

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Old Chapel, Menith Wood at 7.00pm on Monday 18th January 2022

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

In Attendance: Clerk, Mark Kinross (New Clerk), Lindridge Parish Cllr David Evans, Dist Cllr Paul Cumming,
County Cllr David Chambers

1. **Apologies:** None.
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/ 24 Pensax Village Hall.
 - 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 13/24 – 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** – Report at end of minutes.
District Cllr Report – Report at end of minutes.
7. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 15th November 2021 and minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 18th December 2021 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Menith Wood** – BT Openreach not connecting some properties despite Cllr raising concerns. County Cllr to look into delays.
 - b. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Worles Common to Abberley** – BT Openreach still to connect a few properties, hope completion February 2022.
 - c. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Pensax Common** – Work progressing, installation process to start within 12 months. Cllr Meese to look into properties not accepted onto this scheme. Area covered by Snead Common is at delivery phase for completion within 12 months.
 - d. **Footpaths in Parish** – No updates, item to be removed from agenda.
 - e. **Post code issues Menith Wood** – Dist Cllr for Lindridge Ward to help resolve.
 - f. **Waste Bin Penn Hall Lane** – Clerk to order bin as circulated, cost £104.00 + VAT.
 - g. **Speeding Concerns** - Snead Common B4202, Stockton Road (Worles Common junction), road through Pensax. Police and WCC are looking into all issues and will update as matters progress.
 - h. **MHDC refusal to give Section 106 money to Acute Hospital Trust** – Dist Cllr advised there is a set process to access funds which the Trust did not follow, funds were applied for too late. MDHC consult all relevant bodies when large planning applications are made, the Trust should be aware of how the system works. MHDC have to follow a process which is quite complicated and takes years to agree with developers this cannot be changed once agreed.
9. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:** None.
10. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – Mr C Bunn (LM December 2021) = £147.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – .Donation to War Memorial = £25.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliations** (circulated) - Signed for November/December 2021 balance agreed as £13588.66.
 - d. **Information Commissioner Fee** – £35.00 to be paid by DD 22/02/2022
 - e. **Internal Auditor 2022-2023** – It was agreed by all to appoint DM Payroll Services Ltd at a cost of £75.00. Clerk had obtained quotes from another company for her other Parish which was over £250.00.
 - f. **Precept 2022-2023** – Budget circulated. It was agreed by all to increase precept by £512.00 to £5562.00 due to new Clerk requiring increased hours and training.

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11. Planning:

- a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – None.
- b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –
21/01893/HP - Westkerke Pensax Stockton Worcester WR6 6XJ – Ground floor rear conservatory extension. **Approved by MHDC.**
APPEAL - ENF/19/0333 - APP/J1860/C/21/3281872 - Stockton Meadow Stockton Worcester WR6 6XG.
The Planning Inspector agreed the removal of hot tub but the caravan can remain due to it being used for agricultural purposes.
- c. **Plans for comment on tonight** – None.

12. Road report

- a. **Lengthsman** – Blocked pipes below Worles Common junction to be looked at when it is dryer.
- b. **Problems to report** – Penn Hall Lane, Menith Wood end, water on road. Clerk to ask LM to look at, may be spring, broken pipe. If cause of problem can be found WCC may help.

13. Pensax Village Hall – (draft documents circulated) -

- a. The buyers Solicitor has not yet returned legal paperwork to PC Solicitor so no papers could be signed.
- b. It was agreed by all as sale is nearing completion the matter of putting Hall back on the market was not up for discussion.

14. Police Parish Charter – It was agreed by all to confirm speeding issues on sites already identified, persons driving onto farmland causing damage to gates/crops and rural crime are main concerns in this Parish.

15. Housing Needs Survey (circulated) – It was agreed by all to include Menith Wood houses in Pensax Parish in the survey. Clerk to advise Lindridge Cllr of decision this week.

16. War Memorial – It was agreed by all to look into costs of Silent Soldiers, Clerk to circulate details.

17. Facebook posts – Clerk would advise Cllr not to post PC items unless he has checked with Clerk or Chair.

18. Malvern Hills Electoral Review: Draft Recommendations (circulated) – Woodbury Ward will no longer exist. Pensax Parish to become part of Lindridge Ward. All agreed they had no objections to the change.

19. Correspondence for information – Updates from CALC, NALC, WCC, MHDC, Police

South Worcestershire Development Plan information

MHDC - Petition for Hybrid Meetings

MHDC - Consultation on Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy – Comments by 16th January

MHDC - Caravan Sites & Occupancy Restrictions

MHDC - Christmas Domestic Refuse Collections 2021.

MHDC - Live and Local - Entertainment Opportunities in your Community

MHDC - Dog Control PSPO Consultation – comment to support made by PC

20. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –

Payments – 18th December –

Mrs S Burrows (Defib pads) = £43.20Mr C Bunn LM November 2021 = £245.00

December – emails from resident with matters not involving the PC passed to Police.

December - Email from Valuation Office Agency – Clerk updated details regarding ownership/lease.

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

Agenda items - Pensax Village Hall funds, Consultation process, Co-option, Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022, Clerks Contract, Defib training, Repairs to Map in Menith Wood.

22. Date of next meeting: 21st MARCH 2022 – 7pm - OLD CHAPEL HALL, MENITH WOOD

23. It was agreed to exclude the Public and Press from the meeting due to the confidential nature of The business to be discussed.

24. Pensax Village Hall Sale – There were no issues to discuss.

25. Meeting Closed 8.48pm

Signed-----
Chair

Date 21st March 2022

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Housing Needs Survey – Lindridge Cllr advised there are brown field sites in Lindridge Parish which could provide housing. As Menith Wood is split between the two parishes it was felt the Pensax Parish houses in the village should be included in the survey. Survey to be sent out in February, returned by April, MHDC will oversee this process. Report will be published. Lindridge to engage at Saturday Market, to inform/encourage residents to complete, one per household. Cllr was thanked for coming to the meeting, **see agenda item 15.**

District Cllrs Report

Planning 15/00942 - Concerns regarding groundworks at building site not being within the approved plans – MHDC will advise the landowner a planning application should be submitted. Dist Cllr is pressing for this to happen.

Boundary Review- It is proposed that Woodbury Ward will no longer exist, Pensax to be moved to Lindridge Ward. Some Parishes affected by the review will be sending in comments of concern but Pensax had no concerns, **see item 18.**

South Worcestershire Development Plan – delayed until 2023.

Planning Training – Dist Cllrs to have more training.

County Cllr Report

My report for January will be short due to the Christmas and New Year break at the County Council. I will concentrate on updates regarding Health matters, which hopefully will be of interest to everyone.

Latest Covid Figures as at 17th January 2022 are:

- a. Worcestershire is showing an infection rate of 1,200 cases per 100,000.
- b. The infection rate in the Malvern Hills District is 871 cases per 100,000.
- c. The direction of travel is down, in all Districts within Worcestershire.
- d. Wyre Forest has the highest infection rate in Worcestershire with 1,493 cases per 100,000. Malvern Hills District has the lowest infection rate.
- e. The rate of infection in England as a whole is 1,272 cases per 100,000.

The above rates have increased dramatically in the last month for reasons which we are all aware, but in the last few days, rates have begun to come down throughout Worcestershire. Fortunately, Covid related hospital admissions and deaths in Worcestershire have not risen at the same rate. The message from the Director of Public Health at the County Council remains the same: Adhere to Government guidelines, ensure you are fully vaccinated, use doctor's surgeries, pharmacies, Minor Injury Units, NHS111 etc., wherever possible and only call an ambulance or visit the Acute Hospital if it is absolutely necessary, in order to keep pressure off these two key services, as far as possible.

Worcestershire Royal Hospital - There is some good health related news in Worcestershire. Plans to transform urgent and emergency care services at the Hospital will see the relocation and expansion of the Hospital's Emergency Department, Medical Assessment Unit and Ambulatory Emergency Care, hosting a wide range of diagnostic and treatment services. Works are already underway with a plan to be fully operational by the end of this year.

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - I am a Member of the Committee and in November we held an all day meeting with representatives of West Midlands Ambulance Service, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Herefordshire & Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust, NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and Worcestershire County Council. Although the Committee has no statutory powers, we are able to make recommendations. I am not able to give details of our recommendations at this time, as they are not yet in the public domain but hopefully we will see improvements with regards to Ambulance waiting times, late discharge of patients from the Acute hospital and so on, in the coming months.

Worcestershire Royal Hospital Funding - An important step forward that will help, is an additional £8million capital funding from NHS England to the Hospital, to create a 30 place, short stay Clinical Assessment Unit. This additional capacity will greatly improve the care of patients who are waiting to be transferred to a ward after being seen in the Emergency Department. It will help free up space in the Emergency Department, ease pressure on Emergency Department staff, reduce waiting times and improve ambulance handover times. This new Unit will hopefully be operational by the end of next month.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division