



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 5th November 2019 at 7.30pm at Iden Village Hall

Village Notices

John Royle had passed away. He was a renowned navy man who continued to contribute to the community being active in the cadets and other volunteer roles. His funeral would be at All Saints Church, Iden on Thursday 7th November at 2.30pm.

Rae Wickens had also recently passed away. She had been a great asset to village life with many of those present at the meeting having known her since they were young. Her funeral would be at All Saints Church, Iden on 15th November at 12 noon.

Richard Cooper had suddenly passed away. The chairman expressed the council's condolences to all three families.

A brief Remembrance Sunday Service would be held on Sunday 10th November at 10.30am at the War Memorial.

Minutes

Present: Councillors R. Griffin (Chairman), P. Allard, M. Miller, G. Say and J. Wood

In attendance: District Councillor P. Osborne and the Clerk M. Philo

Members of the Public: 6

Item No.		
1	Apologies	County Councillor Keith Glazier was attending a conference in Birmingham. District Councillor Sally-Ann Hart was attending the Peasmarsch Parish Council meeting.
2	Disclosure of Interest on Agenda Items	All councillors had a prejudicial interest regarding the Fete.
3	Minutes	It was resolved to agree the minutes of the 1st October 2019 as a true record.
		The meeting was adjourned at 7.33 pm.
		County and District Councillors' Reports
	District Cabinet Meeting	The council were considering the budget for next year. The new waste contract had cost £500,000 more than expected whilst income from car parks and other sources was down.

	Urban Verge Grass Cutting	The district council had voted, as advised last financial year, to no longer cover the highways charge for urban verge cuts not required for safety.
	Garden Waste Bin Collection Charge	The annual charges would increase to £50.00 next year. Other boroughs charged slightly more.
	Public Questions	
	National Elections	Sally-Ann Hart was short listed for Member of Parliament for Hastings and Rye.
	Electric Car Charging Points	It was reported that the county only had 9 points. This was queried as there are 4 charging points at the Bell Inn Iden.
	Overgrown Hedge	The hedge opposite Mi Cottage had still not been cut and it was now impossible to use the footpath. The Clerk was requested to report it to Highways because it was now a safety issue.
	Highways Temporary Resurfacing Signs	These were still up. The Clerk was requested to ask Keith Glazier for assistance with this again.
		The meeting was reconvened at 7.45pm
4	Planning	Town and Country Planning Acts 1990 sch1 and 2010
4.1	Enforcements	None
4.2	R.D.C Planning Decisions	RR/2019/1845/P Lock Cottage, Iden Lock: Renewal of permission RR/2014/2174/P (and previously approved under RR/2009/2459/P) for the retention of the Bird Observation Hut for a further five years – Granted.
		RR/2019/2137/T Orchard Field Grove Lane: T1 Oak fell. Objection
		RR/2019/2152/T Walnut Cottage Main Street: Remove branches, cut and remove the roots of ivy growth. No objection.
4.3	Applications Received	RR/219/2287/P Corkwood Farmhouse: Erection of garden room to side of dwelling. It was resolved to support the application.
5	Finances	I.P.C. Financial Regulations
5.1	Financial Report	Bank balances as at 31 st October 2019 stood at Reserve Account £9,910.43 and Treasurer's account £4,671.08. Since the last monthly meeting 50% of the cost of the new play area equipment had been paid reducing the Treasurer's account. Councillors were requested to advise of any costs that should be included in the first draft budget which the Clerk would bring to the next meeting. The Clerk reminded councillors that council had not increased the precept for several years now and probably would again have expenditure slightly in excess of the precept. The council had no other source of income that could be relied upon. The uncertainty over the continuation of the Pavilion Association could bring increased cost to the council. Although the council held the recommended level of reserves, it would only cover initial costs such as the buildings insurance. The buildings insurance is greater than the council's insurance. The Sussex Association of Local Councils was recommending

		councils to build greater reserves (ring fenced) if it was likely to take on the management of halls and pavilions.
5.2	Receipts for Previous Month	£ 75.00 Headstone £ 0.41 October bank interest
5.3	Interim Payments	£17,758.20 Handmade Boxrap Limited: 50% payment for new play area equipment (vat £2,974.20)
5.4	Payments	£ 452.05 Clerks monthly salary (8 hours per week) £ 41.70 Clerks admin; room £30 and car £11.70 £ 9.33 Pett PC- Mobile Phone £ 200.00 Rother Rural Trust – Cheque - Donation £ 118.35 Rother District Council: Election Charge Charge Card £ 59.99 Microsoft Office: annual charge for software package £ 19.00 Jempsons: flowers Sue White £ 89.99 McAfee: annual charge for computer security £ 36.00 WordPress: annual domain name charge
6	Fete and Storage Container	The Fete Committee was to meet the following night, so this item was deferred to the next meeting.
7	Play Area	The design for the activity centre had to be changed to eliminate a major trip hazard created by the land fall. The wet pout safety surface was replaced with safety grass matting on regraded land. This had reduced the overall cost to the council. Rother District Community grant scheme would only pay 50% of the total cost up to £14,920. Approval from Rother Parks Officer had been given and a promise from Rother to refund quickly once the installation was completed so that the parish council could then pay the contractor. Concern was expressed about the damage to the grass if installation took place when the park ground was saturated. The Pavilion Association would hold off draining down the pavilion so that the facility could be used by the contractors to supply water, electricity, toilets and safe storage.
8	Risk Assessment	The recent winds had not brought down any further tree branches. Clerk was reminded to have the already fallen branches removed.
9		Information for Councillors
	Plane Tree in Parkwood	A prominent and large plane tree has been taken down in Parkwood during the last month by Optivo the housing association in charge of several homes in the road. The reason given for its removal was interference by the tree roots of the house foundations. It would have been helpful if Optivo had advised residents with a leaflet drop.
	Ralc Speeding Initiative	The Ralc meeting on the 23rd October considered the review of the points brought out by the session held on the 9th October. Issues raised included high speed limits, where white lines

		should be, the lack of funding and enforcement. The same speeding problems were faced by all parishes. An immediate solution of increasing the number of speed watch groups was suggested. Suggested longer term solutions include speed awareness campaigns and more enforcement.
	Community Survey	The Clerk had not managed to start this. The Clerk was requested to aim for January/February.
	Report of Meeting with the Police to Discuss Rural Issues	Councillors Miller and Griffin had attended the morning session. PCSOs are returning to villages over the next year. However how effective they would be was questioned as their powers were limited and the kind of crime had changed from burglary to scams. Focussing PCSO on seeing people in their homes might produce better results. Six Rural Crime PCSOs had also been commissioned.
	Rye Community Shop Grants	The village hall had received a grant towards a projector. The Bowls club had also benefitted from a grant.
	War Graves Commission	The commission would be attending to the grave of Ronaldo Fairhall in All Saints Churchyard.
10	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 3 rd December at 7.30pm at Iden Village Hall
		The meeting closed at 8.40pm