



Agenda 1st September 2020, Iden Parish Council

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Parish council members are summoned to the Meeting to be held on
1st September 2020 at 7.30pm in Oxenbridge, Wittersham Road
Members of the Public and Press are welcome and encouraged to attend

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Disclosure of Interests

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the personal interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct. Members are reminded of the need to repeat their declaration immediately prior to the commencement of the item in question.

3. Minutes (available from idenvillage.wordpress.com)

To approve minutes of the parish council meeting held on 3rd March 2020 and 7th July 2020 (previously distributed) and to sign as a true record

The meeting to adjourn for up to 25 minutes for

Report from the County Councillor and District Councillors

Public Question Time

This 10-minute period is available for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the following agenda. Because of time constraints, only one question will be permitted per member of the public. Please advise the clerk if you have any other questions at the end of the meeting.

The meeting to reconvene.

Members of the public are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting when they must remain silent.

4. Planning

(Information on applications is available from Rother District Council website)

4.1 Enforcements:

Maltings Wood Yard, Maltings Lane – Change of use of premise – possible installation of septic tank

4.2 Appeals

2675 Orchard Field Grove Lane – Fell an Oak Tree – Still Pending

4.3 Planning Applications dealt with under Delegation to the Clerk

The following applications were supported:

RR/2020/672/P Moat Farm Oast, Readers Lane: Proposed extension to garage building with installation of additional PV solar panels

RR/2020/942/P Hawthorns, Church Lane: Proposed garage conversion including addition of front window to replace existing garage door

RR/2020/1002 Moat Farm Oast, Readers Lane: Erection of detached Victorian style greenhouse

4.4 Planning Decisions by Rother District Council:

RR/2019/2389/O The Smallholding: Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of part of building and garden area for residential dwelling – Refused

RR/2019/2841/L (Listed building Consent) Partridge, Main Street: Demolition of existing extension, link extension between dwelling and garage building, and internal works including part conversion of existing garage – Granted

RR/2019/2840/P Partridge Main Street: : Demolition of existing extension, link extension between dwelling and garage building, and internal works including part conversion of existing garage – Approved conditionally

RR/2020/672/P Moat Farm Oast, Readers Lane: Proposed extension to garage building with installation of additional PV solar panels – Approved conditionally

RR/2020/942/P Hawthorns, Church Lane: Proposed garage conversion including addition of front window to replace existing garage door – Approved conditionally

RR/2020/956/FN (For Notification purposes only) Barons Grange: Erection of enclosed steel portal framed building

RR/2020/1002 Moat Farm Oast, Readers Lane: Erection of detached Victorian style greenhouse – Approved conditionally

4.5 Applications to be considered:

RR/2020/1319/P Lambs Orchard, Playden Lane: First Floor Alterations to revert layout to original

5. Finances

5.1 Financial Information

End of Year Financial Review 2019-2020 and First Quarter Financial Reports are attached. The annual return has been submitted before the 31st July deadline and several acknowledgement emails were received. Receipts and payments made in April May and June are available from the website idenvillage.wordpress.com.

5.2 Bank Balances

End of year Balance as at 31st March 2020 £15,569.90

As at 30th April Balances stood at £22,550.39

As at 31st May Balances stood at £ 21,191.21

As at 30th June Balance stood at £17,729.83

As at 31st July Balances stood at £17,277.26

As at 31st August balance to be advised

5.3 July and August Receipts

£0.41	July Bank Interest
£150.00	Hastings Direct Covid 19 grant
£76.03	Pett Parish Council share of new printer for the Clerk
£76.03	Appledore Parish Council share of new printer for the Clerk
£0.35	August Bank Interest
£1200.00	Burial Fees

5.4 Payments made in July and August

£452.05	July Clerk's Salary
£273.68	HP uk: new printer for clerk and set of full inks
£19.98	Wittersham Stores: gift for internal auditor
£41.70	July Clerk's Salary allowances: room and car
£31.50	July Clerk's Administration costs: refreshments for the parish meeting £29.20 and stamps £2.30
£9.33	July Pett PC: share of clerk's mobile phone
£452.05	August Clerk's Salary
£41.70	August Clerk's Salary allowances: room and car
£9.33	August Pett PC: share of clerk's mobile phone

5.4 Agreement of payments (including but not limited to)

£ 452.05	Clerk's monthly salary
£ 41.70	Clerk's Salary Allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70
£3.33	Appledore PC Share of a box of paper for the printer
£ 9.33	Pett Parish Council Share of Mobile Phone for Clerk plus an amount to be advised for the increase in monthly charge from April onwards. New monthly share for Iden to be advised
	Charge Card Nil

6. Covid-19

Iden Community Emergency Forum responded to the Covid pandemic supporting any residents in isolation or shielding. The national call for volunteers resulted in Iden receiving around 30 offers of help from volunteers. ICE worked alongside Rye Mutual Aid which grew to provide a Rother District wide support network. Iden Stores offered a food deliver service for residents. ICE will continue to support residents for several months yet.

The Council donated £250 to Rye Food Bank to support those with reduced incomes. Hastings Direct Newspaper has since refunded the council £150 from its own Covid-19 fund. The council could make a further donation to assist those in financial difficulties resulting from the pandemic. Rother Rural Trust is also able help those in financial difficulties with items needed such as washing machines, clothes or any basic need items.

The council encouraged local groups to apply for financial help from the Covid-19 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant from central government. All groups in the village received some financial assistance

7. Future Schedule of Meetings and Delegation to Clerk

To consider whether to renew the delegation and schedule and management of future meetings

8. Review of New Burial Ground Charges

Iden New Burial Ground has seen two burials since March. To agree a new schedule of charges

9. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

Following the slow easing of lockdown due to Covid-19, cricket resumed on Iden Playing Fields in July with a reduced schedule of matches. The council waived the hirer charge for the season. The play area reopened in August. Iden Pavilion remains closed. A further memorial bench and oak tree was installed in June. There is now little suitable space for any further benches on the ground.

10. Risk Assessment – Report on Parish Assets

The council noticeboard was sanded down and varnished in August.

11. Information for Councillors (for noting or inclusion on future agenda)

The Clerk is still working on the new website.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 6th October 2020 7.30pm Iden Village Hall

13. 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 Salary

1972 LGA sch 12A, part 1, 5

Iden Parish Council End of Year Financial Review 2019 – 2020

Iden Parish Council focused its work on replacing the old igloo climbing frame and rejuvenating the baby swings in the play area. Although the parish council had saved towards replacement equipment over the last 5 years and had asked for small donations over that time, it was decided to use some of the reserves and the contingency fund of £1,000 , along with a 50% match funding grant from Rother District Council to install a new wooden Chute Activity Centre and a nest swing for young and disabled with a new safety surface. Unfortunately, as a result of the coronavirus measurers brought in by central government the play area has yet to be opened with the new equipment. The total cost of the play equipment was £25,386. The council was fortunate to have the play equipment installed between the autumn rains of 2019 and spring lock down of 2020.

Otherwise the parish council final expenditure came in well below that budgeted because the cost of grass cutting was significantly reduced as the rainy autumnal weather reduced the number of usual cuts. Though a few trees were brought down

on the playing fields, dealing with these did not cost the council. It was also decided not to clear the ditch along the additional parking area at the Playing Fields.

Regarding the other smaller assets, the council are responsible for, the hedge at the war memorial had not taken well and was replaced with smaller plants. Should any of the original plants recuperate these would be planted in the playing fields or new burial ground. The fingerpost near to Iden Stores needs further work but no quotes have yet been obtained. Similarly, the council is still waiting for UK Power Network to reduce the trees from electricity cables crossing All Saints Churchyard. The wait for work and quotes has resulted in little spending from the budget for minor assets. This year the council took the opportunity to donate to the British Legion as per usual and to Rother Rural Trust and Iden Footpath Team.

The parish council only considers the precept as its source of income because funds from the playing fields and the burial ground are very unpredictable, however, these did total just over £1,000. HMRC has also paid the council all outstanding vat that can be reclaimed to the end of the financial year.

As a result of reduced expenditure and burial ground income the expected reduction of council reserves is less. As at the 31st March 2020 bank balance stood at £15,569. The council should hold a reserve of 50% of its precept (its share of the council tax bill you pay) of £8,000. In addition to that there are the following ring-fenced sums:

£246 garden society donation for natural enhancements around the village
£1,842.54 Website and accessories (We know the new website set up cost is £850 and the hosting fee is about £150 and the Clerk will need a new printer at some point).

This leaves the council with £5480.46. We would have been nearer to £3,500.

Iden Parish Council First Quarter Financial Report 2020-2021

The first quarter is marked by the Covid-19 lockdown, which central government imposed on the 23rd March. Iden Parish is one of just a few parishes that has held its annual parish meeting this year. During lockdown central government altered a few of the rules for parish councils. The annual meeting of the council at which the Chairman is elected every year can be deferred until May 2021. Thus, Ray Griffin remains Chairman until then. Although the council did not get an opportunity to set up delegation of the daily running of the council to the Clerk until July, it was able to respond to resident's enquiries and pay bills due. As grass maintenance for parks was allowed during lockdown, the playing fields and cemeteries were kept in good order. Unfortunately the April meeting with the attendance of Chief Inspector Sarah Godley, who would have advised on the plans for local policing, was cancelled.

The first quarter's income is almost entirely made up by the receipt of 50% of the precept (council tax share for the parish council) being £8,000. A £100 fee was also received from the burial ground. Bank interest on the council bank accounts is tiny and totalled £1.24 for the period. Total income/receipts for the period was £8,101.24.

Under the council's financial regulations, it was able to pay any invoices due and succeeded in holding the annual insurance cost the same as last year. Online banking made this process easy in the circumstances. The council also donated £250 to Rye Food Bank when it was advertised that supplies were needed in April. Hastings Direct Newspaper has since refunded the parish council £150 from its

Covid-19 fund. The council offered to cover any costs to Iden Community Emergency Forum but these are likely to be very small.

With the news of some members of the royal family succumbing to the virus, the Clerk acquired a condolence book to be used, as per the instructions from the royal household to parishes, upon the passing of a significant member of the royal family. Setting up the framework for the new parish council website was completed and paid for (£850) from the ring fence funds received to assist with complying with the amended accessibility regulations. The ring-fenced amount is reduced to £992.54. The clerk has designed a new format for the agenda and minutes to comply with the rules. The current website may not be totally compliant, but it is still usable. Total payments were £5,918.81.