



1ST SEPTEMBER 2020, MEETING MINUTES
IDEN PARISH COUNCIL
7.30 PM, OXENBRIDGE, IDEN

Village Notices

Since the March meeting the village has sadly lost, Martin Carter, Ian Rhodes, Iain Laughland, Peter Frost, David Rogers, Joan Fairhall and Jack Smith. The chairman thanked the Ice team under Jim and Gill Wood leadership, Iden Stores, The Bell Inn, the postman and all the volunteers who helped during lockdown and afterwards. Residents were also thanked for taking care and keeping themselves safe. Jim and Gill Wood were thanked for the use of their barn for the meeting.

Minutes

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

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

Members of the Public: 7

1. Apologies

District Councillor Sally-Ann Hart and Councillor Say.

2. Disclosure of Interest on Agenda Items

IPC Code of Conduct

None.

3. Minutes

Following minor amendments, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the 3rd March 2020 and 7th July 2020 as a true record.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.36 pm for county and district councillors' reports and public questions

Pandemic Community Spirit

The cooperation between councils and residents had been invaluable in looking after the vulnerable during and after lockdown.

County Council Services

Staff were working within pandemic safety guidelines to provide services. It was unlikely that the full council would meet in person this year, as meetings over 30 people were currently prohibited: 70 people had to come together for a full council meeting.

Civil Parking Enforcement

Enforcement would be coming in on the 28th September and warning signs would be erected shortly.

Test and Trace and Covid-19 Support

In order to contain outbreaks test and trace required correct and quick testing. Although there had been some initial difficulties all stations and their associated laboratories could return test results in a few days. The county's Covid-19 levels were some of the lowest in the country and the relative hotspots of Eastbourne and Hastings were being monitored closely.

The county council was in the process of linking with Rother Emergency Action Team (REACT).

District Council Working under Covid-19

The council was working well remotely using teams, even with the inadequacies of the internet. £8million of funding to help small business during Covi-19 had been distributed. The planning application process had slowed initially with notices not being posted. A district owned company had been set up with the aim of building 1000 new homes by 2035. Council owned land was being considered for building. Rother is also working on getting building sites moving and completed. All leisure centres are now open and the council is pushing for all public conveniences to be opened. Camber is experiencing high visitor numbers everyday creating parking and distancing issues.

Public Questions

A member of the public suggested that with more people walking and cycling to stay safe and remain healthy, the bus and rail services times should connect more. Government income from drivers to fund road and transport would reduce following the introduction of zero tax on carbon vehicles. Other measures to raise funds for government were being considered.

A member of the public requested that the signage for road works completed in June be removed. The Clerk had already reported these about two weeks ago.

The basal growths on trees on the verge to Elmsmead had been removed. The tree trunks are now visible.

Following query regarding the district investment into shopping centres, it was advised that Rother had chosen a more commercial property avenue of business units and not shopping centres. So far, the rental income was holding up.

Parish cq1ouncillors thanked the refuse collectors for keeping the service running and mentioned that the website had provided timely

information. Residents were reminded that small items such as batteries etc needed to be placed in a clear bag on top of the recycle bin.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.50pm

4. Planning

Town and Country Planning Acts 1990 sch1 and 2010

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

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 Rother District Council Planning Decisions

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 Considered

RR/2020/1319/P Lambs Orchard, Playden Lane: First Floor Alterations to revert layout to original It was resolved to support.

5. Finances

I.P.C. Financial Regulations

5.1 Financial Report

The annual return has been submitted before the 31st July deadline and several acknowledgement emails were received.

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.

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

5.3 Receipts

First Quarter receipts are attached.

£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

First Quarter Payments are attached

£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

5.5 Payments Authorised

£ 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 72p increase in monthly charge from April onwards. New monthly share for Iden is £9.51
Charge Card Nil

6. Covid-19

Iden Community Emergency Forum responded to the Covid-19 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 the Clerk

The parish council will return to holding the usual monthly face to face meetings at the village hall.

8. Review of Burial Ground Charges

Review of charges was deferred but **the paper on donations in memory of residents was resolved to form the council's new policy in this regard.** Clerk to convert into the standard policy statement.

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.

The clerk had been unable to the usual contractor regarding the fingerpost near to Iden Stores. The clerk to try again otherwise to find someone else.

No trees, on the playing field, had fallen in the recent storms.

The footpath gate from the playing field near Stream Cottage was in a terrible condition and had been noticed during lockdown. It had been secured but no work can be carried out by the footpath team until the county council officer for footpath teams gives the go ahead to the team. Their officer has been unable to take a look. It had been advised that whilst council permanent staff were furloughed volunteers could not be put to work. Nearly all the styles in the parish required work. The footpath team will review them and list the work required.

11. Information for Councillors

The Clerk is still working on the new website.

Neighbouring residents to the motorcross track had mentioned that a couple of riders had been using the track. It was unsure if these riders were the owner's friends or free riders who had taken advantage of the gate on Gardiner's Hill being left open. It was noted that the owners had chased off free riders in the past as they breached his insurance cover. The Clerk had spoken to Southern Water in the past to request that the gate be closed by their staff and was advised that it was on their files that the farmer had requested that the gate be left open. Only the land owner could amend the instructions to Southern Water.

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 it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of business transacted the Public and Press leave the meeting during the consideration of Clerk's Salary. It was further resolved to agree a 2.75 % increase as of the 1st April 2020 as per the national salary award

1972 LGA sch 12A, part 1, 5

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm

Iden Parish Council Receipts and Payments Year Ending 31st March 2021													
Receipts	First Quarter												
First Quarter		Total	£ 8,101.24										
Date	Detail	From	Monthly Total	Amount	Precept	Burial Fees	Pavilion	Iden Playing Field use	Grants and Donations	Grants and Donations I.C.E.	Bank Interest	VAT Refund	Sundries
April													
01.04.2020	50% Precept	Rother District Council		£ 8,000.00	£ 8,000.00								
07.04.2020	Bank Interest	LLoyds		£ 0.42							£0.42		
			£ 8,000.42										
May													
11.05.2020	Bank Interest	LLoyds		£0.43							£0.43		
			£ 0.43										
June													
01.06.2020	Burial Fees			£100.00		£ 100.00							

	Bank Interest	LLoyds		£ 0.39								£0.39		
			£ 100.39		£ 8,000.00	£ 100.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -		£1.24	£ -	£ -