



Iden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th March 2024 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.

Present

Councillors M. Miller (Chair), P. Allard, B. Luckhurst and J. Wood.

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

Members of the Public: Seven.

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence

1. Apologies

District Councillor Hacking and Parish Councillor Say.

2. Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the 6th February 2024 as a true record.

The meeting adjourned at 7.33 pm for Public Session

County Councillor Glazier Report

Councillor Glazier's concerns over the potholes in Grove Lane had already recently been noted by the Highways Steward. He was also aware that the Steward was discussing the flooded garden issue for one resident. There were 30 teams out jet patching plus 2 teams resurfacing. In wet weather only temporary repairs can be made and these are marked with a T. February was the wettest since 1826.

At the last cabinet meeting the third quarter financial report noted a £28 million overspend in children's services but this can be met by the transactional reserve. Children's services and adult services had been rated good with some areas of children's services had been rated outstanding.

A resident raised the condition of the roads entering the village. Councillor Glazier would ask the Steward to review them again.

A resident queried the value of spending on archaeology when funds were short. This expenditure had come from a separate budget. The County Council is legally required to store its paperwork, historical artefacts and information for the future.

District Councillors Paul Osborne Report

The District Council agreed to raise the council tax by a further £5 a year for a band D property and to move the local plan on to public consultation for 12 weeks from the 12 April.

Public Questions

A member of the public asked if there was any news on the empty affordable houses but there was no response yet.

Concern was expressed about the Ringo App charging a minimum fee which would double the parking fee if just for a short period. It seemed that parking metres would not be installed on the road to the Military Canal.

The meeting reconvened 8.00pm

4. Planning

4.1 Enforcements and Appeals

No appeals outstanding and no further enforcement advice since the last meeting.

4.2 Planning Decisions made by Rother District Council (since the last meeting)

- i. RR/2024/44/P Orchard Cottage, Readers Lane: Erection of single storey extensions to side, front and rear. Approved.

4.3 Applications Considered

- i. **RR/2024/201P Tyson March Farm: Removal of Condition 2 relating to agricultural occupancy on RR/76/0087. It was unanimously resolved to support.**
- ii. **RR/2024/51/L Old Tudor, Readers Lane: Repairs to sunroof, replacement of rainwater goods and replacement of damaged fenestration, swapping windows and door positions. It was unanimously resolved to support.**
- iii. **RR/2024/172/P Moat Farm Oast: Proposed conversion of part of garage building including new dormer to create self-contained annex for family. It was unanimously resolved to support.**
- iv. **RR/2024/174/P and RR/2024/175/L Partridge, Main Street: New side extension, demolition of existing extension and internal works. It was unanimously resolved to support.**
- v. **RR/2024/237/P Milestones, Playden Lane: Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden. It was unanimously resolved to object to the application because of concern that it would set a precedent with consequences.**

5. Council Finances

5.1 Bank Balances

Bank Balances:

31 st January 2024	£20,022.77
Plus total Receipts	£ 1,433.82
Less total Payments	<u>£ 1,211.69</u>
29 th February 2024	£20,244.90
Less charge card payment	<u>£ 63.60</u>
Running balance	£ 20,181.30

(29th February statements -Treasurers Account £9,861.26 and Reserve Account £10,383.64)

5.2 February Receipts

£11.45	Bank Interest
£1,385.17	HMRC vat reclaim for the year
£32.82	Pett PC: Share of ink for Clerk

5.3 February Additional Payments

None.

5.4 The Following Payments were Authorised:

£551.20	Clerk's February salary.
£41.70	Clerk's salary allowances: Room £30 and car £11.70
£1,440.00	Nigel Gibbs & Son: Cemetery boundary tidy (vat £240)
Charge Card (11 March)	
£22.60	Laptop battery
£9.00	Timpson Key cut for Iden Pavilion Trust (vat £1.50)
£32.00	Lloyds annual charge card fee

5.5 Clerk's Salary hourly rate from 1st April 2024

The Clerk is paid for 8 hours a week. At the clerk's annual review, no decision was made for April 2024, it was unanimously resolved to increase the hourly rate to £18 per hour, to bring the parish council in line with other councils. The council will also need, in the next couple of years, to commit to a pension scheme as the auto-enrolment threshold of £833 a month is breached.

6. Pavilion Finances

6.1 Bank Balance

Bank Balances on 29th February 2024 Treasurers Account £694.93

6.2 January Receipts

Nil

6.3 Additional January Payments

Castle Water decided by estimated readings that the water usage for the month would be a credit leaving the account in credit by £3.13.

EDF decided to comply with the 2 weeks' notice period before taking funds, so no debit was made in January.

6.4 Payments

£51.76 EDF 18 January to 12 February – Direct debit 6th March monthly direct debit. Castle Water payment is unknown.

7. Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion

i. **Sign Commemorating the Gifting of the Fields by Mr Mason**

The sign has been removed as the post is rotten. It was suggested that a new stand be devised which also included information on the sun dial, to be located on the nearby fence.

ii. **Report by Iden Pavilion Group**

Now the group has security of tenure, once the trust is formed then it will be able to apply for a bank account. Other plans are on hold till then. The group had looked at organising a dark skies evening.

iii. **Donating Funds to the Pavilion Group**

As the clerk explained within public time, invoices should shortly be issued for the playing field and pavilion hire. Anticipating that the Trust would move forward quickly to take over managing the facility, the Trust would require funds to pay for services. However, as the trust was not yet formed nor a bank account open then the council would continue to manage the facility for the time being.

iv. **Pavilion Safety Inspection**

It was resolved to contract Armadillo Safety Solutions to carry out a safety audit. Cost £350.

8. Risk Assessment

The Playing Fields were very wet with the continued rain and the fallen telegraph pole opposite the playing field entrance was still hanging in the overhead electricity cables. UK Power Network were still to attend the site.

9. Information for Councillors

A map of verge grass cuts had been posted in the noticeboard.

The council's free photograph of His Royal Majesty will be passed on to the village hall.

Rother Voluntary Action requested to attend a council meeting and to send out communications. It was suggested that they are asked to attend the annual parish meeting.

Paul Phillip has confirmed that he is able to complete the internal audit for the parish council.

The laurel hedge by the Bell Inn has been cut back.

The clerk is contacted by the High Weald Area of Natural Beauty with regard to management committee vacancies and to advertise the walking festival. During the week following the council meeting, a week-long Dark Skies event had been run.

The council had submitted a response to the Community Infrastructure Level (CIL) Survey suggesting that parishes that had not received any CIL payments may have infrastructure to maintain and might benefit from being able to make claims from the Strategic Fund.

The churchyard boundary tidy has been completed.

Clerk is working on Footpath 20.

Date for village assembly was set as Tuesday 23rd April 7pm. Light refreshments would be available.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Ordinary meeting Tuesday 2nd April 2024, 7.30pm Iden Village Hall.