



# *Iden Parish Council*

**Minutes of the Meeting held on  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 19:30, Iden Village Hall.**

## **Notices**

We were advised that very sadly and suddenly, Cllr Glazier's daughter has died. The entire Council passed on its sincere condolences. Cllr Glazier will not be standing again in the forthcoming County Council elections, after many years dedicated service, but he will be attending our next meeting.

The Chair announced that a new Parish Clerk had been selected and the appointment will be formalised before the next meeting.

In the absence of a Parish Clerk, Cllr Luckhurst agreed to take the minutes

## **Present**

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), J. Cooper, B. Luckhurst and G. Say  
District Councillor P. Osborne  
Members of public - 6

## **Apologies**

County Councillor K Glazier  
District Councillor L Hacking.  
Parish Councillor P Allard

## **Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations**

Councillor Cooper- Bell applications below

## **Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was unanimously resolved to agree the minutes of the 3 March 2026

## **The meeting adjourned at 7.35 pm for Public Session**

## **County Councillor Report**

Councillor Glazier not present

## **District Councillor Report**

Councillor Osborne PO reported very quiet times pre-election.  
Questions from members of public about new food collection bins and failures to empty all. Early days.

PO declared he hoped there could be a speedy transit through planning for The Bell refurbishment. (RR/2026/0194/FULL)

A member of the public highlighted the difficulty of negotiating the new Planning Portal and felt it hindered many from declaring their thoughts and objections to planning issues. MM resolved take this up with the Head of Planning

### **Public Questions**

Nothing further.

### **The meeting reconvened 7.45pm**

#### **6. Update on the Purchase of The Bell Inn**

Councillor Cooper is the Chair of the Community Benefit Society The Bell has now been bought by the Society and Christopher Strangeways and whilst some work is being done on the interior, nothing can happen until planning consents are received

### **7 Planning**

#### **7.1 The Bell Inn**

Previous 3 applications have now been withdrawn

#### **7.2 Enforcements and Appeals**

**Nothing further to report**

#### **7.3 Planning Decisions by Rother District Council**

**RR/2026/0218/LB The Granary Listed Building Consent refused for replacement windows #**

#### **7.4 Applications Considered**

**RR/2026/0257/506 Conkers- to exclude need for affordable housing**

**The Council unanimously agreed not to support this application**

Planning permission for this development was granted in 2025 on the clear understanding that the site would provide a mixture of affordable and more expensive houses. It is extremely unlikely that planning permission would have been granted without such a mix.

1. The arguments put forward by the developers to remove affordable housing from the development are highly speculative and based upon predictions of building costs and house price inflation that could equally apply to more expensive homes. In addition, the council's own independent consultant has stated 'it is unclear why the applicants would go ahead with this scheme'.

2. The signed s. 106 agreement whereby the developers agreed to contribute to the sustainability of the community of Iden was based in part upon the existence of additional affordable housing.
3. In January 2026 the Rother District Council Interim Sustainability appraisal describe this development as overall having low sustainability. This would be even less if it contains no affordable houses.

### **RR/2026/0195/LB RR/2026/0194/FULL The Bell Inn refurbishment etc**

The Council unanimously agreed to support this application and a suitable letter would be sent to Planning detailing support from residents and the Council over the past 3 years since the building was closed

### **7.5 Applications for Notification Only – None**

### **7.6 New Local Plan and Propose Site Allocations**

**The Council's response to the consultation has been submitted to Rother and will be made public**

## **8. Financial Report**

### **March Bank Balances Sign Off and Agreement**

28 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	£ 19,597.58
Plus total Receipts	£ 1,074.71
Less total Payments	<u>£ 2,887.78</u>
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	£ 17,784.51
(31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 statements -Treasurers Account £7,202.10 and Reserve Account £10,582.41)	
<u>February Receipts</u>	
£4.06	Bank Interest
£1,070.65	Vat reclaim
<u>February Payments</u>	
£1,429.20	Salaries for two months
£41.70	M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£25.60	Northiam Parish Council: printing leaflets for local plan
£21.65	EDF : Pavilion Electricity
£4.25	Lloyds Monthly bank charge
£257.41	Castle Water: Pavilion water
£260.00	R Barkway- The Handy Man: Repair to paly area gate and pavilion drain
£816.00	S J Gray: Treeworks in churchyard and playing fields
Charge Card	
£32.00	Annual fee for charge car

## **9 Donation**

It was resolved to continue the annual donation to the Air Ambulance Service £400  
A locum will be employed to complete the year end returns

### **10.1 Play Area Gates**

The work to repair the gate and the manhole cover by the pavilion has been completed

### **10.2 Pavilion and Playing Field**

Negotiations are continuing with the insurers to settle the insurance claim  
An informal meeting is to be arranged for Councillors to discuss the Pavilion situation

### **10.3 Risk Assessment**

Nothing further to the above.

## **11. Annual Parish Meeting**

**It was agreed that we try to have an Annual parish Meeting on Wednesday 13 May and enquiries will be made of Highways and the Rother Voluntary Action Group to see if they can supply speakers**

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 5 April 2026, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

This will be preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Council

The meeting closed at 8.20pm