

**PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL**

**DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 7 pm**

*Present*

Cllr. Meese, (Chair) Cllr. Gould, Cllr. Abraham, Cllr. S. Rudd. Cllr. A Gillett  
+ 2 Vacancy - Clerk-Carole Hirst  
Cllr. Paul Cumming (MH District Councillor)  
1 Member of the Public.

**1 Apologies for absence-** Cllr. Chambers WCC

**Absent:** None

**2 Declarations of Interest. None**

**Parishioners Question Time – None**

**3 Approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on  
Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

Cllr. Rudd Proposed and Cllr. Abrahams Seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be approved. All in favour.

**4 District and County Councillor Reports (Circulated prior to the meeting.)**

**Cllr. Cumming- MHDC Councillor Report.**

The Planning Improvement Working Group which I chair has so far held a number of meetings and is identifying areas where improved practices could help.

The Council has received £1.1 m extra money from the Government for the next year. It is normal practice for such windfall amounts to be allocated to a ring-fenced reserve for infrastructure to support new development. This was not done as part of the budget process and I have asked that the new Council consider transferring this money into such a reserve, of which there is a real need.

Following a similar question for the Platinum Jubilee, at the last Council Meeting our neighbouring councillor asked if MHDC would provide some funding to go towards celebrations of the forthcoming Coronation. The initial response was that some funding would be provided to Town Councils but it would now seem that this is being reviewed to consider including Parish Councils.

Councillors wished to give a vote of thanks for his services to Pensax. Cllr. Cumming has enjoyed his tenure with Pensax PC.

**Cllr. Chambers - WCC Councillor Report.**

New Special School for Children with Autism

A new special school that caters for the needs of pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is to be built in Malvern. The successful bid from Worcestershire County Council was announced this week by the Department for Education.

The new special free school will provide 120 full time places for pupils aged 5-19 with autism, who are able to engage with mainstream curriculum with extra support and who would also

benefit from a specific environment and staff dedicated to a holistic approach. The capital funding for the new school will be provided from the Government's Free School Programme.

#### County Council Budget 2023/24

At the Budget meeting of the Council, Council approved the following recommendations:

- a. A budget of £400.813 million be set (as detailed in the report before Councillors).
- b. A Capital programme of £432.720 million be set (as detailed in the report before Councillors).
- c. An increase in Council Tax Precept of 4.94%, broken into two parts:
  - i. 2.94% to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan.
  - ii. 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept, ring-fenced for Adult Social Care services, in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to Worcestershire's ageing population.

At the Budget meeting there was a proposal by the Opposition to reduce the Highways Capital programme by £2million. I spoke against this amendment (which was similar to an amendment submitted one year ago), because it is my view that if you were do this, then over a relatively short period of time, Worcestershire roads would become similar to those we experience in Herefordshire. Whilst Worcestershire roads are not perfect, they are considerably better than those in neighbouring counties. I am please that the amendment was defeated.

#### Herefordshire & Worcestershire Fire & Rescue Service

I attended a meeting of the Fire Authority (Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February). The Chief Fire Officer reported that a pay offer of 7% for this year and 5% for next year had been offered to the unions. He is hopeful that the pay offer will be accepted, following consultations ending in early March, which will hopefully mean that there will be no further strikes within our area.

## 5 Finance

- a. **To consider the Bank Reconciliation to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**  
Councillors reviewed the accounts and confirmed that the Bank Reconciliation was accurate and reconciled and signed the bank reconciliation as true and accurate. **Noted.**
- b. **To consider the Budget Monitoring Report to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.** Councillors agreed the Budget Monitoring Report. **Noted.**
- c. **To Consider list of due payments and receipts to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.** Cllr. Meese Proposed and Cllr. Rudds Seconded that all payments be approved. All in favour.

#### **PAYMENTS at 21ST March 2023**

C Hirst - Jan Pay	£	386.80
HMRC Jan Clerk	£	96.80
C Hirst - Feb Pay	£	386.80
HMRC February Clerk	£	96.80
In2Out Feb 23 Lengthsman	£	165.00
Clerk Expenses to 21st March 23	£	51.54
ICO - GDPR registration for 2023/24	£	35.00
C Hirst - March Pay	£	387.00
HMRC March Clerk	£	96.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,183.74</b>
<b><u>Receipts not previously recorded</u></b>		
WCC Jan Lengthsman	£	180.00
WCC Lengthsman March	£	165.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>345.00</b>

- d. Litterbins- 3 to purchase. One at Wisdale and one at the war memorial and one at the Millennium Green next to the existing bin. Glasdon quote £703.35 ex vat. The cost of In2Out (our Lengthsman) to install would be £75.00 Cllr. Meese Proposed and Cllr. Gillett Seconded that the 2 above costs be approved.
- e. To consider applying for Coronation funding from MHDC. MHDC have agreed to give the Parish Council funding towards Coronation Celebrations. It was agreed to apply for funding towards a community celebration.
- f. To consider Quote for new Parish Council website includes all councillors having a Parish Council email address, hosting. Parish Council Websites submitted a quote for £569 + VAT. In addition there is £19 per month hosting fees. Cllr. Meese Proposed and Cllr. Gillett Seconded that the website be approved via Parish Council websites.
- g. **The Clerk has agreed to remain at the Parish Council and retract her resignation. The PC agreed to undertake a pay review.** Councillors to consider an incremental pay rise for the Clerk from Spinal Column Point 17 (£13.95 per hour) to spinal column point 25 (£16.64 per hour) with a spinal column point review on the anniversary of employment each year. Cllr. Meese Proposed and Cllr. Gillett Seconded that this be approved. All in favour.

## 6 Planning

**M/22/01696/CU- Cross Keys Inn- Menith Wood-** Change of use from public house to 1 residential dwelling- WITHDRAWN on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**M/22/01766/HP Wisdale, Pensax-** Single storey extension to rear, detached garage to front and balconies to existing flat roof area- CONSULTATION to 24<sup>th</sup> February. Comments submitted.

**M/23/00196/FUL Barn at Hazelhurst Farm, Stockton-** Change of use of external area of residential curtilage from agricultural use to residential use (Retrospective)- CONSULTATION to 15<sup>th</sup> March. Response submitted.

**7 Pensax Parish Project –** on-going consultation. Letter drop completed. Response rate 106 respondents.

## 8 Meetings attended by the Chair.

A summary of the meetings attended by the Chair was circulated prior to the meeting for information.

## 9 Ongoing MHDC enforcement action at the Mound – UPDATE

Tipping of soil waste is continuing at The Mound. This has been raised on numerous occasions and MHDC Enforcement are involved.

The new Enforcement Officer visited the site shortly after taking up the post but there has been no further updates. The residents raised a further concern this week which has been followed up by Paul Cummings.

Planning Enforcement have involved the Environment Agency who confirmed the developer carrying out the work has obtained a licence to use the material being brought on site from the EA. This allows it to be used on development under the planning permission.

However, the work being carried out is being assessed against the permission granted but this is quite complicated.

Paul is pursuing this but in advance of the boundary change and upcoming elections has included Cllr. Douglas Godwin so he is also aware of the situation.

**10 Correspondence** for information circulated and noted.

**11 Councillors' suggestions for reports for the next agenda.** As the AGM is the next meeting with a new Parish Council there were no suggestions for the next agenda.

**12 Date of next meeting- The Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm at the Old Chapel, Menith Wood**

**The meeting closed at 8pm.**