



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th November 2025 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Notices

An act of Remembrance will be held at the War Memorial on Sunday 9th November from 10.50am and will be followed by tea and coffee in the village hall. There will be a collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The ashes of Fred Cuming RA were recently interred during a private ceremony in the New Burial ground.

The Chair thanked Sue White for weed killing round the Church itself, keeping the area looking lovely.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), J. Cooper, B. Luckhurst and G. Say

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

Members of the Public: Three.

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence.

1. Apologies

Parish Councillor P. Allard: County Councillor K. Glazier who was attending a conference and District Councillor L. Hacking.

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following minor amendment, the minutes of the 7th October 2025 were unanimously agreed, as a true record.

4. The meeting adjourned at 7.37 pm for Public Session

County Councillor Report

Hopes had been falsely raised, with the site of heavy road maintenance machinery, near the Peace and Plenty, that the area of potholes on the road to Iden at the Peace and Plenty Junction would be resurfaced. It was highlighted that drivers were driving on the verge and on the opposite side of the road to navigate the patchwork of holes.

A resident had noticed that the A259 was regularly resurfaced and enquired when the work would reach Iden. However, the A259 is maintained by National Highways which is a different body to East Sussex Highways. National Highways only covers motorways and A roads.

Residents raised the potholes on Grove Lane on the bend by the stables and that the bollards work opposite Windy Corner had remain incomplete (fill the hole) for some time now.

District Councillor Report

Councillor Osborne confirmed that he had called in the applications relating to The Bell Inn. The application would therefore be decided by the full planning committee should the officers be minded to recommend approval of the applications.

Residents advised of difficulties of using the new website for planning. The previous site software was about 30 years old and would soon not be supported. The new system had been found to be popular with other local authorities.

Public Questions

A resident highlighted that the Grove Lane Bus Shelter again needed the ivy being removed. Clerk to remedy.

5. The meeting reconvened 7.45pm

6. Planning (brought forward)

6.1 The Bell Inn Change of Use Application

Not all the 180 objections were currently showing on Rother Planning Website. A resident group would be able to briefly speak at the planning meeting should the application be referred to the planning committee. There is only a short period of a few days to submit requests to speak once the planning committee agenda is published so everyone interested would need to keep watch for the committee's meeting agenda addressing the application.

6.2 Enforcements and Appeals

Enforcements on the tree house on Randolph's Lane and The Bell Inn were still outstanding. An enforcement request may have also been submitted regarding the new fencing at the War Memorial.

Iden Store is waiting to hear if In Post will apply for listed building consent for the now removed drop boxes installation if it wishes to retain this facility. Alternatively, it will need to remove the connection box and wiring that had gone with the installation. As the porch is subject to strict conditions about repairing the damage caused by its removal, this will also apply to the In Post wiring.

6.3 Planning Decisions by Rother District Council

RR/2023/2153/P Conkers, Main Street: Erection of 15 dwellings together with associated access, car parking and landscaping and demolition of modern extension of Conkers (Grade II listed) together with renovation works. Granted subject to conditions. The application is finally advised as approved with a substantial number of conditions.

6.4 Applications Considered - None

6.5 Applications For Notification Only - None

7. Finances

7.1 Noted October Bank Reconciliation

30 th September 2025	£ 26,879.82
Plus total Receipts	£ 7,105.20
Less total Payments	<u>£ 10,916.63</u>
30 th October 2025	£ 23,068.39

(30th October 2025 statements -Treasurers Account £12,510.80 and Reserve Account £10,557.59)

October Receipts

£5.20	Bank Interest
£6,100	D. Chalet
£1,000	New Burial Ground

October Payments

£678.36	Salaries.
£41.70	M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£4.25	Lloyds Bank: Account maintenance monthly fee
£6,100	Iden Pavilion Trust Donation (LGA 1972 s137)
£4,032	Gibbs & Son: Grass cutting
£26.60	Castle Water: Pavilion Water
£33.72	EDF: Pavilion Electricity

7.2 Payments to Authorised

£851.26	Salaries for October including back dating govt agreed hourly rate.
£41.70	M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70
£192.00	Parish online: .gov email service annual fee (vat £32.00)
£4.25	Lloyds Bank: Account maintenance monthly fee
£50.00	RBL Poppy Appeal Donation (LGA 1972 s.137)
£69.55	Refund M Philo: GoDaddy: iden.uk domain 2 year renewal
£37.50	Pett PC: April to September share of mobile phone for clerk

£150.00 RSR Drains: Pav Cesspit empty 01.11.2025
 £47.00 ICO : data handler renewal
 Charge Card (17 November)
 £7.97 Iden Stores: Stationery
 £1.70 Iden Stores: Stamp
 £36.28 Iden Stores : gift to internal auditor (chairs allowance)
 £84.99 Microsoft: Annual subscription (vat £14.16)
 cash back 0.67p
 Pavilion Electricity and Water unknown

7.3 First and Second Quarter Financial Report

Iden Parish Council First Quarter Financial Report 2025-2026

On 30th June 2025, the running balance is £19,460.84 including a general reserve for emergencies of £9,000. Total quarter's receipts including the first half of the precept of £9,000 were £9,107.32 and total quarter's payments were £4,457.42 including vat (£4,271.75 net of vat). Only 17% of the budget has been spent and there is still the remaining 50% of the precept to be received. It is too early to say with any certainty but taking both into consideration if the council spend the full budget the council may be left with only £2,000 over the general reserve.

Expenditure for the quarter can be split between the running cost of the council (£3,624) and the pavilion (£647).

Iden Parish Council Second Quarter Financial Report 2025-2026

On 30th September 2025, the running balance is £26,879.82 including a general reserve for emergencies of £9,000. Total quarter's receipts were £11,718.57 including the remaining Precept payment (council tax for the parish council) and £2,000 from the New Burial Ground; £700.00 from Iden Cricket club and £18.57 bank interest. Total quarter's payments were £4,299.59 including vat (£4,190.33 net of vat).

The council is half-way through the year and about half the budget has been expended. The grass cutting bill has come in and there will be a further smaller bill. There has been no need for tree works but there is still time for autumn and winter weather to cause tree damage.

Additionally, the council will be paying for a new email for the parish council to comply with current and more stringent security requirements for data.

7.4 First Draft Budget

The clerk ran through the first draft of the budget for 2026-2027 and requested councillors to consider whether there were any projects or ideas that needed to be considered in the budget. The precept will need to be agreed at the January meeting or latest the one in February.

8. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

8.1 Play Area Gates

The clerk was obtaining quotes from various contractors to replace the single gate which could do with being increased in width to reflect the latest legislation as well as another gated entrance to the play area again to comply with the latest legislation. A double gate is quoted as well to allow the council to consider improve contractors access to the play area.

8.3 Steam Cottage Gate

East Sussex County Council Public Rights of Way Joy Team had installed the new gate efficiently and tidily. The old gate is being kept by the footpath group for reuse in the future.

8.4 Pavilion and Playing Field

The Pavilion Trust advised that the Parish Council wishes to discuss with Iden Cricket Club the fee for use of the playing field for 2026 (currently £200) and would like them to liaise with the Council regarding its fees for the use of the Pavilion Ideally the Council would like the new fee arrangements to be in place by the end of this year. There was a suggestion that the fee for the playing fields ought to remain the same. Councillor Say would participate in discussions on behalf of the parish council.

At the next meeting, the Clerk to report on maintenance work required on the playing field, Churchyard and car park.

9. Council Policies -Data Audit and Draft Document Retention and Disposal Policy

It was resolved to agree the Document Retention and Disposal Policy

10. Risk Assessment

The broken metal gate for the play area has been secured.

There are some dying ash trees in the Churchyard and playing fields. The clerk was requested to obtain quotes.

11. Information for Councillors

New council emails are being set up.

The Chair had report to public rights of way the overgrown, polluted and fly tipping area along and around the Thornsedale Footpath

12. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 2nd December 2025, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.