



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of Virtual Meeting held on 5th January 2021 7.30pm

Present

Councillors G Say (Chairman), P. Allard, M. Miller and J Wood
In attendance: County Councillor K. Glazier, District councillor P. Osborne, Clerk M. Philo
Members of the Public: 1

1. Apologies

Councillor Griffin had sent his apologies.

2. Disclosure of Interests

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the 3rd of November 2020 as a true record.

The meeting adjourned at 7.34pm for County and District Councillors Reports and Public Questions

County Councillor Report

The council focus had been on Covid-19 since Christmas and was ready to support the re-opening of schools. The Resilience Forum is better prepared than for the first lockdown because of the experience gained and many of those who are shielding have assistance in place. The 'Hub' and Rye Mutual Aid is available to support people. The Covid-19 vaccination programme is being rolled out nationally and the council is working with the NHS to progress this. The Conquest Hospital has the vaccination and is vaccinating staff and care homes. There are difficulties organising surgeries and holding centres to vaccinate the public. Although East Sussex Hospital are experiencing the highest numbers of Covid-19 patients, no patients are being moved to hospitals outside the county. Parents were requesting that schools do not re-open and that the lockdown announce the day before, had closed schools till the half term.

Following the government settlement in December, the county council is proposing to increase its share of council tax by 1.99%. An additional 3% will be levied for adult social care (this can be taken across two years or in one year). The numbers requiring care continues to increase. Residents were asked to continue reporting potholes.

District Councillor Report

The district council is considering raising its share of council tax by about 2% or approximately £5 for a Band D property. Just like the county council the district council is focussing on assisting with the pandemic and helping central government to distribute the current covid-19 grant available to businesses that have closed because of lockdown. The Christmas rescheduling of bin collection was finishing this week. Rye and Camber beach visitor numbers were high despite central government's request to people to not travel. The influx was stretching local pharmaceutical supplies.

Public Questions

A resident raised the increase in weekenders staying at their properties in the village who were obviously travelling and how this should be deterred. The new law taking effective day after the meeting should curb this behaviour.

The Meeting Reconvened at 7.50pm

4. Planning

4.1 Enforcements

None

4.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council since the last Meeting
RR/2020/1640/P Randolphins, Randolphins Lane – Installation of photo-voltaic panels in adjacent field – Permitted

RR/2020/1692/L and RR/2020/1691/P East View, Main Street – Demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of new single storey extension – Permitted.

4.3 Applications voted on by the parish council

None.

5. Finances

5.1 Financial Information

Littlejohn has completed the external audit and advised that the information provided had been in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern. Littlejohn has raised the minor issue that the asset register value should not include VAT whilst payments made are to be shown gross of vat. The Clerk will have to restate the asset register value to make a correction.

Third Quarter Financial Report.

As of 21st December total receipts for the quarter is £1,616.68.

The fee for the pavilion insurance and the annual lease charge were received and a burial plot was reserved in the New Burial Ground.

Total payments for the period to report date is £2,164.44.

Although the council's activity remains subdued by the pandemic the council financially supported Claire Carle to ready the war memorial for Remembrance Day in November. In addition, the council donated £100 to the British Legion. A further donation of £250 was made to Rye Food Bank in November.

The annual grass cutting fee for the Churchyard, cemetery and playfield was settled at £1,680.00 including vat. As this is less than usual the opportunity has been taken to clear the Garden of Remembrance which had become overgrown and dark as well as clearing under the trees in the churchyard along the additional parking area to reveal the tombstones there.

This bill is awaited with the charge for the annual cut to the new burial ground hedge and

cutting back the undergrowth along the fencing of the external parking area. The latter should assist with litter picking of the area.

As the ground on the playing fields has become very wet again pest control is visiting to keep the number of moles down. The football post was picked up by the safety inspection report as being a high risk needs to be dealt with.

The Clerk is awaiting design proof for replacement signage at the entrance to the playing fields and in the parking area.

Vat refund will be made in January.

Outstanding payments

£280	Pest Control
£1550.79	Salary and allowances, phone
£51.20	Clerk's Society subscription share
£1,000.00	Est. new signage on playing Field
£1,000.00	Est. Repair to steps to Garden of Remembrance

Ring fenced sums

£992.54	Website (hosting fee still be paid when site goes live)
£246	Garden society donation for natural enhancements around the village

£8000.00	Council Reserve
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5.2 Bank Balances

Bank Balance as at 31st October 2020	£24,302.90
30 th November 2020	£22,910.50
31 st December 2020	£22,271.65

5.3 October, November and December Receipts

£0.08	October Bank Interest
£1,366.43	Iden Pavilion Association buildings insurance and annual lease
£0.09	November Bank Interest
£0.08	December Bank Interest
£250.00	Burial ground reservation

5.4 December Payments

£473.55	Clerk's December Salary
£41.70	Clerk's December Allowances
£1.68	Pett PC: Share of Mobile Phone for Clerk
£432.00	Gibbs and Sons: Hedge cut and clearing in the churchyard, New Burial Ground, Garden of Remembrance and Playing fields parking. (vat £72)
	Business Charge Card
£40.00	Data Handler Registration with the Information Commissioner's Office

5.5 It was resolved to make the following payments

£473.55	Clerk's monthly salary
£41.70	Clerk's salary allowance

5.6 Setting the Precept

It was resolved to set the precept at £16,000 per annum for the financial year 2021 – 2022.

5.7 Clerk's Subscription

It was resolved to fund a share of the Clerk's annual membership to the Society for Local Council Clerks, £208 total: Iden's share £51.20.

6. Future Meeting and Delegation to the Clerk

Following discussion, the council would meet virtually every month.

7. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

Closed Sports Pavilion

Councillor Say would check on the Pavilion.

8. Information for Councillors

Tree Warden

A resident had offered to act as Tree warden for Iden. Councillors welcomed the offer and suggested that the council bear training costs.

Finger Post near Iden Stores

Under delegated authority, the contractor had been requested to install metal protection around the main shaft base to protect it from strimming and to carry out some basic maintenance.

'Wilding Iden'

Two residents had offered to form a voluntary group to work with the parish council to improve biodiversity in Iden. Areas that could be used included verges, public open spaces and highway verges where appropriate. The Local Farmer Christopher Strangeways is interested in planting trees on his field adjacent to the playing fields. It may also be possible to seed a wildflower meadow behind the Church on some where on the playing fields. Volunteers to join them were being sought to join the group 'Wilding Iden'. They would be attending the March council meeting. It was suggested that the Horticultural donation could be used to support this.

9. Date of Next Meeting - Virtual

Tuesday 2nd February 2021, 7.30pm.