

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in The Old Chapel, Menith Wood 7.00pm on Monday 15th July 2019

Present: Cllr Alistair Keron (Chairman), Cllr Weston,
Cllr Rudd, Cllr Sanders, Cllr Wood

In Attendance: Clerk, three Members of the Public, Dist Cllr Paul Cummings

1. **Apologies:** Noted from Cllr Abraham.
2. **Co-option of a Cllr** – No applications received.
3. **Election of Vice Chairman** – It was agreed by all Cllr Rudd be appointed.
4. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs reminded to keep their registers updated.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – None.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – None.
5. **Dispensations** –
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – None received.
6. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes.
7. **County Cllr Report** – Apologies received, report at end of minutes.
District Cllr Report – Arrived towards end of meeting, see notes at end of minutes.
8. **Minutes** of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 20th May 2019 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
9. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **BT Box** – It was thought Cllr Abraham to look at shelving. Some work on renovation to be completed.
 - b. **Pensax Village Hall** – Trustees have advised PC the Thrift Shop will close at end of 2019. Trustees have sent report on finances to PC which show no reserves and no regular bookings. Chairman to contact Trustees to discuss way forward.
10. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:**
MHDC Planning Training Session 4th July – Chairman and Clerk attend, presentation circulated.
11. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – Mr R Whiteman (LM May/June 2019) = 154.00, Mrs S Burrows (Defib pads) = £37.14, Menith Wood Community Association (rent 15th July) = £16.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – WCC LM March/April 2019 = £294.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliations** (circulated) - Signed for May/June 2019, balance agreed as £12221.15.
Clerk had made clerical errors on April Reconciliation agreed at the May meeting. A revised copy was signed at this meeting, balances were not affected and the balance was agreed as £13007.18.
 - d. **Budget** (circulated) – Budget to 30th June was agreed. Business rate relief held in reserves to be put into general reserves.
12. **Planning:**
 - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **None**.
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting- **None**.
 - c. Plans for comment on tonight – **None**.
 - d. **16/00455/HOU - 17/01819/FUL - New House Farm, Stockton** – Concerns regarding building being built too close to highway – MHDC Enforcement have advised the building complies with plans passed. Chairman to word response to be circulated to Cllrs before Clerk sends to Enforcement Officer at MHDC.
13. **Road report**
 - a. **Lengthsman** – Progress report.
 - b. **Problems to report** – See notes at end of meeting.

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14. **Risk Assessment** (circulated) – It was agreed all risks covered and Chairman signed copy to be held in files, review in six months.
15. **Menithwood Millennium Green Trust** – Grant application for £250.00 to be used for 20th anniversary event to be held in July 2020. It was agreed to support the event but Chairman is to contact the trustees regarding why grants not being requested from Lindridge PC as paperwork states 50% of residents live in that Parish.
16. **Service at War Memorial 10th November 2019** – It was agreed to put more signage up to slow traffic down during the service. British Legion have confirmed they will attend. Clerk to contact Church.
17. **Correspondence for information** –CALC Updates/Training dates, Community First information.
Police Commissioners survey – to complete online survey by 11th August 2019 – Chairman to complete.
18. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting. None.**
19. **Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.**
Agenda items - Pensax Village Hall, Clerks Review.
20. **Date of next meeting: 16th SEPTEMBER 2019 – 7pm – PENSAX VILLAGE HALL**
21. **Meeting Closed 8.40pm**

Signed----- Date 16th September 2019
Chairman

Residents concerns - Cllrs felt the County Cllrs comments regarding the SWDP did not reflect the views of the PC or Dist Cllr. It was hoped infrastructure/NHS services could be addressed with land availability to ensure all services can cope with influx of new residents. This does not seem to be the case.

Pensax Village – junction sign for Pensax Common missing, visibility from Pensax Common Road into Stockton Road reduced by hedge.

Footpath Menith Wood – stile and finger post need attention, FP Officer attended this meeting and will report the matter.

It was suggested Sections 106 funds may still be available for local community. Resident to ask at MHDC and let Clerk know of outcome.

District Councillors Report

Due to the newly appointed District Cllrs requiring training there is little to report. SWDP being reviewed, consultation in October 2019 regarding potential sites for building. Infrastructure/Hospitals/Doctors Surgeries/School still not being addressed in this document. Houses are built and other things follow, it is felt this should be addressed as NHS cannot cope now.

County Councillors Report

Council Members - As I said to the new Tenbury Town Council meeting last week, it was good to see so many new faces on the Council. I wished them, as I wish all of you, a very enjoyable and productive period representing the views of your local residents. As I wrote in a recent column in the Tenbury Advertiser, the community is very dependent on people coming forward to offer their time and expertise on civic matters. The contribution of councillors like ourselves is vital to see that the very best decisions are made concerning the provision of services in the area. It is not widely acknowledged that people such as yourselves do not receive any remuneration, but you can be the subject of complaint when matters don't turn out the way some people might like. I am very aware of the selfless devotion to duty expressed by the service of councillors in all the 18 town and parish councils in my division, and I trust the service you all give is recognised by your communities.

County Council Affairs - There will be a full Council meeting on Thursday this week, and those who do not already know might be interested in watching it live through the webcast. I cannot promise that it will be rewarding, but it is a way in which the general public, anywhere in the world, can listen and watch what we are doing in your name. In Cabinet last Thursday, we approved the development of Adult Social Care, a burgeoning area of concern and expenditure, and one where we are all keenly awaiting the much delayed publication of a new adult social care policy from central government. In recent years we have been dependent on one-off grants to cover the increases in costs and we would all appreciate a long term solution to the problem. We will also hear the report on the results of the extensive consultation on the future of our libraries. For reasons that are not worth rehearsing, there was a prevailing feeling that some libraries were in danger of closing. This report to cabinet demonstrated that the required savings have been achieved without any such closures, as had always been the policy.

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South Worcestershire Development Plan revisions - The SWDP covers the three southerly districts of the county and is undergoing a thorough revision to reflect expected increases in population numbers. This will require the provision of more houses in the county and the plan is intended to indicate the preferred areas for such new housing. Villages in the Tenbury division have seen a lot of new building in the last few years and there are plans for more such estates. Pensax residents will be well aware of the controversy that surrounds such developments, when they appear to change the character of the village. A common complaint is that there are no jobs for new people in this rural area, but I have been keen to see the plan is not predicated on the minimising of distances to travel to work. Pursuing such principles, for whatever reasons, would lead to the impoverishment of rural areas. At present, some 26% of county residents live in "rural areas", while only 13% of new building takes place in rural areas. Current plans seem to indicate that the latter balance of only 13% of build being in rural areas should continue to 2040. I am not sure that is sensible.

Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ