



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th April 2023 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

Condolences were expressed to the family of Margaret Moule who had passed away the week before. For 25 years prior to 2011 she had been a diligent and enthusiast Clerk to Iden who would often be seen doing odd maintenance jobs around the village. Sport was a fixture of her life: playing netball for England and climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. In later years she swam and walked to keep fit, walking with the Iden Field Trotters. She was a regular at Iden Hymnsong mornings. Her other passion was her dogs and regularly took in the ones left behind from Iden Kennels. She will be missed by the village.

Present

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

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

Members of the Public: Twelve.

1. Apologies

District Councillors L. Hacking and Councillor Allard.

2. Disclosure of Interests

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the 7th March 2023 as a true record.

The meeting adjourned at 7.34pm for Public Session

Report from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Report

A small length of road had been patched during the 30th March road closure, at the bottom of Gardiners' Hill. The councillor had noted the very poor condition of the road. County councillors set the intervention levels for pothole repairs. The county council has budgeted an additional 3.1million to spend on repairs over the next 10 years. £350-£500 million was required to return the roads to good shape. The council was looking into why so many repairs had failed. Pothole repairs were guaranteed for one year and any further repairs in that time were completed at no cost. A new seven-year contract for repairs was about to begin and the council wants to see improvements. The council will be directing more funds towards keeping families together rather than taking children into care.

A resident reported rubbish collecting with rain fall in the drains/verges at the low points along Cold Harbour Lane. Seven drain covers along Houghton Green Lane and Coldharbour lane had been stolen. Highways had ordered replacements.

District Councillor Report

The Bell Inn application has been granted a time extension to allow for a decision. As Peasmarch Parish Council was changing its meeting date to the first Wednesday, both district councillors would in future be able to attend Iden's meeting. Residents were reminded to take photo ID when they go to vote at the polling stations for the District Council elections.

Rother District Community Grants Fund had approved Iden's request for £250. Following query, the district councillor was unaware of any planning application for the Morfey's site.

A resident commented that the developers for the 'Conkers' site, approved for residential development, in the local plan, had met with the planning authority and been advised to carry out an ecological survey. It was noted that since these developers had cleared the site prior to the meeting, it seemed a pointless exercise as nothing was likely to be found.

Public Questions

Parish Council nominations – Most councillors had submitted papers within the deadline of 4th April.

Daffodils – A resident mentioned the wonderful display of daffodils along the verges. Derelict looking caravan left outside the Coach House – Residents had witnessed the caravan being unhooked from a 4x4 vehicle. A noted had been left in a window stating that the caravan had broken down.

The meeting reconvened at 8.55 pm.

4. Planning

4.1 Enforcements and Appeals

No further advice.

4.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council since the last meeting

None.

4.3 Applications considered

RR/2023/371/P Windfalls, main Street: rear single storey extension, front porch and new proposed cladding.

5. Council Finances

5.1 Bank Balances

Bank Balances on 31st March 2023 £22,481.28 (Council Treasurers Account £12,169.02 and Reserve Account £ 10,285.58).

5.2 March Receipts

£4.84	March Bank Interest
£26.68	Appledore Parish Council – share of ink cartridges
£26.69	Pett Parish Council – share of ink cartridges
£1,201.15	HMRC – vat reclaim

5.3 The following payments were authorised

£525.20	Clerk's April salary
£41.70	Clerk's April salary allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70
£144.64	ESALC: Annual subscription
£35.38	Refund M Philo: litter pickers – The Helping Hand Company (vat £5.90)
£36.00	Artwrite: leaflet for ICE vat (£6)
Charge Card (6 April)	
£93.87	Viking Direct: 4 pack of ink cartridges (vat £14.81)

6. Elmsmead Bus Shelter

Refurbishment works to the bus shelter will start on the 6th April. The works will include replacement of the missing rear ship lap board. The clerk asked for a bench seat to be added. There will be an additional cost for this. Following on from the works, the shelter walls will need to be repainted. It was resolved that the clerk along with some volunteers could re paint it as part of the coronation helping hand initiative but just early. **It was resolved to commission a commemorative plaque for the coronation £100.**

7. King Charles III Coronation Celebrations

A group of residents, as a working party of the council, is planning a similar event as the picnic for the jubilee to be held on the playing fields. It was resolved to give permission for the event to be held on the playing fields on Sunday 7th May and for the pavilion to be available for the event. It was further resolved to provide public liability insurance for the event. Pony rides will be included in the celebration and the stable owner has its own insurances. The working party to provide a risk assessment for the event. It was also resolved to provide funds up to £500 for the event.

On the original letter a request was made for a councillor to join the group. Councillors Say offered to join the group.

Iden Cricket club have offered to help with preparations regarding the grass, chairs and tables. The WI had offered to plant some bulbs on the playing fields.

8. Iden Community Emergency Forum

The working party has updated the plan and submits it to the parish council for approval. It was resolved to approve the reviewed plan.

The team has advised that the rock salt held, is spent and have requested more salt be acquired. It was resolved to acquire 6 new salt bags in the autumn. About £11.50 a 20 kilo bag plus vat and delivery.

It was resolved to pay for the emergency leaflet. Artwrite £36.00 (vat £6)

9. Asset Register, Financial and Management Risk Assessment

The asset register as of the 31st March 2023 was agreed.

It was resolved to agree the Financial and Management Policy Risk Assessment.

10. Air Ambulance

It was resolve to donate £200 to Air Ambulance (LGA 1972, s 137).

11. Sports Pavilion Repairs

The Clerk has not contracted Tollets as CD Rye Property Services has advised that they can complete these works and a quote is awaited.

12. Pavilion Finances

11.1 Bank Balance

Bank Balances on 31s March 2023 Treasurers Account £5,569.31

11.2 March Receipts

£150.00 EDF: Alternative Fuel Payment (Cost of Living)

11.3 March Payments

£23.00 EDF monthly direct debit payment 15th of the month

13. Iden Playing Field and Pavilion

The Clerk wrote to the Cricket Club about the ruts to the pavilion created by a vehicle. The Club advised that having waited for the ground to dry before collecting the mower for servicing, it unfortunately heavily rained the day before. The ground was rolled immediately afterwards.

The parking area has become a site for regular flytipping. It was suggested that the new CPE contractor for Rother District Council be contacted to patrol the area.

14. Risk Assessment – Report on Parish Assets

Nothing new to report.

15. Information for Councillors

The Clerk has written to the Environment Agency (E.A.) requesting the E.A. to install a waste bin that is collected regularly. The EA has advised that the land is unregistered. Councillor Glazier was asked to look into the possibility of the provision of a bin for the site.

The Litter pick on the 16th March collected some 20 bin bags from along the road and in the layby next to New Bridge.

A water meter reading for the pavilion, for March, has been submitted to Castle Water.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 18th May 2023, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.