



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st October 2024 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), P. Allard, G. Say and J. Wood

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

Members of the Public: Three.

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence

1. Apologies

District Councillor Hacking and Councillor Luckhurst. D Chalet and B Luckhurst.

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 3rd September 2024, were unanimously agreed, as a true record.

4. The meeting adjourned at 7.32 pm for Public Session

County Councillor Report

Councillor Glazier would chase up Public Rights of Way about the kissing gate for Memorial Bungalow and work with the District Council regarding the damaged road name sign for Grove Lane. The potholes at the bottom of Gardiner's Hill along to New Bridge, although numerous, were not deep enough to warrant emergency repair. The county council was working on the budget for next year and how to make costs and income meet. There was currently a gap of £25 million. He was lobbying the new MP about central government funding as well as new MPs for West Sussex and Brighton relating to cross border activities. The majority of county council spending (80%) continued to be for adult social care. Costs were high in all areas. Taking about 5,000

children to school, of which 25% were in special education, cost about £23 million and a mile of road surfacing cost £1 million.

Councillor Glazier gave his apologies and departed.

District Councillor Report

Following parish clerks contacting him about their parish councils consistent use of the RDC Community grant Scheme, Councillor Osborne advised that he would be opposing the proposed transfer of the Scheme to the Sussex Community Foundation as it would exclude Parish Councils from applying for funds.

The planning committee members would be visiting the area relating to the planning application for land to the rear of Conkers the following week. The planning Committee would be deciding at the next planning committee meeting.

He was advised that some residents would be requesting to speak at the planning committee meeting.

Public Questions

None

5. The meeting reconvened 7.30pm

6. Planning

6.1 Enforcements and Appeals

No official reports outstanding.

6.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council (since the last meeting) –

None.

6.3 Applications considered

- i. RR/2024/1582/L Lambs Orchard, Playden Lane: External works to a grade 2 listed building to include the replacement of defective slate roof in matching natural slate; repointing of chimney, installation of one downpipe on the front elevation (retrospective). **It was resolved to comment – no comment.**
- ii. RR/2024/1599/P Tyson Marsh Farm, Wittersham Road: Removal of the agricultural occupancy (AOC) (Condition 2) imposed on RR/76/0087. **It was resolved to comment – the Parish Council is not qualified to make a comment.**

6.4 For Notification Only: None

6.5 Response to survey on planning Enforcement

Following discussion, it was resolved to respond to pertinent questions noting that there appeared to be no standard of service and feedback was poor resulting in residents feeling that they were not listened to.

6.6 RR/2023/2153/P Conkers, Main Street – Update

See Report by District Councillor Osborne.

7. New Burial Ground- New Ashes Area

It was resolved to agree the policy – information document, for enquiries, regarding the ashes area (already circulated).

Regarding the last burial to improve procedure a requirement was included for a funeral director to be used to assist the bereaved from the start to the memorial stone. However, the Burwash funeral directors advised that they like others were not prepared to assist with the memorial stones due to bad experiences.

It was resolved to confirm that the memorial stones will be 600mm by 400mm landscape noting that the plot marker stones are slightly smaller. It was further resolved to confirm that these place markers are not available for use as carved memorial stones.

It was resolved that there will be no reservation of ashes plots.

It has become apparent that the memorial stone placement can come very quickly after the interment so the various fees may not be levied over years but rather months or all at once. Also, the ability to further inter ashes in the same plot is problematic due the increased size of caskets.

It was resolved that there will only be one interment per plot but up to two caskets or ashes for two can be interred at the same time.

It was resolved to agree the following charges for the ashes plots only for parish residents only

(note non-residents charges will be at least twice or in line with other local cemeteries)

1) Exclusive Right of Burial (for 75 years) £500 per plot.

This means that only the named, by the owner, can be buried there.

This includes the applicant being shown the burial ground and a gentle discussion of the options and supplying the paperwork and phone calls. Often two trips to the site.

Provision and posting of Certificate of Exclusive right. The inclusion of the acquisition in the burial records. Checking the size of the casket(s).

2) Interment Fee £200

This includes corresponding with the funeral directors, invoicing, obtaining completed forms and certificates of cremation. Checking the area is neat and tidy ready for the burial. Updating the burial records and grave maps. Advising directors of location. Opening the gates and closing after the burial. Checking the size of the casket(s).

3) Permission to place a memorial stone £200

This includes dealing with the stone mason, providing them with the forms and invoicing them. Reviewing the wording and approving. If the design or stone is unusual this will have to come to the parish council meeting. Advising where the grave is. Open the gate for mason. Attending the laying to ensure the return and safe storage of the marker stone. Closing the gate. Updating the burial records regarding the memorial stone details.

8. Finances - Parish Council

8.1 Budgeting for 2025-2026

The clerk requests councillors to consider if there are any projects they wish to be considered for funding in the next budget year. The precept will have to increase for the coming year as emergency reserves will have been reached.

8.2 September Bank Balances

31st August 2024 £ 19,756.48

Plus total Receipts £ 161.77

Less total Payments £ 1,077.70

30th September 2024 £18,840.55

(30th September 2024 statements -Treasurers Account £8,381.85 and Reserve Account £10,458.70)

8.3 September Receipts

£8.77 Bank Interest

£153.00 Wilder Iden funds - earmarked

8.4 September Payments

£19.20 Charge card – Post Office – footpath mailing less 10p cash back

£629.20 Salaries

£41.70 Office costs

£42.00 Geoxphere Limited: Parish online Mapping Service (vat £7.00)

£252.00 PKF Littlejohn LLP: external Audit (vat £42)

£93.60 Playsafety Limited: Play area safety inspection

8.5 The Following Payments were Authorised:

£629.20 Clerk's August salary.

£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70

£32.00 RALC Annual subscription

Charge Card (18 October)

£59.99 Microsoft office annual subscription

(£500 transfer to pavilion account is outstanding)

9. Save the Bell Report

The position remained as per last month and the group was waiting to hear from the new government about their bid for funding.

10. Pavilion - Finances

10.1 September Bank Balances

Bank Balances on 30th September 2024 Treasurers Account £ 255.56 (31st August £322.61)

10.2 September Receipts

£120.00 Bodium Cricket Club for two matches

10.3 September Payments

£37.05 EDF monthly direct debit
Castle water - estimated water usage of £11.02 leaving the account in credit of £9.99

£150.00 RSR Waste Management – Pavilion cesspit empty

10.4 Payments Authorised

£150.00 RSR Waste Management – Pavilion cesspit bung fitted

11. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

11.1 Fire Extinguisher Check

This has been booked for the 9th October.

11.2 Fallen Tree Branch

A single short branch had broken and was hanging down. The tree is in the woodland area. The Clerk was requested to have the branch removed.

12. Risk Assessment

One of the directional fingers for the fingerpost at Grove Lane had dropped and the Wittersham Lane fingerpost post was rotting. The Clerk was requested to investigate this.

13. Information for Councillors

Footpath twenty paperwork has now been validated.

Grove Lane Bus Shelter tidy is underway but there is still some work to complete.

The clerk will cut the grass at the Grove Lane triangle shortly.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 5th November 2024, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.