

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council VIDEO Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 21st September 2020

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

In Attendance: Clerk, Dist Cllr Paul Cummings

1. **Apologies:** Noted from Cllr Rudd, Cllr Wood
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs reminded to keep their registers updated. Cllr Meese completed his form.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – All Cllrs agenda item 12 – Pensax Village Hall.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – as above.
3. **Dispensations –**
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
Dispensations requested – Pensax Village Hall agenda item 12 all Cllrs have been granted a Dispensation until May 2023 at the January 2020 meeting.
4. **Public Question Time** – No public entered meeting
5. **County Cllr Report** – Report at end of minutes, apologies received.
District Cllr Report – See notes at end of minutes.
6. **Minutes** of Parish Council Video Meeting held on 27th July 2020 and Extraordinary Parish Council Video Meeting held on 21st August 2020 were agreed by all and will be signed by Chairman.
7. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **BT Box/Defibrillator signs** – Signs with Clerk, it was agreed by all to pay invoice of £57.60, Chairman to arrange installation of sign. Clerk to ask Dist Cllr to fund this as agreed previously.
 - b. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Menith Wood** – Quote obtained from Openreach, WCC have agreed to increase their funding. Project to move to next stage with anticipated completion in twelve months.
 - c. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Worles Common** – work ongoing to obtain further funds.
 - d. **Fitness Walks** – Suggested local walk routes have been sent to MHDC for approval
 - e. **Stockton Road speeding** – WCC to be asked to monitor speed with view to extending speed signs.
8. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:**
WCALC - Zoom meetings due to Covid 19 regulations and changes in Government Regulations
2nd September 2020 – CALC Video Cllr Training attended by one Cllr, details circulated.
9. **Finances –**
 - a. **Payments made** – Mrs S Burrows (defib signs) = £57.60, Mr R Painter (see item 12a) = £450.00, Came and Company (see item 14) = £475.12.
 - b. **Payments received** – Pensax Village Hall Trustees (balance left in account) = £81.75, VAT repayment £60.18.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliations** (circulated) - Signed for August balance agreed as £13937.95.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **None.**
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting –
20/00911/HP - 138 Snead Common, Abberley, Worcester WR6 6AF – Demolition of existing annex and conservatory; erection of ground floor extension and first floor dormer window. **Withdrawn by applicant.**
 - c. Plans for comment on tonight – None
11. **Road report**
 - a. **Lengthsman** – Work ongoing.
 - b. **Any problems to report** – .Worles common, Pensax end cars are grounding, BT line down Pensax Common by bridge, Menith Wood road down to Eardiston needs attention and Chapel Lane. Clerk to report.
 - c. **Dangerous trees Pensax Common** – WCC stated *'The Arboriculturist went to visit and inspected the tree. He found no cause for concern upon the day of inspection.*
 - d. **Stockton Road drainage issues** – WCC are working with the landowner to resolve the issue.

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At 7.35pm the meeting closed for five minutes due to technical issues. The meeting resumed at 7.40pm, Cllr Weston gave her apologies as she could not connect to the video meeting.

12. **Pensax Village Hall** (circulated) –
 - a. **Plans** – It was agreed by all to submit the plans as circulated for preplanning advise. It was agreed by all to pay architects invoice for £450.00 for work undertaken to date.
 - b. **Assets** – It was agreed by all to dispose of assets as necessary, no enquiries have been made to Clerk regarding the list of assets circulated on village email.
13. **Risk Assessment** (circulated) – All matters covered; it was agreed by all for Chairman to sign.
14. **Insurance renewal from October 2020** (circulated) – It was agreed to renew with Came & Company at a cost of £475.12.
15. **To discuss Community Engagement and Social Media for PC** – Clerk is working on draft policies for circulation. It was agreed by all documents to be circulated in draft and agreed by email. On agreement of policy Cllr can then proceed with Facebook page for Parish Council.
16. **To discuss Cllr Training** – There is money in budget for training. It was agreed by all Cllrs who express interest in training should be encouraged to attend subject to funds being in budget. Clerk to monitor.
17. **Website Accessibility Regulations from 28th September 2020** – WCC website is compliant with new rules regarding disabled having access to information. PC need to ensure residents with disabilities know they can ask for information in other formats if required. CALC are looking to give training to Clerks.
18. **Correspondence for information** –
COVID 19 updates from CALC, NALC, WCC, MHDC, Police
South Worcestershire Development Plan information
19. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting** –
12th August – Email circulated to agree for Cllr to attend WCALC Training in autumn 2020. This was agreed by all at a cost of £90.00 for three sessions.
20. **Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.**
Agenda items - Pensax Village Hall, Risk Assessment.

18. **Date of next VIDEO meeting: 16th November 2020 at 7pm.**

19. **Meeting Closed 8.10pm**

Signed----- Date **16th November 2020**
Chairman

Public Question Time – No matters discussed.

District Councillors Report

National Planning Policy – More houses in South Worcestershire, villages may have more houses built in them. **SWDP** - Traffic surveys need to be undertaken but due to Covid traffic noticeably light.

MHDC – Finances slightly improved due to Government subsidies.

County Councillors Report

Flooding - As a result of the promise of a large grant from central government, a number of people met on the 4th September to discuss the needs of a flood barrier with EA in Tenbury. A photograph of the assembled company was published in the Tenbury Advertiser last week. It became clear that the EA has not done any detailed design work on the tricky areas of the barrier, for instance crossing Teme Street by the bridge. The EA will be working on these designs in the near future and there will be a consultation period for people to express their views. All those involved need to seek to ensure the EA keeps to a tight timetable as the money may not be forthcoming if the work is not completed quickly.

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County Matters - Schools returned earlier this month, and we have to hope that all the dire predictions of problems prove unduly pessimistic. The news media are concerned to tell us the figures for positive test results, but rarely put that in context of the numbers of tests carried out. They also more or less ignore the very small number of people needing to go to hospital and the even smaller number of people succumbing to the disease.

From the latter two figures, one would draw some hope that the whole pandemic is under control or coming to a close. That said, the Government has decided on further restrictions on meetings, with a limit of just 6 people being together in one household, and we have to hope these will not be in place for very long. Despite the stringent conditions applied to social gatherings, meetings in a workplace are acceptable and I have completed three full days of discussions at the County Council between the Cabinet and the senior leadership team, planning the future of the council. That is acceptable, as long as we remain 2 metres apart... A number of important matters have been discussed, many looking at the impact of the coronavirus pandemic as well as the financial state of the council. While a lot of matters are still to be decided, we are preparing contingency plans to seek to ensure that we stay within budget while providing the sort of services our residents expect.

Local Matters - I would be grateful if any highway and other problems be passed to your liaison engineer in the first instance, but also that you will let me know of any uncalled for delays in remedial work. I am aware that the traffic lights on the A443 in Great Witley have appeared before any work on the water leak has started. I hope that situation is remedied soon.

CLlr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ