

# PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Pensax Village Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Present:** Cllr Alistair Keron (Chairman), Cllr Weston,  
Cllr Rudd, Cllr Sanders

**In Attendance:** Clerk, one Member of the Public, Dist Cllr Paul Cummings

1. **Apologies:** Noted from Cllr Abraham and Cllr Wood.
2. **Co-option of a Cllr** – No applications received.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
  - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs reminded to keep their registers updated. Cllr Sanders to update her register.
  - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – None declared.
  - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – None declared.
4. **Dispensations** –
  - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – Cllr Sanders requested a Dispensation to speak and vote on item 13 Grant Application from Menith Wood Millennium Green Trust. It was agreed by all to grant the Dispensation as requested until May 2023.
5. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes.
6. **County Cllr Report** – Apologies received, report at end of minutes.  
**District Cllr Report** – See notes at end of minutes.
7. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 30th September 2019 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
  - a. **BT Box** – Work ongoing.
9. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:**

Cllr attended following meetings - **SWDP Review - Briefing for Town/Parish Councils** – 6<sup>th</sup> November  
**One Step Out Event** – 1<sup>st</sup> October. **Community First AGM** - 14<sup>th</sup> November, this meeting was cancelled.  
Clerk attended following meetings – **MHDC Conference** – 21<sup>st</sup> October, **WCC Conference** – 17<sup>th</sup> October  
A brief report on meetings was given, some details have been circulated by email.
10. **Finances** –
  - a. **Payments made** – Royal British Legion (see item 15) = £50.00, Mr D Nunn (War Memorial Mowing 19/10/18-18/11/19) = £182.00, Pensax Village Hall (see item 14) = £225.00, TVN PCC St James the Great Pensax (see item 13) = £50.00.
  - b. **Payments received** – HMRC VAT Repayment (01/04/17 to 31/03/19) = £225.11, MHDC Precept = £2425.00.
  - c. **Bank Reconciliations** (circulated) - Signed for September/October 2019, balance agreed as £13539.20.
  - d. **Budget 2020-2021 (circulated)** – Draft Budget was agreed. Precept figure of £5050.00 was provisionally agreed, to be confirmed at the January 2020 meeting.
  - e. **Appointment of Internal Auditor** – It was agreed to appoint D M Payroll Services Ltd again at a cost of £70.00.
11. **Planning:**
  - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **None**.
  - b. Decisions received since last meeting – **None**.
  - c. Plans for comment on tonight – **None**.
  - d. **Outstanding Planning issues** -  
**16/00455/HOU - New House Farm, Stockton** – Concerns regarding building being built too close to highway. Cllrs reported open windows are intruding into Highway. Waiting for reply from WCC.  
**18/00244/FUL – Fartown, Pensax, Abberley, Worcester WR6 6AE** – Dist Cllr reported MHDC are still awaiting required information from applicant regarding conditions attached to the application.
  - e. **South Worcestershire Development Plan** – It was agreed by all to make no comments, this parish is not directly affected.

# PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

## 12. Road report

- a. **Lengthsman** – Work ongoing.
- b. **Menith Wood** – blocked drains – WCC have put them on jetting list.
- c. **Menith Wood** – speeding issues – Dist Cllr had replied to the resident who made the complaint. Clerk to work with Lindridge PC to see if further action can be taken.

13. **Pensax Church Grant for Harvest Supper** (circulated) – Grant of £300.00 requested. Costs of the event circulated showing a small loss. After much discussion it was agreed to grant £50.00.

14. **Pensax Village Hall donation** (circulated) – It was agreed by all to donate £225.00 to cover costs up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. It was agreed to send a letter to Trustees stating the future of the Hall must now be discussed at a Public Meeting to be held in January 2020. The Thrift Shop have agreed to give the same amount. The Hall now has no regular bookings. Trustees and PC will work together to hold a Public Meeting, to seek legal advice for that meeting and to keep residents fully informed.

15. **Service at War Memorial 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019** – Traffic control undertaken by British Legion and was arranged by Church, it worked well. It was agreed to send a donation of £50.00 to British Legion for two poppy wreaths.

16. **Correspondence for information** –CALC Updates/Training dates, Community First information.

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**MHDC Protect your Business, Protect your Staff** – 28<sup>th</sup> November 4-7pm at Sixways, Worcester

**MHDC Planning Training Dates** - Invitation to training. Presentations given to meetings for information

**CALC AGM – County Hall** – 30<sup>th</sup> November – Market Place 5pm – AGM 6.30pm

**Community First AGM** – 14<sup>th</sup> November – 4.30-6.45pm - Bishops Frome

**Came & Company** – Insurance Matters Autumn Newsletter

**Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership** – 8<sup>th</sup> November – 10.30am – Guild Hall, Worcester

**Police Commissioner** – Consultations and Visit to Tenbury – 11<sup>th</sup> November 4-6pm

**NALC** – Guide to Tackle Loneliness

17. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting** –

**Pensax Village Hall carpark** - Clerk had contacted a resident who was using the carpark without permission. The concerns were fully understood. Clerk to put them in touch with Trustees so the issue can be resolved.

**Penn Hall Lane water issue** – Clerk had noticed clear running water coming from one property onto highway. Chairman and Clerk to speak to resident to see if there is a solution to the problem.

18. **Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.**

**Agenda items** - Pensax Village Hall, Precept

19. **Date of next meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 at PENSAX VILLAGE HALL**

20. **Meeting Closed 8.47pm**

Signed----- Date **20<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
Chairman

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**Public Question Time** – Douglas Godwin Solicitor attended the meeting at the request of the Clerk. Mr Godwin was given brief details regarding Pensax Hall. He agreed to look at the papers and give his opinion and possible costs for any further legal work needed. Mr Godwin was thanked for attending the meeting and giving his time to this matter.

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## District Councillors Report

**Climate Change** – plans for this progressing, quarter of a million pounds in budget. **Finances** – no concerns.

**South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)** – This parish not affected. Dist Cllr concerned about Holt Bridge and increase in traffic, the road is at full capacity now, there is nothing to improve the roads in this area, he will continue to put his concerns across.

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## County Councillors Report

**Recent Weather Problems** - You will all be well aware of the problems brought about by the recent heavy rain. I hope no-one in Pensax was severely affected, but you may have noticed an increase in HGVs using the Clows Top/Abberley road, as the A443 was blocked, both by a local flood near the Elms hotel and also by a large

## PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

flood to the west of Lindridge. In fact, the HGVs were diverted because of rebuilding work in Eardiston, where a retaining wall had collapsed, meaning only a single narrow lane was open. The latter work should be completed soon, and all flooding on the A443 has now subsided. There are those who will tell you this heavy rain is caused by climate change, but there is no evidence for that at all. It is very disturbing to see young people worried about their future as a result of exaggerated claims, made on the basis of model predictions that have consistently over-stated both the magnitude and the urgency of any problems. I hope that extensive reading on the subject will help councillors to offer wiser counsels and reduce the anxiety that is affecting so many people, particularly the young.

**County Council Matters** - In the last two weeks, there have been a full Council meeting and a Cabinet meeting. At full council, the Hereford and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue service gave their annual report. You may know that the government has it in mind to put the Fire and Rescue service under the management of the police and crime commissioner. As a member of the Authority, I joined my colleagues in voting against that move, partly because of the excellent cooperation there exists between the police and the fire service. This objection was over-ruled at a judicial review, and we are considering our next move. The service is also proposing a close co-operation with Shropshire service, to enhance our responses to emergencies. Among other matters, I was happy to draw attention to the excellent work the council is doing in economic development and to the many excellent infrastructure projects under way. These include the final section of the Southern Link Road, and Worcestershire Parkway station. The former should be open in 2021, and the latter in the middle of next month. Combined with the planned dualling of much of the line to Paddington, we expect there to be a greatly improved service to and from London, as well as trains stopping on the Cardiff Nottingham line – the first of others operated by Cross Country trains we hope will stop in the near future.

**Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ**