

**The Minutes of Pendock Parish Council**  
**Held at Pendock School at 7.30pm on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**Present: Cllrs Mr John Humphreys (Chairman), Miss Rosemary Philipson-Stow, Mr Simon Fellows, and Mr John Davidson**

**In attendance:** County Councillor Tom Wells, Andy Wilson and Richard Davis from Kier Construction and Arasu Gurusamy from Highways England. Also in attendance the Clerk and 8 villagers

The meeting was adjourned to discuss the repairs to Pendock Bridge and Bury court Bridge which would necessitate the closure of School Lane and The un-named road from Camers Green to the A417 at Red Marley

- 1. Apologies:** were received from Cllrs Adrian Lovegrove and Charles Rush
  
- 2. Declaration of Interests:**
  - a) Councillors were reminded to ensure that they need to update their register of interests should their situation change
  - b) Cllr Rosemary Philipson-Stow declared her personal interest in item 7 on the Agenda.
  
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September were approved and signed.
  
- 4. Resignation of councillor Nigel Thompson and Co-option of new Councillor:** The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Cllr Nigel Thompson who, being concerned at the amount of time during the year he was overseas, felt that it would be of better advantage to the village if he resigned and gave his place up to someone more likely to be able to attend all the meetings.  
  
Mrs Sue Giles put her name forwards for co-option and her offer was accepted by the Council. She duly signed a declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Parish Council.
  
- 5. Progress Reports:**
  - a) **Garage Site:** Further to a request for update it was reported that at present no decision had yet been received from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Appeal on Change of Use. In respect of the Enforcement Notice on the land adjoining Brookmead the documents to proceed with legal action have been drafted and MHDC at getting a court date to take the matter further.
  - b) **School Lane Closure:** See notes at the end of the minutes – Public Question Time.

**6. Finance Report:**

a) The Council approved the transactions below:

|                        |  |                  |
|------------------------|--|------------------|
| <b>Outgoings:</b>      |  |                  |
| Lengthsman             |  | 118.00           |
| Clerk's salary – J/A   |  | <u>198.00</u>    |
| <b>Total Outgoings</b> |  | <b>£316.00</b>   |
| <br>                   |  |                  |
| <b>Incomings:</b>      |  |                  |
| Lengthsman scheme      |  | 236.00           |
| Interest               |  | .75              |
| Precept                |  | <u>775.00</u>    |
| <b>Total Incomings</b> |  | <b>£1,011.75</b> |

Total funds at 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 £9,504.80

**Total funds at 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 £10,200.55**

Councillors were reminded that work had started on the Moors fencing which would cost £7,500 + VAT (which would be recoverable) hence the considerable bank balance at this time.

- b) Budget 2017/18:** A draft budget had been circulated to Councillors. As the Moors re-fencing was underway the Council's financial commitments would now be met and therefore ideas for future spending could now be considered. It was anticipated that there would be over £3,000 in the account by the end of March 2018. The draft budget was accepted with no adjustments.
- c) Precept:** It was agreed that there should be no change to the precept and it would remain at £1,550 for the coming year.

**7. Liaison Group – Green Waste Site:** The last meeting of the Liaison Group was held on 27th October. Unfortunately there were insufficient members in attendance to make a quorum so an open meeting was held. It was noted that where there were issues the Environmental Agency attended and in agreement with Edward Philipson Stow matters were rectified.

**8. Correspondence:**

- a) **Appeal Decision APP/J1860W/3155541 – Land Adjacent to Brookmead:** It was reported that the appeal for four houses on this site which had been refused by MHDC and objected to by the Parish Council had been granted by the Planning Inspectorate. Once again the Parish had failed to be informed of a) the Appeal and b) the appeal result and a complaint of lack of communication had been made.
- b) **BT Payphones:** It was reported that BT were going to be moving un-used payphones in the area, there was one applicable to Pendock at Sledge Green Caravan Park with the comment that it had not been used in the last 12 months.

The Clerk reported that Berrow Charities were considering placing a Defibrillator in the area and the council considered this telephone box be ideally situated. As Berrow Charities were having their Annual Meeting next week the Clerk agreed to take this suggestion to the meeting.

- c) **Worcestershire County Council Winter Services:** The Clerk reported that she had received the winter newsletter together with contact information for winter services. It was suggested that if there was a bin by the motorway bridge in School Lane, a top up of salt would be appropriate. The Clerk would look into dealing with this.
- d) **Application No. 16/01657/FUL Cromer Farm – use of buildings for offices, showroom etc:** The council reviewed this application and had no objections to the variation of condition 4 placed on the buildings, however, wished that the entrance to the site off the B4208 could be further splayed and the hedge on the east side be removed for open visibility round the bend so that cars exiting the site could have a clear view of traffic coming from the Gloucester direction.

**9. County Councillor’s report**

Cllr Tom Wells was welcomed back after his accident and thanked for his input into the open discussions with Highways England (see notes).

- 10. Date of the next Meeting:** It was agreed that the next meeting would include a County Council Highways Officer and be held prior to the commencement of the road closure. The Clerk would try to arrange the meeting for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Unfortunately the Officer who had dealt with this area for many years, Gerry Brienza had been posted to Wychavon and the new officer was Roy Fullee.

The Clerk reported that she had thanked Gerry for all the work he had done for the Parish.

The meeting closed at 10:05pm.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date.....

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**Notes of Public Question Time:**

Highways England and Kier Construction gave a presentation showing the repair work needed to improve the safety of Pendock Bridge. This work would require the closure of the bridge to traffic for some 42 weeks but arrangements would be made for pedestrians including dismounted cyclists but not horses to cross the bridge throughout the exercise.

The defined diversion route would take traffic from Pendock Cross on the B4208 along to Rye Cross then down the A438 to School Lane.

At the same time they reported that they were also doing Bury Court Bridge which is on the un-named road from Camers Green to the A417 at Red Marley – the diversion route for this traffic would be from Camers Green on the B4208 to Pendock Cross, right down Red Marley Lane and out to the A417.

This presentation raised a number of questions – and responses:

- I. It was the view of all present that the roads that would suffer most would be Netherley Lane, Red Marley Lane and School Lane Pendock. Also Whitings Hill Lane, Church Lane and Chadds Lane Berrow, all of which are single track. Most of the traffic affected by the closure would be local and would not use the designated diversion but cut through on these lanes as has been proved with past closures. Over the past four years these roads had suffered considerably from increased traffic due to bridge repairs but no repair work had been undertaken. The question was asked what budget had been set aside to meet the damage that was going to inevitably worsen their present poor state.  
Highways England response was that there were no figures in the budget to make any repair to these roads and that Worcestershire County Council would have to foot the bill. Cllr Tom Wells said that the County Council was very unlikely to be able to fund such an operation.
- II. A number of people were going to be financially affected by the closure – the inability to access the school easily may well put potential parents off sending their children to a school which does struggle to meet its intake target. The shop will inevitably lose much of its custom from Upper Pendock and the Sledge Green Statics caravan site. Farmers with land on the opposite side of the bridge will also find the obvious narrow lane diversions extremely frustrating as they meet smaller vehicles on single track roads. It was suggested that some way could be found to bring the completion date forwards to the beginning of September so that the School could satisfy potential parents they would not have any problems accessing the school.  
Highways England confirmed to the meeting that there was no compensation available for loss of earnings.
- III. School access for those approaching the School from the South would be to park near Grafton Lane and walk across the bridge. HiVis jackets would be available as well as umbrellas. It was originally thought that a purpose build carpark would be made available but this is not now the case. Concerns were raised about the traffic congestion during start and finish of School and it was hoped that many pupils would walk further to school thus reducing the number of cars at the drop off point especially as there is not an effective turning area beyond Grafton Lane.
- IV. Concerns were raised about the heavy traffic which currently goes from Malvern to the M50 via the lane at Camers Green. This would now put these 38 ton lorries down Red Marley Lane which, whilst in the village is very narrow and used extensively by pedestrians without a pavement.
- V. The question was raised why a new bridge built to a better standard that would be quicker to install has not been considered, it would be quicker to install and in the long run be a cost saving as the current repair would only last some 40 – 50 years. The response was that the cost of such an exercise would be well outside the budget.