Minutes 6th October 2026 Iden Parish Council

Clerk: Dr Rebekah Gilbert

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Minutes of the Iden Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 6th October 2026 at Iden Village Hall, at 19:30

Present
Parish councillors: Michael Miller, Greg Say, Jeremy Cooper, Bet Luckhurst, Tim Barham
Rother District councillor: Paul Osborne
East Sussex County councillor: Daniel Bradley

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

The meeting commenced at 19:30 and closed at 20:33

1.Apologies
There were no apologies received from Cllr Hacking. All other Members attended.

2.Disclosures of interest
There were no interests declared.

3.Minutes
The minutes of Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 9th September 2026 were unanimously approved by members and signed by the chairman as a true record of the meetings held; this being the first suitable date for signature.
3B There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4.Adjournment of the meeting
The meeting was adjourned for notices and question time.

A) Notices from the chairman
Cllr Tim Barham, who was co-opted on 9th September, was welcomed back to Iden Parish Council, having served for many years previously. Cllr Miller recognised that he would give his invaluable service and knowledge to the village.

Cllr Miller also congratulated the Bell committee and Cllr Cooper for their well-attended event at the weekend as part of the GastroProm.

Cllr Miller asked that the condition of 20 Parkwood be reported to Southern Housing, alongside the existing enquiry into 27 Parkwood.

B) Report from County Councillor: Cllr Bradley
It was noted that full road repairs through the main thoroughfare of the village will commence from 26th October until 14th November from the Peace and Plenty to the Kent bridge. This work will be done at nighttime. This would include drainage work and surfacing. Road markings come under a

different budget, which he will push for, but asked that the clerk write to him expressing how important these are for road safety. Cllr Miller asked him about speeding and whether a flashing sign could be placed in the village, something he has been campaigning for during the past few years. Cllr Bradley said that he would investigate; they cost c£800 each. He will incorporate IPC needs with Rye's when he next reports to the senior Highways officer at ESCC on his constituency.

The need for adequate traffic calming remains of concern to the Council and the residents and it was agreed this topic would remain an agenda item for the foreseeable future. Marking the road surface with 30mph signs was clearly insufficient; furthermore the markings have quickly worn away.

Cllr Bradley reported that we have a new neighbourhood policing officer, based in Battle, but who would have more dedicated time in Rye, Winchelsea, Camber and Iden. Cllr Bradley stated that he would invite him to our parish meetings in future.

Cllr Bradley alerted residents to a council tax scam doing the rounds, purporting to be RDC asking for details. Residents should hand up or ignore fake letters.

There has not been a full ESCC council meeting since Cllr Bradley last reported to IPC.

C) Report from the District Councillor: Cllr Osborne
Cllr Osborne notified IPC that RDC community grant fund closes next week.

Parishes would be receiving consultation documents about Regulation 19 (regarding building and infrastructure in the area) next week. Members questioned Cllr Osborne about why, when the Council and residents had put in detailed objections to the consultation regarding proposals for 20 new dwellings at Street Field, they had not had any response. Furthermore, Rother continued to include this proposal in their latest draft with no reference to the parish concerns or amendments made to reflect them. There was a feeling in the room that consultations were meaningless if views went unacknowledged. Cllr Osborne stated there had been 3,000 responses about previous planning matters and it was hard to response to all of them. Councillors stated that they were not prepared to accept the disregard of time and effort put into the various submissions, and it was agreed that the clerk will write to the Head of Planning asking for a detailed explanation.

Furthermore, government changes to planning law now mean that nearly all planning decisions would now be made by officers, and it is very hard to get anything called in for members' discussion.

Local government re-organisation has now been significantly postponed. RDC needs more funding as a result of this, because they had budgeted not to exist in 18 months' time.

D)Public question time
Trees overhanging the road somewhere in the orchard in Cold Harbour Lane were an issue again, and the chairman and clerk said they would investigate exactly where this was an issue and report back at the next meeting.
The meeting was reconvened

5. Parish Council Finances
a) Members received and approved the schedule of payments and income for the period of September 2026 (as attached).

b) Members received and noted the budget monitor for the period July-Sept 2026. The clerk outlined that the pavilion had skewed accounting somewhat because of the insurance and donations received, and the significant work being done on site at the moment, but this was all reflected in the accounts. Whilst there were some areas in the general budget that had overspent, it was roughly in line for the half year period.

c) Members received and noted the current account balance as at 30th September 2026 was £19,539.50.

d) Members receive and noted the earmarked reserves balance as at 30th September 2026 was £10,609.11, receiving £4.36 in interest this past month.

e) Members noted that Iden Parish Council's AGAR external auditor verification has been received and posted on the website and parish notice board.

f) Members discussed whether or not money in the reserves account should be placed in a higher interest account. After deliberation it was decided not to make any changes and for them to remain in the Lloyds account in case funds were needed urgently.

6. Planning
a) To receive and comment on any planning applications received.

Reference: RR/2026/1046/HOU & RR/2026/1047/LBC
Site Address: The Elms, Grove Lane, Iden, East Sussex, TN31 7PY
Construction of a single-storey construction etc.
Members did not object by way of delegated decision on 27th September (given that notification had to be sent to RDC before this meeting).

It was noted that the Bowls Club were looking for planning permission for arboriculture work on one of their trees.

It was further noted that nothing more had come to light on the Conkers application.

b) To note any enforcements or appeals.
Appeal Ref: 6008547 Hedgerow, Grove Lane, Iden, TN31 7PY.
Members noted that the appeal had been allowed. Cllr Miller felt the whole process had taken a long time, but that the planning inspectorate had made the right decision, in essence awarding the householder what they had originally requested. Members were concerned that Iden council's representations to Rother about the eight-month delay in dealing with the original application had not received an adequate explanation from the planning deptartment.

ENF/0019/26 ADDRESS: Thornsdale Oast, Iden
Members noted that, following two visits by RDC, an untidy site notice had been placed on the owner by the district council, and that actions were being taken by the owner to improve the site.

c) To receive any planning decisions made by Rother District Council.
RR/2026/0814/FULL
Site Address: BARONS GRANGE Readers Lane, Iden, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7UU

Members did not object on 30 July by way of delegated decision. RDC consent was granted on 8th September 2026

Reference: RR/2026/0699/LBC
Site Address: BOSNEY FARM, Grove Lane, Iden, East Sussex, TN31 7PY
Members did not object by way of delegated decision, but noted that there has been no decision from RDC to date.

7. Matters

Administration

1. Members agreed to transfer the Iden website to Parish on Line for the sum of £90 in order to be compliant with the AGAR return, and WCAG2.2 compliance with accessibility.
2. The chairman will revisit the co-option of new councillors policy, and also work with the clerk on new burial ground guidance, which will be bought back to council next month.

Pavilion

1. It was agreed to form an advisory panel for the Iden Pavilion, so that they could formulate a proper plan of what the village wanted of the pavilion. Draft terms of reference were discussed, and the clerk will make amendments. Discussion on how members of the group would be recruited took place, using the website, notice board and village shop.

2. Mindful that the Sussex Community Giving Rother Fund closes on 16th October 2026, the clerk would put in a bid for the pavilion.

3. During redecoration it was noted that, whilst the pavilion's insurance states the building construction is brick, it was discovered it is a wood frame on a brick foundation. In order to ensure the insurance is compliant, the clerk would notify the insurance company, which may cause premiums to rise.

4. Members noted the electrical installation condition report by Hannington Gilbert, and that all outstanding electrical work had now been completed.

5. Cllr Say stated that a systemiser was needed for the urinals, which would cost in the region of £400, and that he would inspect all the taps to ensure they were easy to turn off to avoid wasting water. Water would be turned off in the pavilion as soon as redecoration works were complete.

   An update was handed to members about works done thus far, and positive comments had been received from villagers.

   The container to the rear of the pavilion needs a chain replacing on it. The Chairman is dealing with this.

6. The pavilion's fire risk assessment was noted and it was agreed that, when the fire extinguishers are inspected next month, that two more fire extinguishers could be purchased, along with some additional emergency exit and no smoking signage. Fire blankets should be properly mounted to the walls in the kitchen and garage.

7. Members noted that the cricket team have confirmed they do not keep any flammables within the pavilion, a risk highlighted in the health and safety report this summer.

Trees

Three quotes were gained for the pollarding of poplar trees near the cemetery. Whist noting that the most expensive quote covered extensive work to the trees, the sum was beyond that with the parish council could afford and, therefore, it was agreed to commission Oakden to undertake the work. The clerk would contact the company this week.

It was agreed that no work should take place in the ancient woodland as there did not appear to be a risk to the public and expensive bat surveys would be mandatory.

The Chairman expressed his concern about the amount the Council was needing to spend on maintaining the many trees on its land. He could not see this situation getting better bearing in mind there are many ash trees involved.

Some trees had ID discs on them, and Cllr Miller stated he would see if he still held this information.

8. Updates

a) Actions being taken at Thornsdale were mentioned during the planning session above.
b) An email had been sent to Helena Dollimore regarding road closures and the harm this is doing to Iden and its businesses, but no response has been received. An email from Kent County Council stated that it would inform its contractors to do more to notify drivers of road closures. Cllr Osborne suggested that ESCC Highways department should do more to check what utilities companies were doing when they closed roads.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 3rd November 2026, 7.30pm, Iden Village Hall.