



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2023 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

Remembrance Day had raised £500 for the Royal British Legion.

The council hoped that the developers of Conker's Field had taken away comments made at the consultation.

The Bell Inn group would be holding another Pop-Up pub in the village hall on Wednesday 20th December 6.30pm to 9.30pm, in the village hall.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (chairman), B. Luckhurst, and G. Say.

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

Members of the Public: Twelve.

1. Apologies

Parish Councillors Alard and Wood. District Councillor Hacking

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

Councillor Luckhurst had a prejudicial interest in the planning application for St Anne their home.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

The meeting adjourned at 7.35 pm for Public Session

County Councillor Keith Glazier Report

He had visited the Balfour Beatty Control Centre at Ringmer and noted the live reporting system tracking all works.

The Head of Highways had accompanied Councillor Glazier on an inspection of Iden roads.

Residents were requested to keep reporting potholes. The online reporting system will shortly show if previous pothole reports have been made at the location. Should Balfour Beatty fall below the expected performance level then payments will be reduced. Due to the weather potholes are only being filled temporarily rather than being patched. The council is looking at drainage work as it is a factor increasing tarmac deterioration. When gullies are cleared, drainage is checked to see if water is flushing away. If not, the pipes are booked for jetting.

Questions and comments

A resident highlighted the deep ravine at the edge of the tarmac on Cold Harbour Lane past Lankelma. Councillor Glazier reported the issue.

The road surface to New Bridge Road was highlighted as needing retarmacking.

Residents suggested that communication from Highways about the nighttime painting on the road of Slow through the village would have been appreciated. The cost for these did not reduce the pothole budget as the funds came from the Road Maintenance Budget.

District Councillor Paul Osborne Report

The current fiscal year was seeing a £3.8 million overspend, mainly due to the cost of temporary accommodation. Though the council had increased the number of homes it owned (50 units) to provide shelter for the homeless, private sector availability had fallen as landlords moved to holiday lets.

The meeting reconvened 7.50pm

Planning

4.1 Enforcements and Appeals

No further enforcement advice since the last meeting.

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

None. Ecological concerns were delaying Twin Sisters application.

4.3 Applications Considered

RR/2023/2464/P St Annes – Installation of a detached timber outbuilding. The application had been put on hold. It was resolved to delegate to the Clerk the comment should a response be required before the next council meeting.

5. Council Finances

5.1 Bank Balances

Bank Balances:

31 st October 2023	£31,210.46
Total Receipts	£ 11.41

Total Payments	<u>£ 3,102.62</u>
30 th November 2023	£ 28,119.25

(30th November statements -Treasurers Account £17,769.56 and Reserve Account £10,349.69)

Amounts due £37.20 making the running balance £28,156.45.

5.2 Budget 2024-20245

A second draft had been circulated. At the January meeting the council would have to finalise its precept. The clerk would endeavour to chase invoices so all payments were up to date.

5.3 November Receipts

£11.41 November Bank Interest

5.4 November Additional Payments

£84.00 Rother Association of Local Councils annual subscription

5.5 The Following Payments were Authorised:

£525.20 Clerk's salary

£41.70 Clerk's room and car allowance

£4,032 Gibbs & Son: Annual Grass cutting and new burial hedge (vat £672)

£32.89 Refund M Philo: Tomokep: replacement multipack ink cartridges (vat £5.48)

Charge card (8th December)

£20.57 Viking Office UK Limited: A5 envelopes for - ICE Survey (vat £3.43)

£4.20 Refund M Philo: Ream of thicker paper for ice survey (vat 70p)

5.5 Transfer of Funds to the Pavilion Account

The final bill including the additional work to clear the front roof of moss and replace broken tiles and repair fascia boarding will leave the pavilion account with insufficient funds to cover the water and electricity bills going forward. **It was resolved to transfer £1,516.90 to leave £1,000 in the pavilion account.**

5.5 Online Banking

It was resolved to authorise Councillors Luckhurst, Miller, Say to sign up to online banking to allow for two councillors to authorise payments.

6. General Power of Competence

The clerk has achieved the Certificate in Local Council Administration and two thirds of councillors have been elected which means Iden Parish Council fulfils the necessary criteria. GPC lasts until the annual meeting following council ordinary elections when it must reconfirm that it complies with the criteria and continues to use the power. **It was resolved to assume the General Power of Competence.**

7. Grass Cutting Contract

Following comparison of prices and review of the current contractor's performance, **it was resolved to remain with Gibbs & Son.** Estimated cost £5290.

8. Community Asset – The Bell Inn

The meeting adjourned for a report from the Report from The Bell Inn Working Party 7.55pm

The Plunkett Foundation had approved the groups membership so the group could now move forward with registering with the Financial Conduct Authority as a Community Benefit Society and set up a bank account.

The condition survey had been conducted and the full report would be available in a few weeks, but initial feedback was the pub was a good proposition.

The survey had been delivered and spares were available in the shop in the shop for anyone who needed one. Ninety-five surveys had been returned. For those who had offered to be more involved, mail chimp is being employed to communicate and get feedback.

About one hundred people had attended the November Pop-Up. The next one will be Wednesday 20th December.

The chair expressed thanks to Martin Chalet and the group.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.00pm

9. Civility and Respect

Deferred.

10. Pavilion Finances

10.1 Bank Balance

Bank Balances on 30th November 2023 £3,072.10

10.2 November Receipts

November

10.3 Additional November Payments

£12.83 Castle Water

10.4 Payments Authorised

£30.00 EDF monthly direct debit payment 15th of the month

£3,515 John Jackson: Guttering and roof works

11. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

The meeting adjourned at 8.09 pm for the Report from The Pavilion Working Party 8.05pm

Pavilion Working Party Report

The Parish council and working party had met to discuss the legal structure for the group and now awaited a response from the parish council.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.12pm

12. Risk Assessment

Works in the cemetery continue with the fallen branch on the playing field still to be cleared away.

13. Information for Councillors

About sixty people attended the drop-in Session for outline plans for Conker's field development on Monday 13th November 4pm to 6pm Iden Village Hall.

Remembrance Sunday Service 12th November 10.50am at the War Memorial was well attended.

ESALC AGM & Conference 14th November at Uckfield Civic Centre – sent apologies.

Churchyard and new burial ground clearance works is in underway but high winds call them away for tree clearing.

Clerk has completed the required redeclaration for auto-enrolment to The Pension Regulator.

Rother District Council Parish Meeting – 5th December 2pm to 4pm Brede Village Hall with Code of Conduct training before hand from 1pm was attended by the clerk.

Planning Development Management and Enforcement Seminar – 12th December online 5.30pm (1.5hrs).

Burial Ground Ashes area development is ongoing.

The star was again on the Church Tower and the bells would be rung on Christmas Day.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 7.30pm Iden Village Hall.

15. Motion to exclude public and press from the meeting

Pursuant to section 1) 2 of the Public Bodies Admission to meetings) Act 1960 to agree that, because of the confidential nature of business transacted the Public and Press leave the meeting during the consideration of
Clerk's Appraisal **1972 LGA sch.12A, part 1, 5**

Following the pay settlement for 1st April 2023, it was resolved to pay the clerk payback of £260 to include December (to be paid in January). January salary will thus be £551.20. a month (scale point 20).

Payscale point for the 1st April 2024 to be confirmed.