



Iden Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st July 2025 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

The chairman welcomed everyone on a very warm evening. The chair paid tribute to the late Althea Read who had lived in the village for many years and had been an active participant in the Natural History Society and other activities. She was also a very accomplished traveller.

The Chair congratulated County Councillor Keith Glazier on being awarded an OBE in the birthday honours. Keith represented the Rye and Eastern Rother area for the last 28 years and for the past few its Leader. He has always been a great supporter of Iden particularly and responsive to the Council's concerns.

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Present

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

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

Members of the Public: six.

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence.

1. Apologies

Parish Councillor Say.

County Councillor Glazier was attending a conference; District Councillor Hacking and D. Chalet.

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following minor amendments, the minutes of the 3rd June 2025 were unanimously agreed, as a true record.

4. The meeting adjourned at 7.37 pm for Public Session

The chair advised that the Head of Highways had given a very perfunctory response to the early cutting of the daffodils in that the contractor took the view that the daffodils had faded enough to warrant cutting.

District Councillor Report

Playden Parish Council had also received a complaint about the impassible footpath on Boonshill and reported it. He would send on the response from Public Rights of Way which advised that due to landslides and the difficulty maintaining the path, the path had not been for the last 30 years. The footpath track crossed three landowners and it seemed the path would not reopen as a bridle path.

A resident advised that the footpath had not always been inaccessible, having walked it in the last 5 years though it had been treacherous. Similarly work had been recently carried out to the bridge and steps created.

Public Questions

A resident mentioned that the hedge on the bend along the Bell Inn had been trimmed but much more was needed. The clerk would write to the owners again.

A member of the public highlighted that the rhododendrons on Coldharbour Lane needed cutting back as well as the bracken opposite the entrance to Readers Lane.

Some of the potholes on the Rye Road from the Peace and Plenty junction had been filled but despite this many more need to be done

The erratic grass cutting continued with only one of the amenity spaces at the entrance to Elmsmead having been cut. It appears that Southern Housing have been doing this but large areas of uncut grass remain

The meeting reconvened 7. 45pm

5. Council Emails and Domain Name

The clerk had read the recommendation that the council had a recognised official email address. There were several points to note. A gov.uk domain name could only be attached to a very secure website. There are several recognised providers for councils to use but they would insist that the council takes on their website. The council would have to continue to pay for the current domain to prevent others from impersonating the council. It may be possible for the council to be exempted due to its size. The Clerk had written to enquire if Iden could be exempted and if the current website would be deemed secure enough to be able to keep it.

6. Planning

6.1 Enforcements and Appeals

The clerk had chased again about the tree house on Randolph's Lane during the month but to no avail. The chair had previously written to the head of planning also unsuccessfully.

6.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council (since the last meeting) - None

6.3 Applications Considered – None

It was resolved to delegate to the Clerk in conjunction with the Chair commenting on planning applications during the summer recess. An extraordinary meeting would be called for any important or difficult planning applications.

6.4 For notification only - none

6.5 Delisting of the Bell Inn

Awaiting to hear from Historic England.

7. Finances

7.1 Noted June Bank Reconciliation

31st May 2025 £ 22,074.05

Plus total Receipts £ 7.01

Less total Payments £ 2,620.22

30th June 2025 £ 19,460.84

(30th June 2025 statements -Treasurers Account £8,927.02 and Reserve Account £10,533.82)

June Receipts

£7.01 Bank Interest

June Payments

£647.23 Salaries

£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70

£200.00 Donation to Air Ambulance

£594.00 RB Health and Safety: Annual Safety inspection of the Pavilion (vat £

£1,087.98 Clear Insurance – Council insurance including the pavilion .

£12.36 Castle Water: Pavilion water

£32.70 EDF: Pavilion electricity

£4.25 Lloyds' Account Management Charge

Charge Card (June): Nil

7.2 Payments to Authorise

£647.23 Clerk's May salary.

£106.99 HMRC Employers National Insurance

£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70

£4.25 Lloyds Bank: Account maintenance monthly fee

£144.89 ESALC/NALC annual subscription.

£555.00 Refund B Burdett: supplies for repairs to Bus Shelter, pavilion gutter,

pavilion veranda floor baton, pavilion loo roll holders, two fingerpost
Charge Card (May) Nil
Pavilion Electricity and Water unknown

The Clerk was asked to see whether Mr Burdett has receipts in order that VAT may be reclaimed.

7.3 First Quarter Financial Report

At 30th June 2025, the running balance is £19,460.84 including a general reserve for emergencies of £9,000. Total quarter's receipts including the first half of the precept of £9,000 were £9,107.32 and total quarter's payments were £4,457.42, including vat (£4,271.75 net of vat). Only 17% of the budget has been spent and there is still the remaining 50% of the precept to be received. It is too early to say with any certainty but taking both of these into consideration if the council spend the full budget the council may be left with only £2,000 over the general reserve.

Expenditure for the quarter can be split between the running cost of the council (£3,624) and the pavilion (£647).

8. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

8.1 Iden Pavilion Trust Update

Preparations are well under way for the Fayre on Saturday 26th July which starts at 12.30pm. It should be noted that there is no boot fair but there are some new interesting stalls available to browse and a dog show. Volunteers for on the day would be welcomed.

8.2 Footpath Gate by Stream Cottage

The landowner and tenant for the adjacent field have confirmed the proposed gate to be suitable. Now we have to wait to hear from Public Rights of Way if they can supply the gate for free. **It was further agreed to cover the cost of the hire of an underground cable detector to aid Iden Footpath Team when they replace the gate.** Estimated cost £45

8.3 Pavilion Cesspit

It was resolved to book the pavilion cesspit to be emptied before the Fayre. £150.

8.4 Gate Post to Double Gate on to the Avenue

It was resolved to have the gate post replaced and that the decision of contractor to be delegated to the Clerk in conjunction with the Chair.

9. Risk Assessment

The Chair asked the clerk to chase the Pavilion Trust for early site of their risk assessment for the fayre.

10. Information for Councillors

The Clerk was requested to publicise the call for sites to be considered for the Local Plan for Iden.

The survey from Rother District Council to parish councils deadline had been extended to the 7th July.

Rother District Council had published a notice enquiring if any landowners wished to have their land considered for the emerging local plan identifying land for future residential or commercial development. The Chair asked the Clerk to advertise this in the village. The council confirmed that it would be open to an informal discussion of sites with planning officers though the council had found they had no influence in the final decision.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 2nd September 2025, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

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