



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st July 2021 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall

Notices

Bruce and Bet Luckhurst and Carol Bourne were thanked for the beautiful flower display in the troughs outside the hall doors.

Present

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

In attendance: Clerk M. Philo, District Councillor Paul Osborne

Members of the Public: 11

1. Apologies

Apologies were given for County Councillor Glazier, District Councillor Hacking and Councillor Allard.

2. Disclosure of Interests

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following minor amendments, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the 4th May 2021 as a true record.

The meeting adjourned at 7.36pm for Public Session

District Councillor Report

Planning applications were very delayed currently due to staff shortages (understaffing) and applications were being dealt with in order of receipt. The council had contracted Capita to assist. The situation would be further affected by the new proposed planning changes.

Public Questions

Mi Cottage.

A member of the public raised their concerns regarding the parish council support for the Mi Cottage application, stating their belief that the previous application approval required the main property and annex to remain separate.

Potholes

Several residents highlighted pothole issues entering and leaving the village as well as several very dangerous ones along Grove Lane. The clerk would report them.

Wildflower Verges

The newly dedicated verge at the junction with Readers Lane had again been cut. When questioned the contractors advised that a resident had requested the verge be cut for visibility reasons. A review of the cuts would be discussed with the contractors in August. It was suggested that a wildflower marker should be installed as once was the case. When costs were ascertained the parish council would consider funding these.

War Memorial Beech Hedge

It was suggested that two new hedge plants be bought and planted to replace the two dead ones. The council would acquire some in time for Autumn planting.

The Meeting Reconvened at 7.45pm

4. Planning

4.1 Enforcements - None

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

RR/2021/3821/P Sabroan, Church Lane: Alterations to existing dwelling, including replacing existing single storey extension with new single storey extensions, new cladding and windows and alteration of roof. Refused.

4.3 The following responses made during recess were ratified

- a) RR/2021/546/P Lane House, Wittersham Road: Proposed oak frame garage at the front of the house - Support
- b) RR/2021/633/P and 634/L Danesbury, Main Street: Application to regularize works carried out including replacement of non historic windows and doors with oak windows and doors to match existing, removal of leaded light window and replacement with stained glass window, erection of stud partition to form en-suite shower room to Master Bedroom, installation of Wood burning Stoves and removal of modern plaster finishes and replacement with traditional / compatible materials and finishes to accord with BS7913 – General comment – No comment.
- c) RR/2021/675/P Mi Cottage Wittersham Road: Proposed ground floor Rear Extension linking main dwelling to existing annexe building. New air source heat pump – Support

4.4 There were no applications to consider

4.5 Delegation to Clerk during summer recess/ future lockdowns

It was resolved to delegate to the Clerk in collaboration with the Chairman responding to planning applications, during summer recess.

In the event of a lockdown, between July and February 2022, being called by central

government it was resolved to delegate to the Clerk in collaboration with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the running of the parish council.

5. Finances

5.1 Bank Balances and First Quarter Financial Report

Bank balance as of 30th April 2021 £27,216.35

Bank balance as at 31st May 2021 £26,298.66

Bank balance as at 30th June 2021 £23,173.80

First Quarter Financial Report 2021-2022

Bank balances as at 30th June £ 23,173.80

Income £ 8,460.26

Essentially, the council relies on its precept (share of council tax) for its income however in addition £200 was received from both /each the New Burial Ground and cricket club (hire fee). £60 in compensation for incorrect cutting of the wildflower verges was received from Countryman and has been passed on to the Wilder Iden Group.

Expenditure £5239.66 (net of vat)

Of the total £5,5239.66, £1,505.40 represents the cost of the insurance for the Pavilion building. This sum will be refunded by Iden Pavilion Association in July. The council share of the insurance bill is £1,152.09. The annual dog bin empty charge of £123.50 (net of vat figure) and annual additional urban verge cutting fee of £364.00 (net of vat) have been paid. Council's administration costs for the quarter came to £1,744.67. In addition, the safety inspection for the Pavilion went through £350 (net of vat) and is allocated against the contingency fund.

There were a few bills that should be included within this quarters figures and these are:

Share of quarter mobile phone for clerk £13.65 (net of vat)

Refurbishment of 3 benches, new burial ground gate and noticeboard £766.33 (net of vat) which will be allocated to the contingency fund

Refurbished signs for the playing fields £496.10 (net of vat)

This would make the actual net of vat council only expenditure for the quarter £5,010.34.

Please note that the signage cost was allocated to last year's budget along with the cost of the ramp £750. The ramp has been recently put in and we await an invoice.

The refund to Sam Murphy £102.85 (unable to collect any vat back) reduces the garden society donation to £143.15.

A grant was still available for Community hedging.

5.2 May and June Receipts

£0.09 May Bank Interest

£60.00 Countryman- Refund for wildflowers accidentally cut down on dedicated verge

£200.00 Iden Cricket Club 2020-2021 Playing Fields hire

£0.08 June Bank Interest

£200.00 New Burial Ground - Fee for memorial stone

5.3 June Payments

£473.55	Clerk's June salary
£41.70	Clerk's June allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70
£2,657.49	Zurich Municipal: Annual insurance including £1,505.40 Pavilion building insurance
£148.20	Rother District Council: Annual dog bin empty fee (vat £ 24.70)
	Charge Card – June 7 payment
£4.00	Stationary – File and dividers

5.4 July Payments Made

£473.55	Clerk's July salary
£13.65	Pett PC: Share of Clerk's Mobile phone April to June
£7.80	Rother District Council: Annual dog bin empty fee shortfall (vat £ 1.30)
£60.00	Wilder Iden: Payment of compensation from Countryman for mowing of wild
	Charge Card – July 7 payment
£43.64	Rest Express: 5 litre liberon teak oil (vat £6.45) for benches
£18.00	B&Q: white primer and undercoat for new burial ground gate (vat £3.00)
£36.00	B&Q: white satin topcoat for new burial ground gate (vat £6)

5.5 The following payments were authorised

£41.70	Clerk's July Allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70
£2,670.00	Gibbs and Son: 7 cuts to playing fields and cemeteries and a hedge cut (vat £445.00)
£319.08	Care Signs: Supply three signs for the Playing Fields (vat £53.18)
£276.24	Care Signs: Supply two aluminium post for playing field sign and install with sign (vat £46.04)
£102.85	S Murphy: Refund for wildflowers ordered and planted in the newly dedicated wildflower verges
£693.80	C J Maintenance: Refurbishment of 3 benches, noticeboard and new burial ground gates

6. Public Spaces Protection Order – Sleeping in Public Place

It was resolved to reconfirm, regarding the Parish of Iden, that the following order should be renewed in November 2021.

'No person, will sleep or deposit any materials used or intended to be used as bedding in any public space with the Restricted Area as identified in Map 1. In the first instance, any person contravening this condition, will be given a warning, advice and/or signposted to support services by Authorised Officers. The order will also apply to persons lying down or sleeping in the open air or within a vehicle or other non-fixed structure such as a caravan or tent without prior permission of the council. This includes shop doorways and parks.'

7. Iden Playing Fields, Play Area and Pavilion

The council had met with the cricket club to discuss the future use and management of the pavilion. Cricket club and parish council will be considering the various avenues available and meet again shortly. The council had drafted a letter which covered the discussions held to be sent to the cricket club

8. Risk Assessment – Report on Parish Assets

The broken branch of an oak tree located between the open parking area and playing fields had been removed. The Clerk to verify that the small tree branches interfering with guttering on pavilion had also been cut.

A rough sleeper was found camping on playing fields in June, for only one night.

Sanding and oiling of the benches in the play area, by walnut tree and outside shop and noticeboard has been completed.

The burial ground gates have been repainted and a ramp installed to replace the steps into the Garden of Contemplation.

Fingerpost near Iden Stores broken directional finger – A new contractor had been found and a quote is awaited.

The flytipping left in the parking area at the playing fields which included bricks and bags of rubble, had been removed

9. Information for Councillors

Parish Councils will be able to comment on the naming of new street and house names in future.

PKF Littlejohn PLL, the council external auditor had confirmed that they had noted the External Audit Exemption Certificate.

10. Date of Next Meeting - Virtual

Tuesday 7th September 2021, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.