

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in OLD CHAPEL, MENITH WOOD at 7.00pm on Monday 15th January 2018

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

In Attendance: Clerk, 4 residents and District Cllr Paul Cumming.

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Vacancy on Parish Council** – one application had been received. The applicant sent apologies for this meeting but will be able to attend the March meeting. It was agreed by all to defer this matter to the March meeting. The vacancy will continue to be advertised.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs are reminded to keep their registers up to date.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – None declared.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – None declared.
4. **Dispensations** –
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – **None requested.**
5. **Public Question Time** – Mick Simpson of West Mercia Police gave a talk on Smartwater, see notes at end of minutes.
6. **County Cllr Report** – Apologies received. Report at end of minutes.
Dist Cllr Report – Brief report given, see notes at end of minutes.
7. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2017 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **BT Box** – Cllr Hingley to take this forward, suggested use as Freecycling point, Defibrillator point.
 - b. **Community Speedwatch** – waiting for details of speed monitoring on B4202 from Police.
 - c. **Smart-water initiative from Police**- It was agreed to budget for this and consult with residents to see if they are interested in having a Smart-water kit.
 - d. **Broadband** – Cabinet in Pensax Village due to go live in March 2018.
 - e. **Pensax Village Hall** – Payment of 50% insurance premium made, see item 15 below. Clerk obtained grant from County Cllr for £75.00 and District Cllr £100.00 towards cost of floor repairs.
9. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors** –
CALC Area Meeting - 9th January Chairman and Cllr Weston attended, brief report given, minutes to be circulated when received.
10. **Finances** -
 - a. **Payments made** – Information Commissioners Office = £35.00, Community First (subs 2018-21) = £135.00, Menith Wood Community Association (rent for this meeting) = £16.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – HMRC (VAT repayment 2016-17) = £137.25, MHDC (MHDC Grant for Pensax Hall) = £100.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** (circulated) - Signed for November/December 2017. Balance agreed as £10017.37 balance in cash book.
 - d. **Precept/Draft Budget 2018-19** (circulated) – It was agreed by all to increase precept by £500.00. Increase to help fund Smart-water kits for residents if it is agreed to purchase next year. The Precept to be requested for 2018-19 is £4750.00
11. **Planning:**
 - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **See item 15.**
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting - **None.**
 - c. Plans for comment on tonight – **None.**
 - d. **Update - 14/01586/FUL – APP/J1860/W/15/3133352 – Ridding Coppice, Worles Common, Stockton.**
MHDC update - the matter has been passed to the legal services team in order to progress with a prosecution for the non-compliance with the Enforcement Notice served 3rd November 2016.

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- Caravan at site** - An Enforcement Notice has been drafted which will seek the removal of the caravan.
- e. **Fartown Farm** – Clerk reported building work to MHDC Enforcement Officer in January 2018. **MHDC update-** The works taking place are the replacement of an existing agricultural building on the site. I have requested that a retrospective planning application is submitted for the Local Planning Authority's consideration.
- 12. Road report -**
- a. **Lengthsman** – Work to keep drains/gullies clear ongoing.
- b. **Problems to report** – Potholes on B4202 Upper Hollins reported to WCC.
- c. **Grit bins for Parish** – It was agreed for Chairman to look at areas where grit bins would be useful. Suggested sites Worles Common Lane (2), Snead Common (1), Penn Hall Lane (1), Cross Keys Lane (1), bank up from Stockton (2). A request to WCC for grit bins to be made at suggested sites.
- 13. Welcome Pack for Residents** – Cllr Hingley thought Menith Wood may have one, to scan and circulate.
- 14. Correspondence for information –**
Email correspondence circulated - list in minute's folder.
Training dates as circulated.
WCC Budget Consultation Meeting – 24th January – 6pm
Worcestershire Pollinators Conference - 27th March - 9.30am-4pm
MHDC Street Naming consultation (circulated) – Clerk to respond to this stating PC would like to name new streets in future.
- 15. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.**
Plans circulated by email
6th December 2017 – 17/01731/CLPU – Orchard Hollow, Pensax Common, Stockton WR6 6XL – Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed porch and single storey side extension. Circulated for information only.
2nd January 2018 – 17/01888/FUL - Rowley Farm, Pensax, Abberley, Worcester, WR6 6AG - Covered storage area over existing concrete base. It was agreed by majority to make no comments on this application.
Payments made 9th January 2018 –
Pensax Village Hall (50% Insurance) = £291.43 (as agreed by email at November meeting). **Pensax Village Hall = £100.00** (Grant from District Cllr for floor repairs, see item 10b).
- 16. Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.**
Agenda items – Broadband, Pensax Village Hall, BT Box, Welcome pack for residents, Vacancy on PC, Smart-water item, WW1 Celebrations. Chairman was concerned to hear reports that Pensax Church may be under threat of closure. Cllr Rudd to give date of PCC AGM to Clerk for circulation. Cllrs to attend if available to show support to the Church.
- 17. Date of next meeting - MONDAY 19TH MARCH 2018 AT 7.00pm PENSAX VILLAGE HALL**
- 18. Meeting closed – 9.00pm**

Signed----- Date 19th March 2018
Chairman

SMART-WATER PRESENTATION – Mick Simpson - Project Manager for 'We don't buy Crime' - West Mercia Police. An interesting talk explaining the benefits of smart-water was given to the meeting. Smart-water comes in bottles, you register the bottle of liquid with the makers, you mark your valuables with the liquid which is unique to you. If valuables are stolen and recovered the Police can trace the valuables back to the original owner. Police are asking second-hand dealers to obtain proof of ID for people bringing items in to sell on, they also look for smart-water on items to ensure they are not stolen. Cleobury and Rock are Smart-water areas, both have seen crime to houses/outbuildings drop significantly. The cost for smart-water kits to PCs is £8.90 plus VAT per household. The PC could purchase the kits on behalf of interested residents, residents could make a donation towards the kits. Mr Simpson suggested a Saturday morning event be held to give the smart-water kits to residents, in his experience it is best to fill in registration details when kits are distributed. If 60% of Pensax Parish houses purchase a kit the Police will put up signs for free in the Parish advertising the fact it is a smart-water area, the signs are worth £40.00 each. Marker kits called CREMARK can also be purchased for £12.00, this is for outdoor items such as bikes, mowers etc. The Police state alarms are found to be the best deterrent.

Imobilise.com – is a site where you can register valuables for free, police have access to site, they can match stolen property to owners.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Refuse – MHDC to send letter to residents this month regarding refuse system starting in April 2018. It has been agreed to keep two Planning Committees at MHDC.

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COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

1. Happy New Year

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Pensax councillors and residents in and around the parish a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. We can expect there to be great challenges facing us at the town, district and county level, without considering national negotiations re Brexit.

Worcestershire starts the year in good shape, as indicated in the annual conference of the Local Enterprise Partnership last month. Around 400 local business people, local authority officers and councillors attended the Chateau Impney Hotel to hear of some of the many good things that are happening in the county, and of the major challenges ahead.

Some of the latter dealt with the way technology offers new possibilities in transport and manufacturing, as well as the handling of big data – a positive factor, but one open to misuse. Cyber security is a constant concern, but Worcestershire is well placed to benefit from the need, with several top-flight companies operating in this area. It was also good to hear from the three recent top county apprentices, who have gone on to succeed in their chosen fields, after the benefit of their apprenticeships. They demonstrated how important it is to choose the right path for the individual, rather than believing the only route to success is via university. Indeed, one winner left her course after two years, when she realised that a better future lay with taking up an apprenticeship. Overall, a very positive conference, with many lessons learnt and encouraging enthusiasm for the tasks ahead.

2. County Council affairs

At the County level, I am pleased to report that we have recruited a new Chief Executive, who will start work in the Spring. He is Paul Robinson, currently the Chief Executive of Derby City Council, where he runs a unitary authority with a large budget and staff, comparable to this county.

Sitting on the appointments panel, I was impressed in particular by his vigour and keenness, qualities we will need as a new senior team is being recruited over the coming months. While we have lost some senior people recently, they have all gone on to more significant posts, indicating that our personnel are recognised as being highly effective and worth employing.

I will forward a note from Jon Fraser with other county matters of relevance and also a link to the latest bulletin re superfast broadband, some of which may be relevant to some residents of Pensax.

3. Tenbury Public Realm

The Public Realm work in Tenbury is nearing completion. There are still some items of street furniture to be installed. Red tarmac will be applied to the raised tables in the warmer weather in the Spring.

It is good to note that the 20 mph zone is now in force. The average speed of traffic on Teme Street was 22mph. While this is not fast, it means that many cars were travelling much faster than that, and we have to hope that motorists will now observe 20 mph as a maximum.

This is reinforced by the raised tables, where pedestrians should feel more secure in crossing the road, because of the lower speeds. The zone extends from the Teme bridge as far as the Kyre brook and then as far as Cross Street beyond Bowketts. The roads around the church are also 20 mph, but that is an area where higher speeds are very unlikely anyway.

The new 20 minute parking restriction for three car lengths outside Tenbury News will be applied next month. We must all trust that trade will now start return, to bring more prosperity to all retailers and residents in and around Tenbury.

Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ