

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Old Chapel, Menith Wood at 7.00pm on Monday 15th November 2021

Present: Cllr Alistair Keron (Chair), Cllr Weston,
Cllr Abraham, Cllr Sanders, Cllr Meese, Cllr Rudd

In Attendance: Clerk, Three Members of Public, Mr D Godwin (Solicitor)

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Co-option of a Cllr** – No applications received.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs are reminded to keep their registers up to date.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – All Cllrs Items 13/ 24 Pensax Village Hall.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – See above.
4. **Dispensations** –
To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – Dispensations requested - Items 13/24 – Village Hall – All Cllrs have been granted a Dispensation until May 2023 at the January 2020 meeting.
5. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes.
6. **County Cllr Report** – Apologies received, report at end of minutes.
District Cllr Report – Apologies received, nothing to report.
7. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 20th September 2021 and minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 20th October 2021 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Menith Wood** – 99% of properties now enabled. Some properties in Penn Hall Lane need infrastructure, BT Openreach are working on the issue.
 - b. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Worles Common to Abberley** – completion expected by January 2022.
 - c. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Pensax Common** – Some vouchers still need to be validated so the contract and installation process can start within next 12 months.
 - d. **Footpaths in Parish** – MHDC are setting up Walking Groups. Two Cllrs to look into a local group.
 - e. **Post code issues Menith Wood** – – Dist Cllr advised he has contacted MHDC and they are looking into the matter.
 - f. **Memorial Service** – Approximately thirty people attended, agreed to continue next year. Agreed by all to donate £50.00 to Poppy Appeal for wreaths for Pensax Parish and Stockton Parish.
9. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:** None.
10. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – See item 18. Poppy Appeal (see item 8f) = £50.00, Menith Wood Community Association (Hall rent 17/05/2021-15/11/2021) = £88.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – MHDC Precept = £2525.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliations** (circulated) - Signed for September/October 2021 balance agreed as £14387.78. The balance shown in the draft minutes for October was £12897.22 which is incorrect, the figure is £12879.22, minutes were redrafted and corrected prior to Chair signing. Bank Reconciliation corrected.
 - d. **Precept 2022-2023** – Clerk had drafted budget, Cllrs agreed to look in detail at next meeting.
11. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – See item 18.
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –
21/01305/FUL Cross Keys Inn, Menith Wood, Worcester WR6 6UB – Demolition of building and erection of garage/outbuilding. **Approved by MHDC.**
21/01265/FUL – Westkerke, Pensax, Stockton, Worcester, WR6 6XJ - Erection of replacement dwelling and detached garage (Retrospective) (Removal of Conditions 5 & 6 Ref. 12/01226/FUL). **Refused by MHDC.**
21/01670/HP – Westkerke - Pensax, Stockton, Worcester, WR6 6XJ - Conversion of detached garage to ancillary annexe accommodation. **Approved by MHDC.**

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- c. **Plans for comment on tonight** – None.
 - d. **Planning enquires - 15/00942 - Concerns regarding groundworks at building site not being within the approved plans** – MHDC visited the site and advised the landowner a planning application should be submitted. Concerns regarding pollution of a water course have been passed to Environmental Agency.
- 12. Road report**
- a. **Lengthsman** – Work been very good. Blocked drains Stockton Road, Stockton side of Pensax Common junction flooded due to longstanding drain problem, both to be reported.
 - b. **Problems to report** – Stockton Road drain by junction Worles Common blocked. Visibility concerns at junction in Menith Wood, Cllr advised the hedges will be cut very soon.
 - c. **Stockton Road drainage issues** – see below.
 - d. **Worles Common/Menith Wood roads drainage issues** – See below.
Chair not heard from MHDC Drainage Officer; it was agreed to take off agenda.
 - e. **Grit bin request for Penn Hall Lane** – Cllr had asked resident in Penn Hall Lane regarding positioning a bin on their land but resident did not want one. It was agreed by all to monitor ice on that road this winter.
- 13. Pensax Village Hall** – (circulated) -
- a. It was agreed by all not to put Hall back on market as Solicitor stated contracts were drafted and he was hopeful of signing within the next few weeks.
- 14. Waste bins Menith Wood** – to discuss purchasing post bins for roadside near Millennium Green. A member of the Millennium Green Committee spoke in Public Question Time. It was agreed to purchase one post-bin for Penn Hall Lane subject to MHDC agreeing to empty. Dist Cllr may be able to provide a grant.
- 15. Speeding concerns** – To discuss concerns raised by residents and Cllrs -
B4202 Snead Common, Stockton Road by Worles Common junction, Stockton Road through Pensax.
Awaiting update from WCC, County Cllr is looking into speed monitoring in the areas of concern.
- 16. Clerks' resignation** – One person had expressed an interest in the vacancy but no applications received. The Clerk agreed to remain in post to see Hall Sale completed, adverts to remain in place.
- 17. Correspondence for information – Updates from CALC, NALC, WCC, MHDC, Police**
South Worcestershire Development Plan information
MHDC - Malvern Hills Housing Needs Survey Workshop for PCs - 12th October – 6-7pm by zoom.
MHDC - Tackling the climate emergency Mon 15 Nov, 5pm – by zoom
WCC - Decarbonising Heat in Worcestershire and the Marches Event - 20th October 10-11am (online)
MHDC - Town Centre Transformation Plans Survey
MHDC - Connected Communities Consultation - MHDC
Act on Energy - Dementia Support Groups – Worcestershire
- 18. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –**
Payments made – 8th November – SSE (electric for Hall) =£64.80.
Plans circulated by email –
20th October - 21/01893/HP - Westkerke Pensax Stockton Worcester WR6 6XJ – Ground floor rear conservatory extension. It was agreed by majority to make no comments.
21st October – 21/01698/HP - Land at (OS 7339 6922), Snead Common, Abberley – Change of use for National Grid Field No. – OS 7369 3921 from agricultural to equestrian. Building of stable block comprising of three stables (3.6m x 3.6m ea) and a tack room (1.8m x 3.6m).
It was agreed by majority to make no comments.
21/01898/HP – 138 Snead Common, Abberley, WR6 6AF – Demolition of existing annex and conservatory. Erection of ground floor extension and first floor dormer window.
It was agreed by majority to support with no further comments.
21/01670/HP – Westkerke - C2024 Pensax, Pensax, Stockton, WR6 6XJ - Conversion of detached garage to ancillary annexe accommodation. It was agreed by the majority to make no comments.
November – several emails from resident with speeding concerns and other matters not involving the PC. Chair and Clerk had agreed to post a letter to resident with input from PC advisors and Police.
- 19. Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.**
Agenda items - Pensax Village Hall, Co-option, Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022, Clerks vacancy.
Clerk is looking into defib training.
- 22. Date of next meeting: 18th JANUARY 2022 – 7pm - OLD CHAPEL HALL, MENITH WOOD**

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23. It was agreed to exclude the Public and Press from the meeting due to the confidential nature of The business to be discussed.

24. Pensax Village Hall Sale – There were no issues to discuss.

25. Meeting Closed 8.43pm

Signed----- Date **18th January 2022**
Chair

Issues raised by residents - A representative from the Millennium Green Committee attended regarding the request for a waste bin. Dog fouling is a longstanding issue on the Green. Land on the Menith Wood entry is not in ownership of Committee. Penn Hall Lane is owned by Committee. Committee have no objection to bins but do not want any costs or liability for emptying in future.

County Cllr Report

Latest Covid Figures as at 15th November are:

- a. Worcestershire is showing an infection rate of 362 cases per 100,000.
- b. The infection rate in the Malvern Hills District is 337 cases per 100,000.
- c. The direction of travel is down with the exception of Redditch within Worcestershire.
- d. Wyre Forest has the lowest infection rate in Worcestershire with Bromsgrove District the highest rate at 438 per 100,000.
- e. The rate of infection in England as a whole is 353 cases per 100,000.

The vaccination of children aged 12 and over is now progressing in schools and elsewhere, with Booster jabs being offered to those over 40 and the otherwise vulnerable.

Covid Vaccines - Please encourage everyone you know who is eligible, to take their booster jab as soon as possible. At a meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee two week ago, the Chief Executive of the Acute NHS Trust reported, that many of the new Covid patients are now double vaccinated but have not yet taken up their booster jab.

Section 106 monies - With all the pressures the Acute NHS Trust currently finds itself in, with winter still approaching and attempting to bring forward delayed operations due to the pandemic, I personally was very disappointed that on 3rd November, the Planning Committee at MHDC refused to allocated the requested £1.8 million to the Acute Trust, as part of Section 106 monies coming forward from the South Worcestershire Urban Extension.

Tenbury Flood Defences - Following the Leader and Chief Executive of Worcestershire Council to Tenbury last month, I have arranged a meeting next week at County Hall with them both, and also with the Cabinet Member and representatives of the Environment Agency, to receive an update on progress regarding the Tenbury Flood Defences. With works due to start early next year, I would like to be assured that plans, timescales and funding are all in place because as we all know, this project is time critical.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division