

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Pensax Village Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 19th November 2018

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

In Attendance: Clerk, Two Members of the Public, District Cllr Paul Cumming

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **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.
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.
5. **County Cllr Report** – Apologies received see report at end of minutes.
Dist Cllr Report – Report at end of minutes.
6. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 17th September 2018 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
7. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **BT Box** – Cllrs noted the good progress of BT Box renovations by volunteers living in Menith Wood. It was agreed by all to reimburse Clerk for paint purchased as per invoice circulated amounting to £99.52. There was discussion on future use of Box, most popular ideas are library or defibrillator station.
 - b. **B4202 Speeding issues** – Safer Roads Partnership advised they cannot place a van in area by Pensax Village Hall. They have asked WCC to look at traffic calming options. Clerk waiting to hear from WCC.
 - c. **Data Protection Law changes May 2018** – Work ongoing.
 - d. **Vacancy on PC** – Clerk is notifying MHDC and apologised for the delay in taking action on this matter.
8. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors** –
WCC Conference 9th October, **Clerks Finance Training** 26th October, **CALC AGM** 14th November – Clerk gave brief report on all meetings. **SWDP Town and Parish Council Briefing** 6th November – Cllr gave brief report.
9. **Finances** -
 - a. **Payments made** – Mrs S Burrows (see item 7a) = £99.52, Mr D Nunn (mowing War Memorial 20/03-18/10/2018 = £120.00, Royal British Legion (Poppy Wreaths) = £50.00, Mrs S Burrows (see item 9f) = £58.24, Mrs S Burrows (see item 9e) = £112.48
 - b. **Payments received** – MHDC Precept = £2375.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** (circulated) - Signed for September/October 2018. Balance agreed as £12157.57 in cash book.
 - d. **Budget to September 2018** – Reserves were looked at in detail, precept to be decided at next meeting.
 - e. **Clerks expenses 2017-18** (circulated) – It was agreed by all to pay £112.48.
 - f. **Clerks Salary increase from 1st April 2018** (circulated) – It was agreed by all to pay arrears of £58.24. A letter for new Standing Order of £156.93 was agreed and signed.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **See item 17.**
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting –
APPEAL – APP/J1860/X/17/3187727 - 17/00338/CLE – New Inn Farm, Worles Common, Stockton – 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. **The Appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspector.**
18/01296/HP – White House, Pensax Common, Stockton, Worcester WR6 6XL – Detached garage, car port and wood store. **Approved by MHDC.**
18/01145/TPOA- End View Pensax Stockton Worcester WR6 6XJ - Fell two sweet chestnut, one holly and one sycamore. **Refused by MHDC.**

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- c. Plans for comment on tonight –
WFDC Consultation – It was agreed no impact on Pensax so no comments to be made.
SWDP Issues and Options Consultation – It was agreed to support Dist Cllr on his comments regarding infrastructure (see notes at end of minutes) and to send comments from PC regarding lack of Health Services and sites for elderly accommodation in Worcestershire, Cllr to draft comments for circulation.
- d. **Update - 14/01586/FUL – APP/J1860/W/15/3133352 – Ridding Coppice, Worles Common, Stockton.**
MHDC update – MHDC have advised an Appeal has been lodged against the Enforcement Notice. Dist Cllr reported Appeal should be validated before end of year.
- 11. Road report -**
- a. **Lengthsman** – LM to have training on 26th November, work to grips, drains continuing.
- b. **Problems to report** – Penn Hall Lane, pothole below Ryefield, Clerk to report.
- 12. Pensax Village Hall** – Thrift Shop have agreed to help finance Hall for next 12 months, Trustees to keep PC updated. It was agreed to appoint Cllr Abraham as the PC representative Trustee. Clerk to contact Trustees. Trustees to hold AGM next year to inform residents of financial situation and condition of building.
- 13. Parish Grit bins** – It was agreed to order one bag of Salt to be stored under cover at Chairman’s premises. To request WCC grit bin for Penn Hall Lane opposite Tilterdown.
- 14. Publication Scheme** (circulated) – Document agreed, Clerk to update as required and report to meetings. It was suggested all Cllrs put photos and contact details on website. Most Cllrs were agreeable to email contact. Clerk to email Cllrs for their details.
- 15. Assets of Community Value to consider the following –**
- a. To agree to register The Bell as an Asset of Community Value – This was agreed by all.
- b. To agree to register The Cross Keys as an Asset of Community Value (current registry expires 24th March 2019). This was agreed by all.
- 16. Correspondence for information –**
Email correspondence circulated - list in minute’s folder. Training dates as circulated.
CALC AGM – 14th November – 6.30pm – Trade Fair 5pm
Dist Cllr Walk about in Woodbury – 14th November
Protect Your Farm, Protect yourself event – 22nd November – Three Counties Showground
MHDC Library Review – open until 2nd February
WCC Bus Services consultation – comments by 22nd October
WCC Library Service Consultation – comments by 2nd February 2019M
Hereford and Worcester Radio – requesting local input for evening programme
- 17. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.**
Plans circulated on 15th October 2018 –
18/01296/HP – White House, Pensax Common, Stockton, Worcester WR6 6XL – Detached garage, car port and wood store. It was agreed to support this application.
- 18. Councillors’ reports and items for the next agenda.**
Agenda items – Pensax Village Hall, BT Box, Data Protection, Co option of a Cllr, Welcome Leaflet, Community Website.
WW1 Centenary Service 11th November 2018 – About 100 people attended the service, ten wreathes laid on the Memorial. The silhouettes provided by the Armed Forces Covenant were very thought provoking as they were put up a week before the event and remained for a week after. Pensax Church also had silhouettes for their short service in the morning. Thanks have been passed to all involved in the service. Clerk to ask WCC about a road closure for 2019 service as traffic during service is very noisy.
- 19. Date of next meeting - MONDAY 21st January 2019 OLD CHAPEL, MENITH WOOD**
- 20. Cllrs to agree to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**
- 21. Internal Auditor 2018-19** – Clerk had obtained two quotes. It was agreed to appoint D M Payroll Services Ltd at a fee of £70.00
- 22. Meeting closed – 9.29pm**

Signed-----
Chairman

Date 21st January 2019

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Public Question Time –

The new owner of The Bell Inn (Louise) came to the meeting to introduce herself. Louise confirmed it will be a family run business and there are no plans to close the business. She explained they have put in a new catering kitchen, redecorated and are planning to improve the dining room with an outdoor eating area next year.

Chairman of PC explained the PC were considering registering the property as an Asset of Community Value. If this registration was accepted by MHDC it would enable the PC to consider purchasing the pub if it came up for sale within the next five years. The details of this process were briefly explained to the meeting. Louise did not have any objections. MHDC would write to the owner explaining the process if registration is successful. Cllrs wished Louise well in the business and look forward to visiting. Louise left the meeting.

Hedges Pensax Court to B4202 – Landowner wished it to be known the hedges will be cut but there is a problem with brambles and ferns growing on the verge intruding onto the highway which makes the road narrow in places. The verges are getting smaller as vehicles get bigger. Cllrs acknowledged his comments and thanked him for agreeing to cut his hedges when time allows. Resident left the meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

South Worcestershire Development Plan – There is now a call for sites for more housing. Dist Cllr stated he has concerns regarding infrastructure being planned after housing has been built. Road and bridges need to be improved before housing is built. He will send details of his concerns in letter form to Clerk for circulation to Cllrs and hoped the PC would support his comments by signing the letter with other PCs in his area. Cllrs stated they were concerned with lack of Health Services in Worcestershire and lack of accommodation for elderly. Dist Cllr advised PC to send in own comments on this matter.

Worles Common - Chairman informed Dist Cllr hardstanding had been placed in woods, a digger is also on site. Dist Cllr noted the matter and wished to be kept updated if work progresses.

Dist Cllr updated meeting on outstanding planning issues as follows -

18/00244/FUL - Far Town, Pensax WR6 6AE – MHDC to give a decision in near future on this application.

Caravan and field shelter sited in Pensax Road, Stockton end – Enforcement will be visiting the site this week.

Grant funding - Dist Cllr advised he has a small pot of funding left if Pensax Hall wish to apply. Cllr stated Old Chapel, Menith Wood would like to be considered for some funding. Clerk to email Dist Cllr with details.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Remembrance Day - It was a huge privilege to take part in the Remembrance Day parade and service in Tenbury last Sunday, and to be present at the dedication of the memorial benches in the Tenbury Civic Garden later that morning. I have taken part in this event for several years, and it is very good to be able to lay a wreath on behalf of the County Council outside St Mary's church. This year there seemed to be far more people watching, the march itself seemed larger, and the church was packed out. All this was entirely fitting on the exact day 100 years on from the end of the First World War. It was very moving to hear the names of those who had given their lives in the service of their country over the last 100 years read out in church, and one can only echo the pledge that "we will remember them". The last post was played brilliantly (as was reveille later) and I am sure we were all moved by the Rev Mark Inglis' sermon. There are many things wrong with this world, but there are also many for which we can be profoundly grateful. The Civic Garden now boasts two superbly designed and built memorial benches, flanking a cut out figure of a soldier, with head bowed. Dozens of people were present for the dedication, in appreciation of the effort in getting the installation completed, and its deeper meaning. I would like to thank all those involved in this enterprise, and indeed the Remembrance Service itself, i.e. principally the Royal British Legion, for their selfless efforts on this day, and indeed, throughout the year. Symbolically the sun shone brilliantly almost throughout, and one can only take that as a symbol of hope for the future.

Economic development - Over the last couple of weeks I have had the chance to address two breakfast meetings in Sixways, one a Find It In Worcestershire, and the other a strategic business breakfast. On both occasions I was able to point to some very satisfactory figures describing the Worcestershire economy. As a county, we are creating more businesses, growing faster and creating more jobs than in the rest of the West Midlands and indeed in England as a whole. The only factor in which we lag behind is average wage levels – good if you are an employer, not so good if you are seeking attract or keep young people living here. In that respect, we are very keen to see increased levels of skills training and a broad range of careers, not all concentrated at the higher end of university entries. As I said to the business breakfast last week, when did you last hear a teacher recommend their less academic pupils might seek a job as a long distance lorry driver? But could our society survive without them? Tomorrow morning, I will be attending another Find It In Worcestershire breakfast this time concerning the developments of the Worcester 6 game changer site, just by J6 of the M5. This is progressing well with several companies moving in or completing their contracts to move. We anticipate a large number of jobs and a boost to our GVA as a result of this development and expect that the expansion of J6 by Highways England will allow for the increased traffic to be generated by the site.

Local issues - I am aware of your concern about speeding through the village and am disappointed to read that the Safer Roads Partnership have concluded that they cannot find a suitable site for their camera vans. The fig-

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ures for the speed on the 85th percentile do not look excessive, but I can sympathise with residents who would like drivers to proceed more slowly. I would estimate that the County highways people will not want to introduce traffic calming on an important route like this but will probably seek to install better signage and other warnings to seek to slow the traffic. I will certainly offer my support for such measures and others that you may recommend. It seems that the road works on the Stanford/Pensax road were able to accommodate the passage of the Children In Need rickshaw last week. I know this caused a certain amount of concern and effort on various people's behalf, and I am grateful to all concerned for their cooperation.

Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ

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