



Iden Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting held on
1st November 2022 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.**

Present

Councillors R Griffin (Chairman), Phil Allard, M. Miller and Greg Say.

In attendance: County Councillor Keith Glazier, District Councillor Osborne, and the Clerk
Members of the Public: 4.

Notice

Residents were welcome to join the Remembrance Sunday 11pm silence by the War Memorial at 10.50am.

1. Apologies

District Councillor Hacking and Councillor Wood.

2. Disclosure of Interests

Councillors Miller and Griffin advised of a prejudicial interest in the planning application relating to St. Anne Church Lane.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following minor amendment, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the 4th October 2022 as a true record.

The meeting adjourned at 7.37pm for Public Session and Reports from County and District Councillors

Report by County Councillor Glazier

Iden has been included on the list for road surface speed roundels to assist with speeding through the village. Although councillors may have preferred a speed indication sign, being included on the list is progress to a solution.

The scheduled County Cabinet meeting to discuss the budget for next year was cancelled awaiting central government's new cabinet autumn statement. The capping of the amount residents will pay towards their costs when in care provided by the county council is a difficult and large financial issue.

The County Council is considering downsizing from Queensbury House, with the continued trend of officers working from home and the increasing heating costs, and moving in with Hastings Borough Council at Muriel Matters House.

Report by District Councillor Osborne

The planning application to refurbish Bexhill Town Hall was refused by the District Council Planning Committee. There is no right to appeal. Costs so far are almost £600,000.

Rye swimming pool (only) had recently been closed for the winter because of heating costs for the period whilst Bexhill pool has remained open. It was highlighted that Rye offers lane swimming and disabled slope access not available at Bexhill, but it does not have a wave machine. There has been no consultation with other tiers of government however Rother District Council Leisure Facility Strategy is currently open for public consultation and residents were encouraged to comment.

Public Question

A resident complained that the tarmac ramps, in Rye, provided to allow accessibility are dangerous and not suitable as small wheels get stuck on the lip of the tarmac.

Concern was expressed over the maintenance of the wildflower verge at Readers Lane for next year to ensure visibility for drivers.

The meeting reconvened at 7.48pm

4. Planning

4.1 Enforcements and Appeals

None.

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

None advised

4.3 Applications considered:

RR/2022/2341/P St Anne's Church Lane: Single Storey extension to rear to form a garden room. Council was not able to vote on the application due to insufficient numbers.

Iden Lock application had been revised. This is to be on the agenda for next meeting if consultation is still open.

5. Parish Council Finances

5.1 Bank Balance

Bank Balances on 31st October 2022 £ 25,546.87: Council Treasurers Account £ 15,279.21 and Reserve Account £ 10,267.66. First and Second Quarter Financial is available at the end of the minutes. An initial draft budget had been circulated and an updated version was handed out to include the higher grass cutting fee. This budget did not relate or include any funds for the needed pavilion weather proofing works. The clerk advised that obtaining a RDC Community Funds Grant would put the council in a much more stable financial position.

5.2 October Receipts

£200 Arthur Stoner: Memorial stone charge

5.3 Payments Authorised

£84.00 Play Safety Limited: RoSPA play area safety inspection (vat £14)

£492.00 Nigel Gibbs & Son: Bus Shelter overhanging tree clearing and Wildflower verge cut (vat £82.00)

Charge Card (7th November)

£59.99 Annual Microsoft Office charge

McAfee did automatically charge a renewal through the charge card, but this was refunded the day after following complaint that the laptop did not have the processing power to run the program. When the laptop was repaired McAfee was removed as it was slowing down the laptop and there is no longer a need for separate security when using up to date Microsoft office.

6. Donations

6.1 Rural Rother Trust

It was resolved to donate £200.00 to Rural Rother Trust.

6.2 British Legion Poppy Appeal

It was resolved to donate £50 to the Poppy Appeal. The chairman will lay the wreath at the war memorial.

7. Iden Urban Verge Cutting 2023-2024

Highways will carry out two cuts during the year for safety reasons. **It was resolved to pay for 2/3 additional cuts, cost £319.** Corrections had been made to the map provided by highways.

8. Pavilion Finances

8.1 Bank Balances

Bank Balances on 31st October 2022 Treasurers Account £5,689.11

8.2 September Receipts

Nil

8.3 September Payments

23.00 EDF monthly direct debit payment.

Note

£1,938.61 Refund to Iden PC current account, agreed at the July 2022 meeting has not been made. There is a bill to come in for the fire extinguishers check.

A three-week-old request, to Castle Water, for overpaid funds to be return had just been acknowledged. The overpayment was made to avoid incorrect charging penalties.

Councillor Miller and the Clerk will work together to submit a grant application to Rother District Council Community Funding for roof repairs and dilapidations.

9. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

Reminder for item on next agenda regarding the redundant poles in playing field woodlands.

Recent winds had not resulted in any wind damage.

A post had been placed on the playing field to mark a site for oak tree in memory of Mrs Cloute, however this is not the agreed place. A councillor to speak to Mr Cloute.

The dog bin lid remains broken. The clerk to chase for work to be done.

10. Risk Assessment – Report on Parish Assets

The Chairman reported that the Coronation Bus Shelter has now had its overgrowing foliage removed as agreed.

11. Information for Councillors

The grass cutting bill will be going up 9.62% for next year.

12. Date of Next meeting

Next meeting Tuesday 6th December 2022, 7.30pm Iden Village Hall.

Meeting closed to the public at 8.30pm

13. Clerk's Appraisal

Pursuant to section 1) 2 of the public bodies (admission to meeting) Act 1960, it was resolved, because of the confidential nature of business transacted the Public and Press leave the meeting during the Clerk's Appraisal

1972 Act sch 12a, part 1,3

A general discussion ensued regarding the running of the council. Details of the government agreed new salary rates will be investigated further.

Iden Parish Council First and Second Quarter Financial Report 2022 -2023 (no inclusion of Iden Pavilion Accounts)

First Quarter

Bank balances as of 30th June £ 23,376.89

Income £8,109.54

The council relies totally on its precept (share of council tax) for its income: £8,000. Bank Interest was 26p and share admin costs recouped £109.28

Expenditure £5,358.115 (net of vat)

Last year expenditure was much the same despite the £1,885.60 spent covering pavilion costs while the new bank account was set up. Council running costs came to £2,816.03 including insurance covering the pavilion and council at £851.65 and a £230 repair to the clerk's laptop. Admin cost of ink has seen an incredible triple increase in prices along with

paper. The additional four cuts for the urban verges remained much the same as last year at £371.00. The repair to the fingerpost at Iden Stores, requested during Covid lockdown was finally completed and paid for, being £131.60.

Second Quarter

Bank balances as of 30th September £25,972.67

Income £9,840.04

Again £8,000 was collected from council tax along with £200 for a memorial in the new burial ground, £50 for playing field hire and 77p bank interest. Interest has increased but remain insignificant on the reserve account as the account has instant access. A vat reclaim for up to end of March 2022 was submitted and £1,589.27 collected.

Expenditure £5,068.52 (net of vat)

The first half of the grass cutting contract for the playing fields, cemeteries and play area was paid at £2,670.00. Additionally, tree works on the playing field and churchyard have been required, plus the broken goal posts removed: £470.00. Council running costs for the period came to £1,884.44 and the jubilee expenditure for £439.50 is covered under the unallocated contingency fund.

Reserves held:

£8,000 as a general reserve

£661.36 ring fenced for the website

£246 garden society donation for natural enhancements around the village