

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Old Chapel, Menith Wood at 7.00pm on Monday 16th January 2017

Present: Cllr Rob Gready (Chairman), Cllr Rudd, Cllr Keron, Cllr Weston

In Attendance: Clerk, District Cllr Paul Cumming, 3 Members of the Public who gave talks at item 4.

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs to keep updated.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – Cllr Weston declared an interest in items 10b and 15 - **16/01554/HOU – Brockwood House, Menith Wood**. Cllr lives near the property. The item is on agenda for information only.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – None.
3. **Dispensations** –
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – **None requested**.
4. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes. All speakers left meeting at end of this item.
5. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd October 2016 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
6. **County Cllr Report** – Apologies received, report circulated and at end of minutes.
Dist Cllr Report – Brief report given, see notes at end of minutes.
7. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Superfast Broadband** – update given at item 4. Toby Wise agreed to continue to work on this for residents. Survey of Pensax residents to be undertaken.
 - b. **Community Speed Watch Scheme** – Clerk to register interest in this for all areas in Parish with speed restrictions.
 - c. **Defibrillator** – Cabinet being installed this week, Defibrillator to be installed when this is complete.
 - d. **War Memorial** – Clerk and Chairman had met with Trustees. Trustees are taking action to transfer responsibility of the Memorial to the Parish Council.
 - e. **Purchase of BT Box, Menith Wood** – Interest has been registered with BT.
 - f. **Resignation of Cllr** – Toby Wise has resigned as a Cllr, MHDC have been informed. Vacancy advertised on noticeboards/website. Co-option to be considered at March meeting if no residents request an election.
 - g. **Footpath/litter bin Pensax** – It was agreed to wait until the new gate is installed by WCC.
8. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors** –
Clerks Training 3rd November – record keeping for Clerks, all Pensax records being retained as required.
MHDC Conference 17th October – Clerk and three Cllrs attended, some issues to be looked into by Clerk for further discussion.
WCC Conference/CALC AGM 26th October – Clerk attended, information circulated.
9. **Finances** -
 - a. **Payments made** – Menith Wood Community Association (rent 16/01/17) = £24.00, Mr R Whiteman (LM July-November 2016) = £749.00, Information Commissioners Office (Data Protection 2017-18) = £35.00, WCALC (Clerks Training 03/11/16) = £10.00, Pensax PCC (see item 12a) = £200.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – MHDC Precept = £2000.00, HMRC VAT repayment (2014-2016) = £102.66.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** (circulated) - Signed for September/October/November/December 2016. Balance agreed as £6747.83 in Cash Book at 31st December 2016.
 - d. **Precept for 2017-18** – It was agreed by all to increase precept by £250.00, draft budget circulated. A precept of £4250.00 will be requested. Budget to 31st December circulated.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **See item 15**.
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting-
16/01294/HOU – Rowley Farm Bungalow, Pensax, Abberley WR6 6AG – Raise roof of existing bungalow to allow for first floor extension. Internal alterations. Porch. **Approved by MHDC**.

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

16/00420/CPU – Spring Meadow, Pensax, Abberley WR6 6AG – Proposed side extension. **Withdrawn by applicant.**

16/00247/FUL – Spring Meadow, Pensax, Abberley WR6 6AG – Creation of Agricultural Track. **Approved by MHDC.**

16/01009/AGR – New Inn Farm, Worles Common, Stockton WR6 6XQ – Prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed replacement building. **Approved by MHDC.**

16/01441/CPU – Myrron, Snead Common, Abberley WR6 6AF – Side extension. **Approved by MHDC.**

16/01554/HOU – Brockwood House, Menith Wood, WR6 6UB – Proposed single storey outbuilding to be used ancillary to main dwelling house (Brockwood House). **Approved by MHDC.**

c. **Plans for comment on tonight** – None.

11. Road report

a. **Lengthsman** – Drain/gulley's cleared after heavy rainfall, no outstanding issues. LM thanked for his work.

b. **Problems to report** – None.

c. **Worles Common** –

Dangerous Trees – WCC have agreed to inspect trees but no action taken to date.

Stones on Highway – WCC have contacted resident and the stones have now been removed.

12. **Pensax Church** – Cllrs agreed to help with this volunteer maintenance project if the PCC would agree. Cllr Rudd to pass details on to Church members and to let Cllrs know outcome. See notes at end of minutes.

a. **Pensax Church Mowing 2016** – It was agreed to grant £200.00. Email from PCC Treasurer circulated.

13. **Communication with residents** – It was agreed to work on extending email list of residents. Clerk to look at Register of Electors, 50 email contacts in files.

14. Correspondence for information –

Email correspondence circulated - list in minute's folder.

WCC Budget Briefing – 19th January – Cllr Weston booked to attend.

MHDC Consultation – Public Space Protection Order pursuant to Dog Control Consultation – notices to be put up and sent to residents by email, comments by 26th February.

Local Transport Plan – Document circulated, notices to be put up, comments by mid March.

Police Commissioner Consultation

15. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

Plans circulated by email on dates shown for comments –

27th October - 16/01441/CPU – Myrron, Snead Common, Abberley WR6 6AF – Side extension. Comments to support.

17th November – 16/01554/HOU – Brockwood House, Menith Wood, WR6 6UB – Proposed single storey outbuilding to be used ancillary to main dwelling house (Brockwood House). It was agreed to object to this application. (Cllr Weston did not comment on this application).

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

Agenda items - Broadband, Communication with residents, Litter pick, Clerks Review, Risk Assessment

17. Date of next meeting:

MONDAY 20th MARCH 2017 AT 7.00pm

PENSAX VILLAGE HALL

18. Meeting Closed 8.40pm.

Signed----- Date 20th March 2017

Chairman

Public Question Time - Broadband - David Evans gave an update on the Broadband survey he had undertaken in Menith Wood. 60 houses had surveys, 32% were returned. 85% of the 60 houses were unhappy with the service. Toby Wise has been working with David on this. Clerk to contact WCC to see what the plans are for Broadband in Pensax/Menith Wood. See item 7a of agenda.

Rob Dyson Chairman of Menith Wood Millennium Green gave a talk with David Evans (Treasurer). The land was purchased in 1999 with the help of lottery funding and local fundraising. Volunteers work on the land about three times during year to ensure the area is kept as natural as possible. The land has no chemicals put on it, planting of trees/flowers is undertaken after careful consideration of the types that are needed to encourage wildlife. Seven Trustees oversee the work of the Charity, insurance costs £200.00 pa. Trustees have passed ownership of land to Charity Commission. Two or three Newsletters sent out during year. Clerk to be sent Newsletter to circulate to Pensax residents to encourage more volunteers. Clerk to check with Parish Council insurers regarding insurance of the land. To be agenda item at March meeting. Rob and David were thanked for coming to the meeting.

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Kate Andrew gave a presentation regarding volunteer maintenance of Churches. The Heritage Lottery Fund has supported this project, no costs involved for Churches to take part. Kates funding finishes in May 2017. Kate has been working with Churches in area training volunteers to do small tasks such as clearing gutters, gullies, drains etc., a tool box is available to help with jobs. Initially a group of 6-8 volunteers survey the Church and list the jobs in priority order with the most urgent being done first. Kate is keen to work with Pensax Church. The PCC would need to agree and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure volunteers were insured under Church insurance. All Cllrs were supportive of this project, to be discussed further under item on 12 agenda.

District Cllr Report

Funding cuts from Central Government to MHDC are larger than expected, it is possible services will be affected by cutbacks that will have to be made to remain within budget. MHDC move to one site ongoing, planning permission being sought, buildings are in Conservation Area.

Yurts at Worles Common – The final date for applicant to lodge an Appeal was 8th December 2016. No notification of an Appeal has been received by Pensax Parish Council. MHDC are taking steps to start Enforcement to ensure the buildings are removed by 8th April 2017.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

1. May I wish all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. The year promises changes with all 57 WCC seats being contested to give a new administration at County Hall.

Budget - WCC need to approve budget and seek endorsement for plans to increase council tax by 0.94%. This will be in addition to the 2% rise in tax to provide money for adult social care, using a device arranged by the government for councils to raise the amount of money they think we need locally for this essential service. We are keen to point out that only a third of the increase will actually go to the normal local services, while the rest seeks to cover the large demands of our ageing population.

Roads - We are awaiting news on government funding for the second Carrington Bridge, and improving the A38 at Bromsgrove. Some money has been promised. This year should see the start of the new Worcestershire Parkway rail station at the intersection of the London line with that serving Birmingham and the south west. This will bring benefits in terms of connectivity/shorter travel times, leading to a 2 hour trip to and from London hourly.

Broadband - 2017 will bring superfast broadband to new areas. We will continue to press ahead with filling in the gaps so that everyone can have what is becoming to be seen as a necessity.

Mobile Phone Coverage - WCC are backing efforts to get better coverage across the whole county, a campaign strongly supported by MP Harriett Baldwin. This may mean higher phone masts and more of them but many will benefit from being able to use their mobiles from home and on the move.

2. Tesco's in Tenbury - Tesco store to be completed soon but before it can open, the Public Realm work that they are paying for will need to be completed. This will run from the bridge to the Regal, after which WCC will complete the remaining section up to Crow Corner. All this work, plus that needed in Shropshire at the junction with the A456, will cause some disruption and delay but will bring great benefits once completed.

3. Eastham Bridge - Work continues. The steel spans should be installed this month, leading to the construction of the carriageway and balustrades. The unfortunate puncturing of the water main service to Eastham and the Hanleys was caused by the Severn Trent contractor not following the design drawing properly when they installed the link under the river about 5 years ago. Delay to our reconstruction will be no more than a day.

Gritting - On some occasions, the drop in temperature comes too soon after rain for normal gritting, leading to some roads being missed. It is better to grit before the temperature drops below freezing, but it is not useful if the surface is still wet from rain in the last two hours. In addition, the brine making machine has been out of action over Christmas meaning dry grit has been spread recently. We are confident that we can handle whatever the weather throws at us.

4. VAS in Great Witley - The correct VAS devices have been installed as intended and I hope all residents have seen a moderation in driver behaviour. I trust that the Safer Roads Partnership will continue to monitor speeds along the A451.

5 - Road works on the B4202 - Severn Trent are replacing water mains on the B4202 running north of Clows Top to the Shropshire border. I hope this does not cause too much disruption for Pensax residents. Later this month, work on resurfacing the road linking Bayton and Beach Hay is also scheduled, but this should not be started until the Severn Trent work is completed. As with all such work, I would be grateful to hear of any problems, so that we can keep the standard at a decently high level, as I think normally applies.

Ken Pollock, Martley, Worcester, WR6 6QA