



Minutes 2nd June 2026

Iden Parish Council

Clerk: Dr Rebekah Gilbert

Email clerk@iden-pc.gov.uk
<https://www.idenvillage.uk>

Minutes of the Iden Parish Council meeting held on 2nd June 2026 at 19:30, Iden Village Hall.

Present

Parish councillors: Michael Miller, Greg Say, Bet Luckhurst, Jeremy Cooper.

Rother District Councillors: Paul Osborne & Dan Bradley

East Sussex County Councillor: Dan Bradley

In attendance: Rebekah Gilbert, parish clerk. Four members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 19:30 and closed at 20:30

1. Apologies

Cllr Allard gave his apologies, which were accepted, however, the Chairman stated that councillors had their council dates well in advance and should make sure they are noted in their diaries.

2. Disclosures of interest

To receive (a) any disclosure by councillors of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in matters on the agenda, (b) the nature of any interest, and (c) whether the Member regards the personal interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct. Members are reminded of the need to repeat their declaration immediately prior to the commencement of the item in question. Further, (d) to confirm that councillor's Register of Interest is unchanged.

Cllr Cooper has a personal, but not pecuniary, interest with The Bell public house.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2026 were approved, and signed by the chairman as a true record; This being the first suitable date for signature.

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not otherwise on tonight's agenda.

4. Adjournment of the meeting

4A Notices from the chairman

It was noted that a house in Grove Lane had been burgled with jewellery taken, so please be vigilant.

4B Report from County Councillor – The chairman welcomed newly elected Cllr Dan Bradley. DB has invited a Highways officer to walk the main road into Iden, and look around to see the potholes first hand. We asked him to look at ditches and drainage as well. Residents warned him how dangerous it is. DB stated the visit will be documented. DB has created a Facebook page so that residents can ask questions of him. He will leave contact details for us all.

4C Report from the District Councillor

Cllr Osborne mentioned the Peasmarsh major planning application. It has been deferred on two reasons: it is a major development, and has thus been classified as one, because it is adjacent to the HW natural landscape; secondly because of the issues with water supply/sewerage.

Residents reported it was still hard to get on line to comment on the planning portal. RDC's head of planning responded that he had not had that message from other parishes, but will send a step-by-step guide on how to log on, which we will put on the Iden Village website.

The Bell has received its planning permission.

PO asked Mr Ramus to respond about Motor-cross.

4D Public question time.

There were no further questions from the public.

5. Parish Council Finances

- a) The schedule of payments and income for the period April-May 2026 was received and approved.
- b) The accounts balance as at 11th May 2026 was received and noted.
- c) The earmarked reserves balances as at 11th May 2026 was received and noted.
- d) AGAR (Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2025/26):
- e) The Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 (p4) was approved and signed. The No answer in S10 was because not all councillors were using their .gov emails at the time.
- f) The Accounting Statements (p5) was approved and signed.
- g) The Annual Internal Audit Report (p3) was approved.
- h) Mr Paul Philip was formally thanked for acting as the internal auditor for F/Y 2025/26. Ms Alison Stevens was also thanked for her assistance as a locum clerk to prepare the AGAR.
- i) It was noted that the Iden Parish Council's gross income/expenditure was £29,985.14p and over the £25,000 threshold, thus requiring external audit.
- j) The asset register for 2025/26 was approved.
- k) It was noted that the NALC Model Financial Regulations are unchanged from 2025. Likewise, it was noted that the Statement of Internal Control for the financial year ending 31 March 2026 was also unchanged.
- l) It was confirmed that the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights runs from Wednesday 3rd June to Tuesday 14th July.
- m) It was confirmed that the bank signatories for the ensuing year were Cllr Miller and Cllr Say, but that others were asked to also be signatories.
- n) It was agreed the purchase a new laptop for use by the Clerk, and owned by IPC. One has been found close to the budget of £600. It was further agreed to purchase a mobile phone for use by the Clerk, and owned by IPC. Once purchased the new number should be placed on village signage, such as the new burial ground.
- o) It was agreed to renew the Pavilion's insurance with Clear Councils/ Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc @ £1,106.43 from 18th June 2026 for one year.

6. Planning

- a) There were no planning applications received.
- b) There had been one enforcement notice on Motor-cross.
- c) Planning decisions had been approved for the Bell, The Elms in Grove Lane, and an appeal lodged by Hedgerows of Grove Lane.

7. Matters

7a Dates were being sought for an urgent meeting between the IPC councillors and the Pavilion Trustees.

7b It was agreed the Clerk should conduct water flushing in the pavilion, and inspect the play area every week. The Clerk will arrange for the cesspit at the pavilion to be emptied.

8. Updates

8A The Bell

Stage 1 was to buy the freehold, which was done by the community benefit society (with 116 shareholding members) and Mr Strangeways. Stage 2 was to get planning permission, which has been granted; Cllr Cooper thanked Mr John Rogers for his help with this. Stage 3 is to find a tenant, and they are in discussions with a possible one. Stage 4 is to raise money for the refurbishment, which may take some time. They are keen to use the building and garden as much as possible. Some 25 volunteers came last week and worked on the garden and Cllr Cooper thanked Morpheys who gave their time to help. This will happen for the next two weeks. Inside has been cleared but work is still to be done. A shareholder's event is planned on 13th June.

8B The playing field and works to the pavilion.

Mrs Chalet asked for a timetable for the insurance works; this and an agenda will be set out when trustees and councillors meet. Some actions have been completed since a letter went from councillors to trustees in April.

Councillors agreed the field could be used on 26th July for a picnic in the park. This is subject to the terms and conditions for usage of the Playing field being agreed with the Parish Council and the Clerk will write to the Trustees accordingly. The intention is similar to the 2024 event, but as a tribute to Anne Bauling's life. There will be food, beverage and music. Any proceeds will go to Anne's charities - cancer research and super-shoes. It was noted this is not a fundraiser but a celebration.

Trustees were unsuccessful with their bid to Sussex Community foundation, but will apply again.

Councillors agreed that Rye Retreat could hire the field and pavilion for their staff party. They have their own public liability insurance, a copy of which should be forwarded to the Clerk. They have been regular users of the playing field and pavilion in the past.

The Clerk is still awaiting a response for a date to meet with Rye Bay football club.

Bodiam cricket charges have been accepted.

The Clerk will put cricket dates on the website.

Mrs Chalet asked for volunteers to assist with the Rye Runner event on 13th September.

9. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 7th July 2026, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.