



# *Iden Parish Council*

## **Minutes of Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 at 7.30pm at Iden Village Hall**

### **Village Notices**

The chairman thanked Nick Padgham and Claire Karl who maintain the war memorial garden. The memorial looked very respectable for Remembrance Sunday.

The Village Hall Committee was also thanked for providing a tea party for the over 50s. Footage of the 1954 Fete was shown at the event, using the projector and lights funded by the Rye Community donation to the village hall.

### **Minutes**

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

In attendance: County Councillor Keith Glazier, District Councillor P. Osborne and the Clerk M. Philo  
Members of the Public: 8

Item No.		
1	<b>Apologies</b>	District Councillor Sally-Ann Hart was attending hustings.
2	<b>Disclosure of Interest on Agenda Items</b>	All councillors had a prejudicial interest regarding the Fete.
3	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Following amendment, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 as a true record.</b>
		<b>The meeting was adjourned at 7.35 pm.</b>
		<b>County and District Councillors' Reports</b>
	<b>Roadside Road Works signs</b>	These temporary signs had been removed the day after the last meeting.
	<b>County Council Budget and Council Tax</b>	The county council budget should be finalised at the 20 <sup>th</sup> December meeting. However, should the newly elected government make any changes to previously advised spending then the county council will have to reconsider their budget and delay the decision.
	<b>Public Questions</b>	
	<b>Potholes</b>	A resident reported the 6 potholes at the rear of Elmsmead. The Clerk had already made a report to Highways.

	<b>Overgrown Hedge opposite Mi Cottage</b>	The Clerk had reported it to highways the day after the last meeting and spoken to the highways steward about it during the following week. Letters had been left at the address many months ago, but the hedge had not been cut back.
		<b>The meeting was reconvened at 7.45pm</b>
4	<b>Planning</b>	Town and Country Planning Acts 1990 sch1 and 2010
4.1	<b>Enforcements</b>	None
4.2	<b>R.D.C Planning Decisions</b>	RR/219/2287/P Corkwood Farmhouse: Erection of garden room to side of dwelling. It was resolved to support the application. – Granted.
4.3	<b>Applications Received</b>	None.
5	<b>Finances</b>	I.P.C. Financial Regulations
5.1	<b>Financial Report</b>	Bank balances as at 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 stood at Reserve Account £9,910.88 and Treasurer's account £6,895.45. The Clerk had prepared a first draft budget. The play area general maintenance budget had been reduced to £50 and had increase all other costs by a small amount for inflation. The total budget still reached £16,000 as per the last two years, whilst the precept had remained at £14,000 for five years. Income from the cemetery is not certain and should not be relied upon. The last two years had seen income from the cemetery cover the difference, however the income so far this year would fall short. Increasing the precept by a £1,000 would increase the band D household by £5.
5.2	<b>Receipts for Previous Month</b>	£ 3,534.78 HMRC vat refund £ 0.45 November bank interest
5.3	<b>Interim Payments</b>	£ 144.00 Sussex Association of Local Councils: Legal and Finance Training day for the Clerk (vat refund £ 24.00)
5.4	<b>Payments</b>	£ 452.05 Clerks monthly salary (8 hours per week) £ 41.70 Clerks admin; room £30 and car £11.70 £ 9.33 Pett PC- Mobile Phone Charge Card £ 40.00 Information Commissioner's Office: annual Data Handler registration fee.
6	<b>New Burial Ground Charges Review</b>	The Clerk advised that the fees needed altering to cover internment of ashes as these now took considerable land space and to deal with the issue that it was the same price to acquire a double depth for a coffin as two single depth plot for coffins. The decision was deferred to review charges from local borough and district charges.

7	<b>Highways Urban Verge Cuts in Iden</b>	Highways used to provide up to 6 verge cuts per year. Two years ago, Highways reduced these to the minimum safety level of two a year but offered parishes the opportunity to pay for the additional cuts. For the last two years Rother District Council paid this charge but will no longer cover the cost. The charge for four additional urban cuts is £364. Highways is also offering to contribute £182, should the parish council self-deliver. Any contractor employed must comply with Highways requirements for insurance and training. The previous quote from our current grass contractor was higher. It is not a legal requirement to cut verges more than twice a year. <b>It was resolved to contract Highways for the four additional urban verge cuts, cost £364.00</b>
		<b>The meeting was adjourned at 8.05pm for District Councillor Report</b>
	<b>Development and Site Allocation Plan</b>	The sites allocated for development, which include the field behind Conkers on Main Street, will be ratified, once the consultation on the planning inspectors required amendments has been completed. No amendments were required regarding Conker's field.
	<b>District Council Commercial Housing Company</b>	The district council intends to build 1000 low cost homes in the next 15 years through a new commercial arm.
	<b>Climate Emergency Meeting</b>	The working party were considering all areas of the council. Deciding where to make changes was difficult as the initial cost of changes had to be balanced against lost efficiencies elsewhere.
		<b>The meeting was reconvened at 8.15pm</b>
8.	<b>Fete and Storage Container</b>	Currently the fete committee member numbers were too depleted to hold an annual general meeting. Should the committee dis-band, the monies held will be distributed between the pavilion and village hall: the pavilion would have enough funds to cover the next two years buildings insurance.
9.	<b>Standing Orders</b>	Following the amendment of quorum to be three throughout and the number of councillors asking for financial change being amended to three, <b>it was resolved to agree the Standing Orders as presented.</b>
10.	<b>Schedule of Meetings</b>	<b>It was resolved that 2020 schedule of meetings will be every first Tuesday of the month except for August when the council does not meet.</b> The annual parish meeting would be held after the regular March meeting. It was suggested that the footage of the fete could be shown again.

11.	<b>Iden Playing Fields and Play Area</b>	The new equipment installation was almost complete. In the coming week councillors and Clerk to visit the site and sign off the installation works. The pavilion association would be reimbursed for contractors using the facilities electricity, water and heating. As the ground was so wet and the grass turf newly laid it was considered prudent to keep the play area closed till the end of March to allow the area to settle and recover.
12.	<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The pavilion association would drain the water now the play area is completed. It was suggested that the council should meet with the association in the new year. The Clerk had reported the car left on Coldharbour Lane near the playing fields. The car was locked and in good condition. There was some fly tipping in Cold Harbour Lane for the Clerk to report. The additional parking area gate over latch was now difficult to close as the gates did not line up well. Councillors and Clerk to look and resolve. The fingerpost near Iden Stores is showing signs of rot in the main shaft. The Chairman to look and recommend action to Clerk.
13.		<b>Information for Councillors</b>
	<b>Speed Watch</b>	Speed watch have been offered the opportunity for a PC to attend the odd session alongside the voluntary group
	<b>Consultation on Police Powers regarding Unauthorised Encampments</b>	As this was a relevant issue for the council, the clerk suggested councillors forwarding their replies to the brief survey. The Clerk would compile, and the final response agreed at the next meeting. It was highlighted that long-term parking in laybys is considered an encampment.
14.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm at Iden Village Hall
		The meeting closed at 8.30pm