



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th September 2021 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall

Notices

The Chairman thanked Jim and Jill Wood and the other organisers for the lovely picnic by the pond day on the 7th August. It was a great success, and the day was enjoyed by all. District Councillor Lizzie Hacking was welcomed to the meeting.

Present

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

In attendance: Clerk M. Philo, County Councillor Keith Glazier and District Councillors Lizzie Hacking and Paul Osborne.

Members of the Public: 5

1. Apologies

None.

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 21st July 2021 as a true record.

The meeting adjourned at 7.33pm for Public Session

County Councillor Report

Apologies were given for the incorrect cutting of the newly agreed meadow verges over the last few months, by Highways.

As part of the budgeting process, the county council will be considering adapting its policy on repairing potholes. Residents' complaints had instigated this. Major complaints were that the temporary filling of significant potholes did not last till a long-term repair could be carried out and that only the problem hole was filled amongst a group of potholes. The council is

considering large patch repairs.

The county council policy to cut urban verges only twice a year had received, in equal amounts, negative comments about unkemptness and positive ones about improving habitat and green corridors.

Members of the public highlighted that leaving the grass longer resulted in hay like cuttings left behind blocking the drains and causing flooding, and that the recent drain clearing near Oxenbridge by highways had been ineffective. Residents were advised to quickly report any poor drain clearing so that the contractors could be made to return and rectify poor workmanship.

District Councillors Report

Councillor Hacking apologised for her absence last month due to holiday.

Whilst August is usually a quiet month for the council, there had been staff restructuring which was keeping officers busy with their new positions. Tim Hinkley, responsible for planning had left and Ben Hook was now heading up Climate Change and Planning. Capita has been employed to help with clearing the back log but they like the district council had encountered difficulties finding qualified planning officers. At the recent planning committee meeting it was suggested that the back log could be dealt with in six months.

Parish councillors commented that the delay is affecting applicants as the cost of works is currently increasing rapidly.

It was noted that the delays on planning decisions is affecting, residents, businesses and other service providers including Highways.

Rother Cabinet had agreed to loan £80 million to the new housing corporation Alliance Housing Ltd to progress building the required affordable housing.

Public Questions

ICE

With the prospect of a further surge of the pandemic, not all volunteers had been stood down. A volunteer thank you picnic had been held in August. Rye Dance School had performed along with Woodchurch Morris Dancers. £850 was raised for Rye Memorial Care Centre. Once pandemic personal distancing was no longer required then ICE wished to hold a first aid training session.

Thanks were expressed to all those who had helped on the day and provided artifacts for the Iden exhibition.

The Meeting Reconvened at 7.55pm

4. Planning

4.1 Enforcements - None

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

- a) 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. Going to appeal
- b) RR/2021/546/P Lane House, Wittersham Road: Proposed oak frame garage at the front of the house – Withdrawn by applicant.
- c) RR/2021/633/P and 634/L Danesbury, Main Street: Application to regularise 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 – Planning approved conditionally and listed building consent was granted.

4.3 Applications considered:

RR/2021/1051/P The Cabin, Iden Lock: Alterations and extension to existing property to be raised on stilts to prevent flooding, associated with use as a holiday home and artist studio. It was resolved to support the application.

5. Finances

5.1 Bank Balances

Bank balance as of 31st July 2021 £19,157.97

Bank balance as of 31st August 2021 £27,847.91

5.2 July and August Receipts

£0.08	July bank interest
£1,520.48	Iden Pavilion Association: pavilion building insurance and £15 annual lease charge
£0.09	August bank interest
£1,200	Ellis Brothers: Burial Plot and interment
£8,000	Rother District Council: Precept

5.3 July and August Payments

£7.80	Rother District Council: dog waste bin shortfall
£13.65	Pett PC: share of April to June Clerk's mobile phone
£473.55	M Philo: July Clerk's salary
£60.00	Wilder Iden: forward of compensation from Highways' contractor
£41.70	M Philo: July salary allowance
£2,670.00	Gibbs & Sons Ltd: grass cutting
£319.08	Care Signs Ltd: playing fields replacement signs
£102.85	Sam Murphy: refund for wild flowers for newly dedicated verges
£693.80	C Everett: benches and new burial ground gate repaint and refurbishment
£276.24	Care Signs Ltd: playing fields replacement signs

£780.00 SMB Groundworks Ltd: new slope at new burial ground
£473.55 M Philo: August Clerk's salary

July Charge Card

£43.64 Rest Express: Liberon teak oil (vat £7.27)
£18.00 B & Q: Wood Primer for new burial ground gate (vat £3.00)
£26.00 B & Q: Exterior Satin Paint for new burial ground gate (vat 6.00)

August Charge Card

£36.60 Findmysupplies: black ink cartridge (vat £6.00)

5.4 The following payments were authorised

£41.70 Clerk's September Allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70
£473.55 M Philo September Clerk's salary
£82.20 RoSPA Play Safety: play area annual inspection
£80.00 Rother Association of Local Councils: Annual Subscription including online mapping service

6. Policing in Iden

Concern had been raised during the last few days that there are regular communications from PCSO's in Kent whilst there appeared to be none at all in East Sussex. Kent reports are published on the social media platform Nextdoor. The clerk had contacted the District Commander Sarah Godfrey and requested that the pandemic cancelled meeting to discuss the latest on village policing be reinstated. As a result, a visit from her or Inspector Varral together with a PCSO was promised. The clerk is awaiting a date to be finalised. Police reports are made at Rother Association of Local Council meetings.

7. Iden Playing Fields, Play Area and Pavilion

The Cricket Club had not responded yet to the council's August letter about how to move forward as the pavilion association was effectively disbanded due to insufficient members. It appeared that the Cricket team had closed the pavilion for the winter season so insurers should be advised. The pavilion showers and loos needed flushing regularly to prevent legionella and some heating is required to prevent pipes bursting.

The minor branches hanging into the pavilion guttering had been cut.

A large branch from ash tree between the pavilion and field gate had dropped down. The tree will be monitored.

The replanted purple copper beech hedging in the garden of contemplation survived the summer and appeared established.

Whilst the playing field lacked space for a further bench, the Clerk had received a request from a non-resident for a memorial bench. It was suggested that a tree planted in a location chosen by the parish council might be an option.

8. Risk Assessment – Report on Parish Assets

The Clerk had tried to acquire a replacement directional arm from the contractor that usually maintained the fingerpost, but the contractor was dragging their feet and being difficult about providing the lettering. It may have to be that another method be sought to achieve the directional fingers' replacement.

9. Information for Councillors

The Clerk will attend a zoom planning update on Wednesday 9th September 7pm.
Rye Ancient Trails Run. On Sunday 12th September between 9.45am and 10.15 am a run would pass through the churchyard and playing fields. Signage would go up the day before and be taken down the day after.

Motorcross next meeting at Iden track is the 11th September.

The Woodlands Trust is offering trees for planting.

10. Date of Next Meeting - Virtual

Tuesday 5th October 2021, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.15pm.