

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Old Chapel, Menith Wood at 7.00pm on Monday 21st January 2019

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

In Attendance: Clerk, District Cllr Paul Cumming

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Co-option of a Cllr** – Notices are up but no applications received. Clerk reminded Cllrs elections are being held on 2nd May 2019. Clerk informed meeting Cllr Greedy had sent a letter of resignation in this week.
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** – See notes at end of minutes.
6. **County Cllr Report** – Apologies received see report at end of minutes.
Dist Cllr Report – Report at end of minutes.
7. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 19th November 2018 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **BT Box** –The Box now has a pink undercoat and looks much better, thank you to the volunteers. Suggested uses are information point, exchange point for books, plants as well as being a defibrillator station. Cllr to ask at Menith Wood Community Association Meeting what residents at Menith Wood suggest it is used for.
 - b. **B4202 Speeding issues** – WCC have advised the signage meets their legal requirements. WCC suggested roundels (white painted speeds on road by signs) be put onto carriageway. PC would need to fund this, for all signs to be covered costs would be £1000.00. Cllrs felt residents should be consulted before a final decision is made.
 - c. **South Worcestershire Development Plans consultation** – Comments approved by Cllrs were sent by Clerk.
 - d. **Pensax Village Hall** – Trustees have advised the finances to end of 2019 are now secure. Cllr Abraham to become a Trustee. Trustees to hold an AGM this year to update residents.
 - e. **Assets of Community Value** – Cllr to seek views of Menith Wood Community Association about registering the Cross Keys again, current registry expires 24th March 2019. It was agreed by all to consider registering The Bell in 2020.
9. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors** –
Clerks meeting organised by MHDC – brief report given.
10. **Finances** -
 - a. **Payments made** – Mrs S Burrows (HMRC Tax refund) = £59.05, Menith Wood Community Association (grant from Dist Cllr) = £62.50, Pensax Village Hall (grant from Dist Cllr) = £62.50, Menith Wood Community Association ((rent 21/01/2019) = £16.00, Mr R Whiteman (LM November/December 2018) = £420.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – HMRC Tax refund Clerk = £59.05, MHDC Dist Cllr Grant = £125.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** (circulated) - Signed for November/December 2018. Balance agreed as £11426.18 in cash book.
 - d. **Internal Audit Review** (circulated) – It was agreed all matters listed are being dealt with by Clerk/Cllrs.
 - e. **Budget Review/Precept** (circulated) – Budget was discussed and no queries raised. It was agreed by all precept to be raised by £100.00 to £4850.00.
 - f. **Data Protection Registration** – It was agreed to pay the fee to the Information Commissioners Office by Direct Debit in the future reducing the fee to £35.00 per annum. Form signed by Cllrs.
 - g. **Clerks Salary increase from 1st April 2019** (circulated) – A letter for new Standing Order of £161.16 for payment after 1st April 2019 increasing to £162.56 per month from 1st May 2019 was agreed and signed.

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

11. Planning:

- a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **None.**
- b. Decisions received since last meeting –
- c. **18/00244/FUL – Fartown, Pensax, Abberley, Worcester WR6 6AE – Demolish existing machinery storage building and construct a replacement agricultural machinery storage building (retrospective). Approved by MHDC.** Cllrs were concerned with this decision due to conditions that the Coal Authority had initially asked for. It was agreed a letter of concern to be sent to MHDC Head of Planning.
- d. Plans for comment on tonight – **None.**
- e. Planning queries with MHDC –
Enforcement Action – Ridding Coppice, Worles Common, Stockton – An Appeal has been lodged but MHDC have not yet received any further details.
Caravan and field shelter sited in field at Pensax Road, Stockton end – The field shelter does not need permission. Clarity on the future use of the caravan is being sought by MHDC from the landowner.

12. Road report -

- a. **Lengthsman** – LM now trained for next 5 years, working on jobs that he has been given by Clerk.
- b. **Problems to report** – No issues.
- c. **Parish grit bins** – It was agreed to ask WCC if yellow bins could be sited at Worles Common (Stockton end) and Penn Hall Lane (Tilterdown bank). A bag of salt has been purchased by the PC for Parish highway use.

13. Complaints Policy (circulated) – It was agreed to adopt the policy as drafted.

14. Communications Policy – Clerk working on this and will send out draft in near future.

15. Grievance and Disciplinary Policy – Clerk working on this and will send out draft in near future.

16. Welcome Leaflet – Cllr to obtain copy of leaflet Menith Wood resident has drafted.

17. Community Website – Cllr informed meeting Menith Wood Community Association are building a website. It was agreed to look at details and Clerk to put link to this site on the PC website which WCC host.

18. Clerks Review – It was agreed to set date late March or early April.

19. Correspondence for information –

Email correspondence circulated - list in minute's folder. Training dates as circulated.

WCC Budget Consultation Meeting – 23rd January – 6pm

WCC Minerals Local Plan 4th Stage Consultation – comments by 8th February

MHDC Planning Enforcement Summit at Pershore – 31st January – 6.15pm

MHDC Great British Spring Clean – 22nd March to 23rd April

CALC Election evening – 13th February – 6.30pm

Election evening – 13th February – 6.30pm

20. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

Payments made 20th December 2018 – Mr R Whiteman – LM July to October 2018 = £168.00.

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

Agenda items – Pensax Village Hall, BT Box, Welcome Leaflet, Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2019

22. Date of next meeting - MONDAY 18th MARCH 2019 7PM - PENSAX VILLAGE HALL

23. Cllrs to agree to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

24. Lengthsman – It was agreed by all to renew contract for 2019-2020 with present LM at an hourly rate of £14.00 subject to WCC providing funds. Highways training has been undertaken and is valid for five years, all safety equipment is held by LM.

25. Mowing of War Memorial – It was agreed to renew contract for 2019-2020 with present contractor. Contractor wishes to increase rate to £14.00 per cut. This was agreed by all.

26. Meeting closed – 8.39pm

Signed-----
Chairman

Date 18th March 2019

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Non Domestic Rates Retention – MHDC/WCC to be a test case, Central Government have agreed they can join a pilot scheme. Council Tax to rise by 3%, £5.00 for a Band D.

Item 11c above- Cllrs raised concerns regarding the approval of this retrospective planning application given the conditions that Coal Authority initially asked for. Dist Cllr advised PC to send letter to Head of Planning and CEO MHDC raising concerns.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Happy New Year - If it is not too late, may I wish all parish councillors and the residents that you represent a very Happy New Year, and I trust it will be prosperous and enjoyable as well?

We face some turbulent times in the next few months and it would be a fool who professed to know how it would all turn out. What I would assert, however, is that this country is highly capable, and well able to succeed in a huge variety of circumstances.

In all the discussion of the various forms of Brexit that may be before us, what I find most disturbing is the feeling expressed by some politicians, business people and journalists that we are in danger of economic collapse or of some moral decline, because we may not have the protection and guidance of the EU.

Leaving may be the worst move we make as a nation, but it would be foolish to believe that our prosperity is indissolubly tied to membership of the EU. I worry when I read that our environmental standards might be lowered or our workers' rights might be damaged by leaving.

It would be a huge mistake to believe that we are dependent on Brussels for guidance in these matters. More often than not, we have shown the way, not least with the sort of environmental research that I undertook, on a Government grant in the early 70s, before we joined the EEC as it was then.

So whatever lies ahead, I am sure we can succeed, especially if we respect others' viewpoints and seek to understand their basis. I am disturbed by the rhetoric and rudeness I have encountered on social media, where the remoteness of the writers seems to give them freedom to be rude, supercilious and scornful in a way that would not be acceptable face to face.

Economic development - You will recognise that I am responsible within the Cabinet, for the economy and infrastructure in the County. 2019 promises great things, whatever the political climate and we must seek to encourage the good developments, no matter what.

W6, the business park just by J6 of the M5 is filling up with companies keen to take advantage of its excellent position. Kimal, Kohler Mira, Siemens (in the form of Material Solutions), Spire Healthcare and others are all expanding or transferring their operations to the park.

The Redditch Eastern Gateway also has serious interest from big companies wanting to take advantage of its location next to the A435 and the M42. The fifth phase of the Malvern Hills Science Park is ready to let and there is more land acquired from QinetiQ for further hi-tech operations.

We must not also forget the importance of Worcestershire Parkway which will open this year, probably in mid-summer. The May timetable will include provision for trains on both lines to stop at Parkway, giving passengers a new destination or embarkation point as an alternative to our road network.

All of these developments promise more jobs and economic prosperity, the sort of activity we need to encourage, in order to fund those in our society that need help from local government. You will recall that 70% of our income at County is spent on vulnerable children and adults, but their numbers amount to only 12,000 of the 580,000 residents in Worcestershire.

Local issues - At a time of financial difficulty, it is not possible to promise work will be done to correct all outstanding difficulties and priorities need to be observed. As we are now in the winter, it is good to know that there are extra funds for correcting potholes and handling seasonal pressures.

I hope that you will all be keen to pass on any observations where highway matters are deficient, preferably in the first instance to your clerk, and thence to Hannah Davies, before coming to me for assistance.

Likewise any other issues that require attention can be brought to me at any time and I will do my best to pass them on to the correct officer, to see that they are dealt with. Bearing in mind our general shortage of cash, this may not always be swiftly handled or done to the highest standards.

Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ