment of the pavilion, a website and drainage around the pavilion will be re-submitted. Laying down a path to the pavilion incorporating the play area would allow winter use of the pavilion. The other application is to Little Cheyne Wind Farm for £5,000 for glazing. The group is considering other fundraising events for 2025 and considering year-round use.

The Chair suggested that the parish council ought to install a second gate to the play area and requested the clerk to obtain a quote.

The Chair thanked the Pavilion Group for their efforts.

10.3 Pavilion Gutters

Thanks to Mr Burdett, the gutters had been cleared. It was noted that the roof had remained clear of moss and leaves following the cutting back of overhanging branches.

10.4 Funds from the Former Fete Committee

Funds had been distributed to local groups.

11. Risk Assessment

Mr Burdett had commenced repair to the Iden Stores Fingerpost, clearing out the rotten wood and filling it. He would also peg the dropped directional finger for the Grove Lane Fingerpost.

12. Information for Councillors

On the recreation ground, a resident had cleared an oak tree trunk of ivy so that the ivy growth further up into the tree would die. This would stabilise the weight of the tree's upper branches and hopefully reduce damage in high winds. They had offered to clear the ivy from a large cherry tree in churchyard. The cherry tree is almost overwhelmed.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th January 2025, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.