



# *Iden Parish Council*

## **Minutes of Virtual Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 7.30pm**

### **Present**

Councillors R Griffin (Chairman), P. Allard, M. Miller, G Say and J. Wood.

In attendance: Clerk M. Philo

Members of the Public: 2

### **1. Election of Chairman**

Nominations were called for and Raymond Griffin was nominated. **It was resolved to elect Councillor Griffin as Chairman till the next annual meeting of the parish council.**

### **2. Election of Vice Chairman**

Nominations were called for and Greg Say was nominated. **It was resolved to elect Councillor Say as Vice Chairman till the next annual meeting of the parish council.**

### **3. Apologies**

Apologies were given for County Councillor Glazier, District Councillor Osborne and Sam Murphy.

### **4. Disclosure of Interests**

None.

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

**Following minor amendments, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as a true record.**

### **The meeting adjourned at 7.36pm for Public Questions**

Sabroan Application

The applicant provided a review of the application.

Public Questions

None.

## **The Meeting Reconvened at 7.45pm**

### **6. Councillor Appointments**

**It was resolved to appoint councillors to represent the council on the following bodies:**

- a) Iden Community Emergency Forum – Councillor Wood**
- b) Iden Pavilion Association – Councillor Say**
- c) Rother Association of Local Councils – Councillor Allard**
- d) East Sussex Association of Local Councils – Councillor Allard**

### **7. Planning**

#### **7.1 Enforcements**

None.

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

RR/2020/2221/P Park Farm: Erection of 2-bay garage, proposed erection of greenhouse – Refused.

RR/2020/2219/P and RR/2020/2220/L: Proposed reduction of utility room and insertion of double doors in kitchen. Internal alterations to ground floor utility and kitchen area and layout of first floor masters' bedroom and ensuite – Approved conditionally.

#### **7.3 Applications Considered by the Parish Council**

**RR/2021/3821/P Sabroan, Church Lane: Alterations to existing dwelling, including replacing existing single storey extension with new single storey extensions, new cladding and windows and alteration of roof. It was resolved to support.**

**RR/2021/162/P Lavendar Cottage, Wittersham Road: Creation of dropped curb to create vehicle crossing. It was resolved to support.**

### **8. Finances**

#### **8.1 Bank Balances and Year End Financial Report**

Bank Balances to be advised at the next meeting.

##### **Financial Report**

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March the bank balances stood at £20,121.40. Total net of vat payments for the year were £14,819.16. To give a more accurate figure this figure needs to be reduced by £850 website payment as this came from ring fenced funds and the figure increased by unpaid work contracted during the year of £265.90 (excluding vat) for the playing field signs plus estimated £650 for a ramp to replace the steps between the new burial ground and the garden of contemplation. This makes agreed spending, net of vat, for the year to be £13,533.65 against the budgeted sum of £16,349.

The savings are due to COVID-19. Anticipated parish asset grass cutting cost was £4,200 whilst only £1,400 worth of cuts took place as fortnightly cuts were reduced to every three weeks. A saving of £2,800. The opportunity was taken to carry out additional work on the parking area, churchyard and Garden of Contemplation £489.58. The £1,000 contingency sum remained untouched. Running costs for the council were as expected except for a

slight increase on the Clerk's salary due to back pay for two years. The delay was due to central government only finalising salary increases for 2019 and 2020 in August 2021. Additionally, there was no hall hire for the year.

On the other side receipts or income were boosted by £1,650 for burial ground fees. As a result there has been an increase of £4,552.40 between 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. An unexpected increase which provides a financial cushion whilst the council works on resolving the falling number of playing field users and therefore falling numbers of pavilion committee members.

Within the end of year balance the council holds £8,000 as a general reserve and £992.54 ring fenced for the website and £246 garden society donation for natural enhancements around the village. There is also a reserve of £50 for ICE but recently the council had taken the decision to cover ICE costs in the future.

#### 8.2 April Receipts

£0.09	April Bank Interest
£8,000	Rother District Council: 50% of precept
£200.00	Iden Cricket Club 2020-2021 Playing Field hire

#### 8.3 It was resolved to draw the following:

£473.55	Clerk's May salary
£41.70	Clerk's May Allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70
£436.8	East Sussex County Council: 4 additional urban verge cuts
	Charge Card
£25.73	Iden Village Store: Gift for Internal Auditor

#### 8.4 Internal Auditor Report and Statement of Internal Control

Having considered the internal auditors report, **it was resolved to agree the statement of internal control.** Chairman to sign within a week of the meeting.

#### 8.5 Annual Governance and Annual Return

**It was resolved to agree the 9 assertions of the Annual Governance Statement – Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21.** Chairman to sign within a week of the meeting.

#### 8.6 Annual Governance and Annual Return

Having considered the financial report and bank reconciliation **it was resolved to agree section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 of the Annual Governance and Annual return.** Chairman to sign within a week of the meeting.

#### 8.7 Certificate of Exemption

Having agreed the Annual Governance and Annual Return, **to agree to complete a certificate of exemption for 2020/2021.** Chairman to sign within a week of the meeting.

### 9. Iden Community Emergency Forum

Although ICE got off to a slow start, once mustered it acted quickly. 44 volunteers rallied to assist the community which was lightly affected. The shop did a great job serving the community so well. It would have been far more difficult if the shop had closed down due to COVID-19. Having considered an accident in the village and how to deal with that, ICE had planned to investigate how to deal with the scenario of the shop closing during an

emergency. The pre-existence of ICE had been a great benefit to the community. There were no costs to seek reimbursement for and it is intended to disband the volunteers on the 21<sup>st</sup> June. If the danger from the pandemic passes, the group will look to winter first aid training.

#### **10. Cricket Net**

The club had sold the broken portable cricket net and wished to acquire a 'pop-up' net which they will store in the Pavilion. The remaining permanent net is not used and is not maintained. The club did not appear interested in removing it. So long as the 'pop-up' net could be stored sensibly in the pavilion, councillors thought that a pop-up net would resolve the issue of wind damage and vandalism to the net. Most councillors saw the low hirer fee charged the club as a good contribution to the club as it had full uninterrupted use of the playing fields and pavilion for 8 months of the year.

#### **11. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion**

The council will produce a summary of its accounts and ask residents for their thoughts regarding the playing fields, the pavilion and activities thereon.

Having seen the picnic tables with seats on Tenterden Recreation Ground, it was suggested that the Clerk look into two such items for the playing fields as more people are using the area.

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

Fingerpost near Iden Stores – The Clerk has chased the contractor to complete the agreed works.

#### **13. Information for Councillors**

Insurance – The current insurer had offered to renew the cover with a £67 increase.

Wilder Iden – Though official paperwork is still to be received, the triangular verges at Grove Lane and Readers Lane as well as the verge in front of the bowls club up to Iden Cottage are now dedicated Meadow Verges and should now only be cut once in September. Wilder Iden would be requesting funds for plug plants for the two triangular verges at the next meeting.

Playden School Sports Day – Councillor Miller would contact the school to see if they wanted to use the playing fields this year.

#### **14. Date of Next Meeting - Virtual**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.