

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Old Chapel, Menith Wood at 7.00pm on Monday 19th July 2021

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

In Attendance: Clerk, Three Members of Public, County Cllr David Chambers, Dist Cllr Douglas Godwin

1. **Apologies:** Noted from Cllr Rudd.
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/ 22 Pensax Village Hall. Cllr Abraham Item 10a, payment of invoices to A&A Building Services due to it being his business.
 - 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 13/22 – 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** – See Report at end of minutes.
District Cllr Report – Cllr was welcomed to the meeting after his illness. See report at end of minutes.
7. **Minutes** of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2021 and minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9th June 2021 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Menith Wood** – completion in two phases, waiting for Openreach update.
 - 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** – Vouchers will be issued soon to residents who have expressed an interest, residents need to watch for the email and respond quickly.
 - d. **Stockton Road speeding** – WCC advised PC contact County Cllr who is now looking into the matter.
9. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:** None.
10. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – Invoices circulated by email - Mrs S Burrows (see d) = £89.99, Mrs S Burrows (see e) = £230.75, A&A Building (defib installation in BT Box Menith Wood) = £40.00, A&A Building (noticeboard renovation Menith Wood) = £200.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – WCC LM £91.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliations** (circulated) - Signed for ,May/June 2021 balance agreed as £13588.53.
 - d. **McAfee subscription 2021-2022** – It was agreed to repay Clerk £89.99 as circulated.
 - e. **Clerks Expenses 2020-2021** – It was agreed to pay expenses of £130.98 as circulated.
 - f. **Budget Review (circulated)** – Change to be made to Reserves as per item 14.
11. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – See item 18.
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting-**
21/00515/CU – Spring Meadow, Pensax, Abberley, Worcester WR6 6AG - Change of use of land for the siting of 1 cabin to be used as holiday accommodation. **Withdrawn by applicant.**
 - c. **Plans for comment on tonight** – None.
 - d. **Stockton Road agricultural field** – MHDC confirmed the hot tub should not be on the land, they will write to the landowner to ask for removal.

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12. Road report

- a. **Lengthsman** – Work ongoing, no invoices received for payment.
- b. **Problems to report** – None.
- c. **Stockton Road drainage issues** – see below.
- d. **Worles Common/Menith Wood roads drainage issues** – See below.
Chairman waiting for MHDC Drainage Officer to confirm meeting date for issues above.
- e. **Grit bin request for Penn Hall Lane** – WCC stated the road does not meet criteria for a bin. Clerk to see what criteria is as road is icing in winter and on an incline.

13. Pensax Village Hall – No further offers have been received since the June meeting when a preferred bidder was agreed. The agent was informed on 9th July the PC will accept the preferred bidder's offer as no further offers have been made. Matters are now in the hands of Solicitors. No matters to discuss tonight.

- a. **Consultation with residents regarding funds generated by Sale (circulated)** – Clerk to draft initial information to residents, to agree by email.

14. Menith Wood Millennium Green Grant – The Committee have advised Clerk celebrations delayed until 2025. It was agreed by all not to keep the grant of £250.00 in reserves. It was agreed to move it to general funds.

15. Footpaths in Parish – It was agreed to promote footpaths and ask residents what paths they would like to see cleared and encourage working parties to help. To promote responsibilities of WCC and Landowners.

16. Ward Boundary Review for Malvern Hills District Council (circulated) – Consultation ends 20th September – Dist Cllr advised the PC to make comments at next consultation when suggested changes will be known.

17. Correspondence for information – COVID 19 updates from CALC, NALC, WCC, MHDC, Police South Worcestershire Development Plan information

Brief to Parish Councils on West Mercia Police's Local Policing Charter – 19th July – 6.30pm – zoom link

Police request for PC Contact details (circulated) – returned by Clerk 13th July.

Police Commissioners Consultation (circulated) – Clerk to complete and return by August 2021.

WCC letter to school parents regarding parking in Pensax Village – driveways being blocked – to circulate by email/Facebook for new School Term.

Pensax Road/Penn Hall Lane closed 2nd August for 5 days – BT Overhead works.

18. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

Plans circulated 20th June –

21/00648/HP – Wisdale, Pensax, Stockton, Worcester WR6 6XJ - Erection of single storey side extension and demolition of sun lounge and conservatory.

9th July – Concerns regarding vegetation on Menith Wood Road – reported to WCC.

19. Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.

Agenda items - Pensax Village Hall, Co-option

27. Date of next meeting: 20th September 2021 – 7pm - OLD CHAPEL HALL, MENITH WOOD

28. Meeting Closed 8.38pm

Signed----- Date **20th September 2021**
Chairman

Issues raised by residents –

Agenda item 15 - The FP Officer attended the meeting. She outlined the responsibilities of landowners and WCC. Most vegetation work is volunteer led; someone can set up a Working Party to help clear paths etc. Stiles are responsibility of Landowner, WCC will provide gates for Landowner to install. If clearing of paths is done you will need to get Landowner's permission. There are still problems with dogs off leads, walkers being abusive to landowners if they are asked to put dogs on leads, dog mess not picked up. PC to promote the Countryside Code to address all these issues.

Agenda item 12c/d – Drainage issues in Stockton Lane continue to affect one resident's land. Ditches need clearing by Landowner but have not been done. Resurfacing of highway has changed run of water. Drains at end of Worles Common not yet cleared.

Verge issues – Resident has already reported matter to PC but attended meeting to say it is dangerous. This is not the only road in parish. Verge cutting usually twice a year in May and August. Residents should report issues

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on WCC website, the more reports the more likely verges will be cut. Farmers to be encouraged to cut back hedges as some are growing into highway.

District Councillors Report

Defibrillators sited in MHDC - Cllr is to compiling a list.

MHDC Finances - Authorisation of spending of Funds being reviewed.

Solar Panels on new builds – it was asked why new houses do not have panels to stop the large applications for Solar Panels on farmland. Cllr stated it is costly and makes the homes unaffordable. Social Housing especially affected as Housing Associations will not take responsibility for them so they then become unaffordable.

Boundary Review – Dist Cllrs to be reduced from 38 to 31 under the review. This Consultation is regarding Ward Boundaries; it will not affect Parish Boundaries.

County Councillors Report

Latest Covid Figures issued to County Councillors show a substantial increase in cases:

- a. Latest figures show 120 cases per 100,000 in Worcestershire with some post codes showing an infection rate above 400 per 100,000.
- b. Latest figures show 133 cases in the Malvern Hills District.
- c. One care home in Worcestershire has more than two cases.
- d. Over 60s, 25 cases per 100,000 in Malvern Hills.

Vaccinations continue to progress well in Worcestershire. Over 50% of adults have now received two vaccinations. All adults over 18 years of age are now being called for their first vaccination. Last weekend saw a second “Grab A Jab” weekend in Worcestershire, to encourage hesitant groups to come forward. The event was again very successful with good take-up.

A number of venues and outlets in Worcestershire will continue to encourage mask wearing.

New Secondary School for 600 has been approved in Worcester. It will operate as an Academy. No site has yet been agreed.

Children Services - WCC continues to see an increased demand.

I have been appointed to the Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority. It is clear that the Police and Crime Commissioner is determined to proceed with his aspirations to incorporate the Fire Authority, together with Shropshire Fire Authority, with West Mercia Police. The PCC would then oversee both Police and Fire & Rescue Services.

Other Committees and Panels to which I have been appointed:

- a. Vice Chairman of Standards & Ethics Committee
- b. Member of the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- c. Member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- d. Member of Adult and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Road “Surface Dressing” is taking place across the County. Structural repairs are completed first followed by an application of hot bituminous binder to the surface, followed by one or two layers of chippings. After about a week the road is then swept and road markings re-painted. There have been a number of cases of verbal and physical abuse of workers; three cases are being investigated by the police, following a number of arrests.

Government Grant - WCC have been given a grant of £1.5 million to provide free school meals, activities and support to families over the summer holidays. This support will be available to children from nursery to teenagers. It will enable schools and providers across the County, to run exciting and enriching summer holiday activities with meals provided for disadvantaged children.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division