



# Minutes 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## Iden Parish Council - annual meeting

Clerk: Dr Rebekah Gilbert  
Email [clerk@iden-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@iden-pc.gov.uk)  
<https://www.idenvillage.uk>

### Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall

#### **Present**

**Parish councillors:** Michael Miller, Grey Say, Bet Luckhurst, Jeremy Cooper, and Phil Allard

**Rother District Councillor:** Paul Osbourne

**East Sussex County Councillor:** Keith Glazier

#### **In attendance**

Rebekah Gilbert, parish clerk; 10 members of the public

**The meeting commenced at 19:30**

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#### **Notices from the Chairman**

Cllr Miller thanked Cllr Glazier, who is stepping down from public office, for representing Iden for over 20 years. He was a true friend to the village and always took up matters on behalf of parishioners. On behalf of the village and the council, Cllr Miller wished him well in retirement.

Cllr Miller welcomed the new clerk to her post.

Cllr Miller notified all present that Mr Bravery had passed away, and gave his sympathies to Sally. Likewise, Ms Anne Bauling has passed away. She had been active in village life to the full, with great enthusiasm; the community was the greater for her endeavours. He passed on his sympathies to her family.

#### **1 Election of Chair**

**To elect a member of the council as chairman until the next annual meeting of the council.**

Cllr Miller was proposed by Cllr Allard and seconded by Cllr Luckhurst. There were no other nominations, and Cllr Miller was duly declared chairman for the civic year. He signed his declaration of office.

#### **2 Election of vice Chair**

**To elect a member of the council as vice chairman until the next annual meeting of the council.**

Cllr Say was proposed by Cllr Allard and seconded by Cllr Cooper. There were no other nominations, and Cllr Say was duly declared vice chairman for the civic year. He signed his

declared of office.

### **3 Apologies**

None were received.

### **4 Disclosure of Interests**

Members made no declarations of interest, and no amendments to the register of interests.

### **5 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 were approved, and signed by the chairman as a true record.

### **6 The meeting adjourned for reports and questions**

#### **Report from Councillor Glazier:**

Cllr Glazier had very sadly lost his daughter recently and was not standing again for public office, after 31 years of service in East Sussex.

His ESCC report has been circulated to members.

ESCC is still awaiting the government's decision on the new unitary authority, consultations for which will resume post-elections this week. He felt their latest plans would save little to no money and were not worth pursuing. Money is, however, being put into the new combined authority.

He wished his successor well.

Questions were raised about potholes. Cllr Glazier responded that a better way of funding roads was needed to improve them. Monies received recently from government were to be used on funding footways, street lighting, hedges and roads over four years, and was not enough to go round. Some 76% of ESCC's budget is spent on older people and looked-after children, whereas roads receive around £50m per annum.

#### **Report from Councillor Osbourne:**

RDC is in pre-election purdah, so there is nothing of note to report, other than food waste collections are sketchy but generally ok.

He has known Cllr Glazier for over 26 years, and will miss him.

Questions were raised about the RDC's new planning website, that was difficult to log onto. *It was agreed to write to the head of planning again.*

The owner of Hedgerow had waited over six months for a response to her planning application, which was refused. She had not received a response as to why. *It was agreed to take this up with the head of planning at RDC.*

Motorcross was raised, and is noted below at agenda item 18.

**The meeting reconvened.**

### **7 Councillor Appointments**

**a) Iden Community Emergency Forum** Cllr Miller volunteered

**b) Rother Association of Local Council** Cllr Allard volunteered

**c) East Sussex Association of Local Councils** Cllr Cooper volunteered

**d) Any other appointments** There were none

## **8 Meeting Schedule**

The meeting schedule will remain as the first Tuesday of the month (excluding August) at 19:30 at the village hall for the civic year.

## **9 Review of Charges for the playing field hire and pavilion**

It was agreed that charges for Iden Cricket Club are £200 for the playing fields.

## **10 Confirmation of borrowing approval and direct debits**

It was agreed that borrowing approval for a charge card for the clerk remains at a limit of £500 in any one month, and that direct debits should be set up for: EDF and Castle Water with regard to Iden Pavilion; to Microsoft Office; and to the Information Commissioner's Office. There have been considerable difficulties in accessing the council's bank account, which the clerk and chairman hoped to resolve asap.

## **11 Policies**

As the new clerk is only 2.5 weeks into office, it was agreed that they be reviewed in the next couple of months.

## **12 General Power of Competence**

The council continues to hold the general power of competence. The new clerk has CiLCA (awarded November 2025) and that a quorate of councillors was elected.

## **13 Parish Council Finances**

The end of year finances were received and noted, having been circulated to members.

Members noted that the Annual Return (AGAR) has been completed thus far with the help of a locum clerk, and were currently with the internal auditor. These will be brought to the June Meeting.

## **14 Council emails and domain name**

It is now a legal requirement for a council to have a generic email address with either a .gov or .org.uk. Some councillors are experiencing difficulties setting these up as they are not with Microsoft. The clerk offered to help expediate this. The website and clerk's email remain the same, as above.

## **15 Planning**

- a) No planning applications had been received.
- b) No enforcements or appeals had been received
- c) RR/2025/1830/Householder planning – Hedgerow - erection of extension, had been refused. *It was agreed to write to the Head of Planning for an explanation as none had been received by the applicant.*
- d) It was noted that Little Florence farm was on the market. The treehouse and garage had had enforcement notices issues, but the property appeared empty.

## **16 Update on Iden Pavilion and playing fields**

A risk assessment has been booked for next week. Electrical work that has been flagged up will also be repaired next week.

Legionella testing has started and results should be back in a fortnight.

The pavilion needs a deep clean before it can be used, but will hopefully be up and running within two to three weeks.

Cllr Miller thanks Cllr Say for all he has done to expediate the pavilion repairs.

A resolution from the insurers has been offered and it was agreed to accept it.

### **17 Update on The Bell**

Cllr Cooper stated that their planning application and listing has been delayed by another month. The management board is putting together a summary of events shortly, which will be published. He was asked about security, stating that the building is inspected and visited daily, has an alarm, and been fitted with new locks.

### **18 Update on Motorcross noise disturbance**

Rachel Cumin from the Gables, home of the late distinguished artist Fred Cumin for over 40 years, played a recent audio recording of loud noise emanating from the motorcross circuit. Their garden is 40 metres from the track itself, and they also suffer from fumes. This happens some 15-16 times a year, without notification. There is noise from campers, vans, generators and barking dogs.

This is an important home for the village and is nearby the residence of the late Paul Nash, showing the importance of Iden in the art world.

The matter has been reported to RDC, as it has grown exponentially. Major earthworks were undertaken in 2018. Whilst the farm was permitted a certain number of track days per year, *it was agreed to write to RDC planning and environmental health outlining the problem in more detail. It was also agreed to write to Mr Ramus about the need to notify all neighbours and stakeholders in advance of all track days.*

### **19 Use of playing field for Rye Bay FC u16 & U12 teams**

Icklesham Parish Council requested help for these two teams to find a home ground from September 2026. *It was agreed to set up a meeting to discuss this further with RBFC and Icklesham PC.*

### **20 Any other matters to report, or information for councillors.**

Cllr Miller will be getting a team together to plan daffodils in the autumn on the Wittersham Road.

### **21 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.