



# *Iden Parish Council*

**Minutes of the Meeting held on  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at 19:30, Iden Village Hall**

## **Notices**

The Chair announced that after 15 years of very loyal service, Mary Philo would be retiring at the end of March. On behalf of the entire Council and Iden residents, he thanked her for all she had done for us in ensuring we functioned well and legally.

Parish councillors in attendance: M Miller (Chair), J Cooper, B Luckhurst, P Allard, and G Say.

District Councillor: P. Osborne.

Members of public – 8.

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

Iden Parish Council holds the General Power of Competence.

## **1 Apologies**

County Councillor K Glazier

District Councillor L Hacking

## **2 Disclosure of Interests and Dispensations**

None.

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

It was unanimously resolved to agree the minutes of the 3 February 2026 with minor amendments as a true record.

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

### **4a County Councillor Report**

In Cllr Glazier's absence, member of public complained about non-repair of potholes and discomfort for those using 312 buses. Discussion about 2 petitions submitted and disappointing response (copy in shop window). Another member of the public spoke of her article for Rye News. Discussion about better ditch clearing and drainage, the lack of which contributes hugely to the problem. The ongoing lack of detail in the road signage provided by RDC still not addressed properly in responses although one sign in the last week actually mentioned whereabouts of a road closure between Smallhythe and Tenterden which allowed residents of Wittersham to avoid long detours. General consensus that resurfacing vitally need through Iden from P and P to New Bridge.

#### **4b District Councillor Report**

Cllr Osborne mentioned drain blockage in Grove Lane and Mockbeggar Hill. As election in 6 weeks, he feels RDC should push the contractual obligations with the contractors. There is an information centre about the new Local Plan at Tilling Green on Friday 6 March from 3-7pm.

#### **5 Public Questions**

Nothing further.

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

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

Cllr Cooper stated that Mr Bridge will not need to withdraw his applications(RR/2025/1411/P) as completion of sale will make that defunct. £319,000 has now been raised by 116 people in Iden which is far more than expected and a vote of confidence in Iden's future as a community

#### **7 Planning**

##### **7.1 The Bell Inn Change of Use Application**

See item 6 above.

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

Visits have been made and photographs taken at Thornsedale (ENF/0019/26) and Randolph Farm Cottage (ENF/80/24/IDE). Visit to serve final letter to the latter made. Owners are still in USA it is believed.

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

None

##### **7.4 Applications Considered**

None

##### **7.5 Applications for Notification Only**

None

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

PC will submit their response shortly. Group of residents to leaflet drop the whole village and suggest possible focuses of response to encourage a good return. Agreement that the proposed site in Main Street is unsuitable and Planning should again at the Orchard Farm brownfield site

#### **8 Finances**

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

31 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	£ 20,881.01
Plus total Receipts	4.78
Less total Payments	<u>£ 1,288.21</u>
28 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	£ 19,597.58

(28<sup>th</sup> February 2026 statements tbc -Treasurers Account £9,019.23 and Reserve Account £10,578.35)

### **January Receipts**

£4.78 Bank Interest

### **January Payments**

£675.78 Salaries for January

£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70

£4.25 Lloyds monthly bank management charge

£509.52 EDF: Pavilion January Electricity (vat £96.17)

£18.14 Castle Water: Pavilion January water (estimated)

Charge card - Nil

### **Payments Authorised**

£675.78 Salaries for February

£41.70 M Philo: Room £30, car £11.70

Paul Phillip has kindly agree to continue as the internal auditor

## **9 Iden Playing Fields and Pavilion**

### **9.1 Play Area Gates**

The work to repair the gate and the manhole cover by the pavilion will be undertaken shortly

### **9.2 Playing Field**

The area is drying out well and tree work has been done there and in the Graveyard. The alleged water leak at the Pavilion was investigated and none found

## **10. Risk Assessment**

Nothing further to the above.

## **11 Information for Councillors**

None.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7 April 2026, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.