

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held on

Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7 pm

Present

Cllr. Meese, (Chair) Cllr. Gould, Cllr. Abraham, Cllr. S. Rudd. Cllr. A Gillett (joined the meeting at item 5)

+ 2 Vacancy - Clerk-Carole Hirst

Cllr. David Chambers WCC; Cllr. Paul Cumming (MH District Councillor)

1 Member of the Public.

1 Apologies for absence- None.

Absent: None

2 Declarations of Interest. None

Parishioners Question Time –

A Parishioner put himself forward for co-option to the Parish Council. He is also interested in the Save the Bell Campaign. The Clerk agreed to forward the co-option paperwork for completion which will be added to the March agenda.

3 Approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday the 15th November 2022.

Cllr. Rudd Proposed and Cllr. Abrahams Seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 15th November 2022 be approved. All in favour.

4 To consider Co-option of Andrew Gillett onto the Parish Council. Cllr.

Meese Proposed and Cllr. Rudd Seconded that Andrew Gillett be co-opted onto the Parish Council. All in favour. Cllr. Gillett signed the acceptance of office form and joined the meeting.

5 District and County Councillor Reports (Circulated prior to the meeting.)

Cllr. Cumming- MHDC Councillor Report.

MHDC currently seems to be in election mode as activity seems to be slowing, aside from the annual events such as Council Tax setting which is due shortly. It is expected that this year's exercise will include starting the work to deliver savings that need to be made over the next few years to balance the annual budget.

Planning continues to be a difficult area. The consultation on the SWDPR has now been closed and the views expressed will now be collated in order to move to the final stage before submission to the Inspector. The consequences of the 2.5year delay in production are slightly mitigated as the Council now believes that it can currently demonstrate a five-year land supply, although this is a target that has to continue to be met.

Decisions on planning applications are still taking too long and Planning enforcement continues to be a problem. A new Head of Planning has, however, now been appointed and is due to start in April. Given the current position with The Bell, the current application at the Cross Keys may be of interest. It is likely, that in order to gain permission for change of use, it will need to be shown that every effort has been made to realistically market the property as a public house.

Apart from the movement of Pensax to the Lindridge Ward in the May elections, there will be one further noticeable change at the elections in May due to electoral legislation. In order to vote, everyone will need a form of photo ID and I am awaiting details of qualifying documents. At a time when we need to encourage residents to exercise their vote, I feel this is a retrospective move that will deter some.

Cllr. Chambers - WCC Councillor Report.

Message from the Leader of Worcestershire County Council – Councillor Simon Geraghty

“2022 was another exceptional year in many different ways. Communities all over the County joined together to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee in the summer and then came together again to mourn the sad loss of HM The Queen in the autumn.

We have also seen increases in the cost of living which many will have felt, especially given the cold weather we have recently experienced.

As a Council, keeping our most vulnerable resident’s safe remains one of the County Council’s top priorities. We continue to support the most vulnerable members of our communities, both children and adults, through our Social Care and Public Health teams.

To keep our County moving, our highways teams have continued to work relentlessly on the improvement and maintenance of our roads and pavements and our gritting teams remain ready to respond whenever needed.

Our local economy is on course to have grown by one-third by 2025 from 2015 levels, despite the impact of Covid-19. We continue to support Worcestershire to be a growing and successful economy, embracing new technologies and providing businesses and residents with more opportunities and skills.

We are leading the way in the transformation of Worcestershire’s connectivity.

Throughout last year we have completed the dualling of the Southern Link Road, progressed plans for Shrub Hill and Redditch rail stations, completed the Northern Link Road at Pershore and are finalising plans for major improvements to A38 Bromsgrove.

Our role is also to help preserve and protect our environment for future generations. To enhance our environment we are on track to have planted 150,000 trees across the County within five years, creating woodlands whilst also being a pollinator-friendly and environmentally conscious Council when working with suppliers and contactors.

Looking ahead to 2023, Worcestershire will continue to be a great place which provides a good quality of life and excellent opportunities for all – a place where children and families can thrive and achieve their true potential and where we continue to focus on keeping people living independently for as long as possible and supporting our residents to live healthy and fulfilling lives”.

6 Report on meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors since the past meeting. None attended.

7 Finance

- a. To consider the Formal Bank Reconciliation to 5th January 2023.**
Councillors reviewed the accounts and confirmed that the Bank Reconciliation was accurate and reconciled and signed the bank reconciliation as true and accurate. **Noted.**
- b. To consider the Budget Monitoring Report to 5th January 2023.** Councillors agreed the Budget Monitoring Report. **Noted.**
- c. To Consider list of due payments and receipts to 17th January 2023.** Cllr. Rudd Proposed and Cllr. Abrahams Seconded that all payments be approved. All in favour.

PAYMENTS at 17th January 2023

| | | |
|--|----------|-----------------|
| In2 Out Nov | £ | 180.00 |
| C Hirst - December Pay | £ | 387.00 |
| HMRC December Clerk | £ | 96.60 |
| n2Out - Lengthsman Dec | £ | 165.00 |
| C Hirst Clerk expenses from 24th Nov to 17th Jan | £ | 72.23 |
| Stu Meese - reimbursement for Go Daddy renewals | £ | 119.76 |
| TOTAL | £ | 1,020.59 |
| Receipts not previously recorded | | |
| WCC Lengthsman Nov | £ | 180.00 |
| TOTAL | £ | 180.00 |

8 Planning

M/22/01696/CU Cross Keys Inn, Menith Wood- Change of use from public house to residential- CONSULTATION to 26th December 2022

M/22/01745/CU Spring Meadow, Pensax- Variation of condition 2 on planning approval
M/22/00099/CU - Change of use of land for the siting of 2 no Holiday Let units - alterations in size of units and construction materials- CONSULTATION to 3rd Jan 2023. **Objection submitted.**

9 Clerk Resignation.

The Clerk submitted her resignation on Thursday 12th January 2023. The Clerk has contacted Worcestershire CALC to notify them of the vacancy and has been informed that there is no-one available to locum. The Clerk has prepared an advert which will be sent to CALC for Worcestershire CALC to circulate once agreed. **Agreed.** Cllr. Gould asked for a record of thanks be recorded for the work of the clerk.

10 Highways – Lengthsman Report – Everything going to plan.

11 Pensax Parish Project –

- Pensax Parish Project – Stage 1 closed 31st Dec 2022. (PDF sent) Stage 2 proposal document sent to all 29 Nov 2023 for this meetings agreement.
A final mind map of Stage 1 suggestions was circulated to Councillors from all the community feedback
The list was discussed in detail and reduced to just eight broad proposals (encompassing several suggestions) by

- removing ideas that were not valid for the type of funds
- removing suggestions that the council felt were unachievable
- removing suggestions the council was restricted on doing or were the responsibility of other bodies

The list will now be presented to the community for weighting, closing 4th May

Cllr. Meese Proposed and Cllr. Rudd Seconded that the plan, All in favour.

12 The Bell PH (Application to become an Asset of Community Value)

- The ACV request by Save or Bell group was granted by MHDC 08/12/23
- The ACV triggered by the owners' intentions to sell was notified to PCC and Save Our Bell group by MHDC 15/12/23.
- Deadline for a community interest group's intention to bid to be received by MHDC is 26/01/23.
- Correspondence from Abberley PC resident representing Save our Bell working group 30/12/23 looking to form a community interest group regards a loan from PPC, & 09/01/23 use of PPC bank account, use of the Worcester County Council hosted PPC website for minutes.

13 Correspondence for information circulated and noted.

14 Councillors' suggestions for reports for the next agenda. None.

15 Date of next meeting- The Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7pm at the Old Chapel, Menith Wood

The Open meeting closed at 8.23pm.