

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Pensax Village Hall at 7.55pm on Monday 8th May 2017

Present: Cllr Alistair Keron (Chairman), Cllr Rudd (Vice Chairman), Cllr Weston,
Cllr Gready, Cllr Hingley, Cllr Donnelly

In Attendance: Clerk, District Cllr Paul Cumming

1. **Election of Chairman** – After much discussion it was agreed by all that Cllr Keron be elected as Chairman. Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed. Cllr Gready was thanked for his work as Chairman over the last 3 years. Cllr Gready stated he is moving to Abberley but wishes to remain on Pensax PC. He will be living within 3 miles of Pensax boundary which is a requirement of being on a neighbouring PC.
2. **Apologies:** None.
3. **Co-option of Cllr** – Application received from Jo Hingley. It was agreed by all that Jo be co-opted onto the Council, a Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed. Jo was welcomed onto the Council.
4. **Election of Vice Chairman** – It was agreed by all Cllr Rudd be appointed as Vice Chairman.
5. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllr Hingley was given a Register of Interests form to be sent to MHDC.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – Chairman item 21(b) and item 25 - 17/00338/CLE - New Inn Farm, Worles Common due to Chairman supporting applicant by sending in written comments. (The plans are not up for discussion but only for reporting events to PC).
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – As above.
6. **Dispensations** –
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – None requested.
7. **Public Question Time** – No matters raised.
8. **County Cllr Report** – Apologies given, summary of report at end of minutes.
District Cllr Report – see notes at end of minutes.
9. **Standing Orders** (circulated) – To be reviewed at next meeting.
10. **Financial Regulations** (circulated) – To be reviewed at next meeting.
11. **Publication Scheme** (circulated) – It was agreed by all to adopt as drafted.
12. **Scheme of Delegation** (circulated) – It was agreed to adopt as drafted.
13. **To appoint Cllrs to the following**
 - a. **Staffing Working Party for Clerk and Lengthsman** – Cllrs appointed, details in files.
 - b. **Planning Working Party** – All plans to be circulated by email to all Cllrs. Comments from at least 3 Cllrs including Chairman. Meeting to be called on controversial plans.
 - c. **Clerks Finance Support Group** - Bank Reconciliation to be circulated to all by email, Cllr Rudd to sign at meetings. All Cllrs to input on other matters. New mandate to be signed at next meeting, Clerk to be on mandate for admin purposes only, not to sign cheques.
14. **Councils Risk Assessment** (circulated) – It was agreed to review at next meeting.
15. **To appoint volunteers to the following roles:**
 - a. **Footpath Officer** – Resident had taken on this role and was in contact with WCC.
 - b. **Tree Warden** – To be discussed at July meeting.
16. **To consider appointment of representative to outside bodies:**
 - a. Pensax Village Hall Committee (1Cllr). It was agreed Cllr Donnelly be appointed.
 - b. Worcestershire CALC Meeting (2 Cllrs). It was agreed any Cllr can attend meetings.
17. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 20th March 2017 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
18. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Defib/CPR Training** – Training date booked for 17th MAY at 7pm in Pensax Village Hall, 12 residents booked.

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19. Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:

MHDC Conference 24th April – Clerk and 2 Cllrs attended, information circulated interesting topics that could prove useful in future.

20. Finances –

- a. **Payments made** – Worcestershire CALC (see d) = £184.40, Pensax Village Hall (See item 23) = £250.00.
- b. **Payments received** – MHDC Dist Cllr Grant for Defibrillator = £150.00.
- c. **Bank Reconciliation** (circulated) - Signed for March 2017, balance agreed as £6660.16.
- d. **Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils** - It was agreed by all to continue membership at cost of £184.40.
- e. **Annual Governance Statement** (circulated) - It was agreed by all Council are adhering to the requirements and the form was signed by Chairman.
- f. **Annual Return/ End of Year Accounts 2016-17** (circulated) – It was agreed by all for Chairman to sign the Accounts and the Annual Return for 2016-17. Balance agreed as £6660.16 to be carried forward to 2017-18.

21. Planning:

- a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **See item 25.**
- b. Decisions received since last meeting-
17/00338/CLE – New Inn Farm, Worles Common, Stockton WR6 6XQ – Certificate of Lawful Development for the siting of a static caravan for use as ancillary residential accommodation for a period in excess of 10 years. **Refused by MHDC.**
- a. Plans for comment on tonight – **None**
- b. **Appeal Decisions** –
15/01017/FUL – Land off Stockton Road, Stockton-on-Teme, Worcestershire WR6 6UT – Photo Voltaic Solar Energy Farm (5MW) and ancillary equipment. The Appeal was upheld by the Planning Inspector meaning the application is approved.
- c. **14/01586/FUL – APP/J1860/W/15/3133352 – Ridding Coppice, Worles Common, Stockton** – Appeal refused, Enforcement Officer advised action is being taken and papers are with Legal Team prior to posting.

22. Road report

- a. **Lengthsman** – New contract signed with LM and WCC. Penn Hall Lane (opposite old School) cleared of dirt following resident's enquiry. Visibility splays need cutting.
- b. **Problems to report** – None.

23. Pensax Village Hall – Report from Hall Trustees given to Parish Meeting showing little income to pay insurance. A vote at the Parish Meeting showed the majority of residents wished PC to support Hall. After much discussion it was agreed by all to grant £250.00 to Hall.

24. Correspondence for information –

Email correspondence circulated - list in minute's folder.

25. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

Plans circulated to all by email on 4th April

17/00338/CLE – New Inn Farm, Worles Common, Stockton WR6 6XQ – Certificate of Lawful Development for the siting of a static caravan for use as ancillary residential accommodation for a period in excess of 10 years. (Cllr Keron declared an interest in this application and did not comment). Cllr Gready confirmed the caravan had been on site for over 10 years, this comment was sent to MHDC.

17/00387/HP Rowley Forge Cottage, 124 Pensax, Abberley WR6 6AG – Detached two storey double garage. It was agreed by majority to send no objections to this application.

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

Agenda items - Broadband, Pensax Village Hall.

27. Date of next meeting: 17th July 2017 – 7pm - OLD CHAPEL HALL, MENITH WOOD

28. Meeting Closed 9.15pm.

Signed----- Date **17th July 2017**
Chairman

District Councillors Report

MHDC working with Wychavon as a way to make savings and be more efficient. Joint planning system set up. All staff now on one site, other building to be rented out. Council House to be rebuilt with reception area. Waste collections to change from April 2018, black wheelie bins to be offered with collections fortnightly, week 1

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recycling, week 2 black bins. Council Members have a £500.00 budget to spend on local good causes. Dist Cllr was thanked for his contribution to the Pensax Defibrillator.

The Public Space Protection Order has been approved by MHDC, no date for implementation known.

County Councillors Report

1. Elections, 4th May 2017 - I am very gratified to have been re-elected for a third term as your County Councillor. There are serious challenges ahead for the organisation during a period of financial stringency. I will endeavour to continue to represent all residents and businesses in the Division over the next four years, and would welcome any enquiries or requests over that period, where I might be able to help solve problems and offer advice.

WCC have 40 Conservative Cllrs a majority of 23 over all other parties, the largest being Labour with 10.

It was good to see four other candidates in the contest and I pay tribute to Jonathan Morgan, a Tenbury Town Councillor, for his standing for Labour. I was pleased to note that he agrees with our (former) MP Harriett Baldwin and me about the importance of keeping open the Tenbury Hospital. The plans to re-organise the balance between hospitals, run by the NHS, and social care, run by the local authority, originate with the NHS itself, and are not a policy coming from Jeremy Hunt's government or the local authority.

Chief Executive, Clare Marchant, will be leaving next month and we will need an interim CEO in the period before a new permanent person can be appointed.

2. Tesco's in Tenbury - It was good to see Tesco's opening with large crowds attending on the first few days. The general opinion seems to be that the store is well designed and an enjoyable place to shop. The crucial matter will be how it affects patterns of trade across the town and I am confident that fair and open competition in the area of groceries will be good for the town overall. We now have a period of four months with no public realm disruption and I trust this will help trade recover in the whole of the town, prior to the last phase in the autumn.

3. Eastham Bridge - Eastham Bridge is now open again, 11 months after the unfortunate collapse. This is a major project for the county to manage and it has been done quickly and efficiently by the contractor Griffiths. No-one should underestimate the seriousness of this sort of undertaking, and I am confident that the final bridge will be a credit to the Council and the County as a whole.

4. Velo Birmingham, September 24th - Some of you will know that an organisation called CSM has arranged a massive bike race for the 24th September 2017, and has accepted entries from 15,000 cyclists. At the time of writing, this is still going ahead, but my fellow cabinet members and I have severe reservations about allowing it to proceed. A vital aspect of the event is that it takes place over closed roads. This will mean roads across the Tenbury Division, from Great Witley to Hanley William, Rochford, Sutton, Clifton, Martley and back to Great Witley and then on to Little Witley, will need to be closed for several hours, effectively meaning that life will be suspended for all living along and around the route. I am waiting on the results of consultations between the organisers and WCC (and Herefordshire Council) before deciding on whether to sanction the road closures. At present I have to say that it seems unlikely that we will sanction such closures.

Ken Pollock, Martley, Worcester, WR6 6QA