

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Pensax Village Hall at 7.00pm on Tuesday 22nd September 2015

Present: Cllr Gready (Chairman), Cllr Rudd, Cllr Keron, Cllr Weston

In Attendance: Clerk and 16 Members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** Received and accepted from Cllr Wise.
2. **Co-option of new Cllr** – Application had been circulated. It was agreed by all to co-opt Heather Weston as a Cllr. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – New Cllr to complete and return to Clerk.
 - 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) –
 - **Dispensations granted** – None requested.
5. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes.
6. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 19th May 2015 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
7. **District Cllrs report** – Dist Cllr gave apologies.
County Cllrs report – Apologies received.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Pensax Village Hall** – A written report was received from Trustees. They are working to improve the hall and are now looking for volunteers to form a Management Committee. Cllrs to help find Committee Members.
 - b. **Superfast Broadband** – Clerk had been to meeting at WCC, it was stated residents should register for faster Broadband. Cllr Wise to send information out by email and update PC at next meeting.
 - c. **Road safety issues road to Pensax village** – Safer Roads Partnership had sent details of survey undertaken in Pensax Village to Clerk which showed number speeding did not meet the criteria for action to be taken. Police have done a speed check on B4202 at Pensax Village Hall and will come out again due to number exceeding 40mph. Clerk has requested speed be monitored in this area. Vehicle Activated Sign is on rota for Snead Common area.
 - d. **Footpath Clearance** – advice had been sought from WCC. Cllrs can strim as individuals at their own risk. It would be sensible to advise landowners before starting work. It was agreed if paths were cleared it would encourage people to walk them more often.
9. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:** Clerk attended WCC Conference in June which included Broadband update, see above.
10. **Finances:**
 - a. **Payments made** – MHDC Election fees May 2015 = £26.49, Came & Co Insurance 2015-16 = £159.00 (see item f), see item 18 for further payments.
 - b. **To report receipts since last meeting** – WCC County Cllr Grant for VAS = £420.00 (see item 18), Pensax Village Hall Rent 2014-15 = £5.00, LM refund = £189.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation Current Account** – May/June/July/August 2015 was agreed and signed. Balance agreed as £5257.40.
 - d. **Annual Return 2014-15** – The Internal Auditor found a clerical error .This was altered by Clerk and signed by Chairman in June.
 - e. **External Auditors Report 2014-15** – No matters of concern were raised.
 - f. **Insurance Renewal 2015-16** – War Memorial had been added to insurance at value of £5000.00, also 3 noticeboards at value of £1500.00 and 2 seats at value of £1000.00. No extra premium due, it was agreed to continue with present insurer at cost of £159.00.

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11. Planning:

- a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – See item 18.
- b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –
Appeal – 14/01223/FUL – APP/J1860/W.15/3003228 – Spring Meadow, Pensax, Abberley, Worcester WR6 6AG – General Purpose steel framed agricultural building. **Appeal allowed.**
- c. **Plans for comment on tonight** –
15/01017/FUL – Land off Stockton Road, Stockton-on-Teme, Worcestershire WR6 6UT – Photo Voltaic Solar Energy Farm (5MW) and ancillary equipment. After much discussion it was agreed by all to object to this application. Cllrs in favour of solar farms but need to be sited sympathetically within country side. Concerns regarding lack of communication/consultation, visual impact, noise, effect on environment/tourism businesses. Clerk to draft letter for approval.
- d. **Complaint regarding created track way at Spring Meadow, Pensax** – Dist Cllr update – Landowner has advised MHDC it is permitted development. MHDC enquiries ongoing.

12. Road report

- a. **Lengthsman** – Work ongoing.
- b. **Any problems to report** – None.
- c. **Stock of PC salt winter 2015-16** – It was agreed no order is needed at present.

13. **Email correspondence** – Cllrs questioned amount of emails. Clerk will work to send less emails but put more information in them. To highlight important/urgent emails.

14. **To discuss communication between meetings**- Conference calls were discussed. It was felt they may be beneficial between meetings for some issues. Clerk to gain further advice from CALC.

15. **Police Survey 2015** – Survey had been circulated, Cllrs to respond by 1st October.

16. **Meeting Dates 2016** – Dates set, Clerk to book venue and confirm by email.

17. **Correspondence for information** –
Items available at the meeting.

18. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting

Payments - July 2015 – LM Payment April/May/June to 13th July = £490.00, **September 2015** – Vehicle Activated Sign repairs (this was paid for by a grant from County Cllr see item 10) = £420.00.

Plans circulated for comments -

July 2015 - 15/00912/CPU – (Permitted Development) Spring Meadow, Pensax - Proposed detached free standing Garden Pergola. Plans circulated by email, no comments sent in.

July 2015 - 15/00942/FUL –Heather View, Pensax Common, WR6 6XL – Replacement Dwelling. Plans circulated by email, no objections. Comments regarding size of new building and proximity of footpaths.

July 2015 - Appeal by MHDC – 14/00004/FUL – APP/J1860/A/14/22596 Workshop at Tilterdown, Pensax Common, Stockton WR6 6NX – Demolition of existing steel clad workshop, timber storage shed and construction of a new single storey dwelling with basement. Information circulated by email. No record of previous comments held. No comments were made as this is an appeal by MHDC not the applicant.

August 2015 - STW – works at Pensax Common Water Mains replacement consultation. Details circulated by email. No comments made.

17. Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda -

Agenda items – Village Hall, Broadband, Clerks Review

18. **Date of next meeting: 19th JANUARY 2016 at OLD CHAPEL MENITH WOOD - 7pm**

21. **Meeting Closed – 9.10pm.**

Signed----- Date 19th January 2016

Chairman

Residents raised concerns regarding planning application for Solar Farm Stockton (agenda item10c)

Chairman had attended Stockton Parish Meeting and Cllrs had attended Public Meeting held at Stockton Farm. Land owners and agents were invited to attend this meeting but declined as they had held a Public Meeting in Stockton.

Representatives from the parishes of Stockton-on-Teme and Sapey Common were present at this meeting. Sapey Common stated the Solar Panels will be visible from their parish.

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Residents in Stockton were not aware of this application until notices from MHDC went up in August. The notices were not left up for the full consultation period. It was felt there was a total lack of proper consultation by applicant who should engage with the community on such applications. This did not happen until after the application had been submitted. There is a total lack of transparency and incorrect details on application. The photographs supporting the application are taken when trees/hedges in full leaf thus obscuring views of the site. The photograph taken from Stanford Church was not taken at the highest point, it will be very visible from this listed building. Solar Panels will spoil the setting of this peaceful rural countryside.

This is a green field site, government prefers solar panels to be on brown field sites

Concerns were raised regarding the noise impact from fans housed in large container units that will be visible.

Some residents feel their properties will be overshadowed by the site, recommended distance of properties from these sites is 500 metres, and some properties are only 200 metres from this field.

The site will affect tourism for this area as footpaths are close to this site. One resident is in the process of establishing a holiday let business and feels this application will be detrimental to his emerging business.

At end of useful life who clears sites and makes it clean again, should be a condition within application. (This has been addressed in amended information submitted September 2015).

It was felt the panels will have a detrimental impact on the wildlife in this area.

It was suggested a request is made to the Dist Cllr asking for this matter to go before a full planning committee. It should not be decided by a Planning Officer under delegated decisions.