

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council VIDEO Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 16th November 2020

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

In Attendance: Clerk, County Cllr Ken Pollock, Dist Cllr Paul Cummings

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs reminded to keep their registers updated. Cllr Meese completed his form.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – All Cllrs agenda item 12 – Pensax Village Hall, Cllr Sanders agenda item 13.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – as above.
3. **Dispensations** –
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
Dispensations requested – Pensax Village Hall agenda item 12 all Cllrs have been granted a Dispensation until May 2023 at the January 2020 meeting. It was agreed to grant Cllrs Sanders a Dispensation for agenda item 13 due to her being a Trustee.
4. **Public Question Time** – No public requested link to meeting
5. **County Cllr Report** – Report at end of minutes.
District Cllr Report – See notes at end of minutes.
6. **Minutes of Parish Council Video Meeting held on 21st September 2020** were agreed by all and will be signed by Chairman.
7. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **BT Box/Defibrillator signs** – Signs in place thanks to a resident, Dist Cllr agreed to pay for signs from his Ward Budget, cost £57.60.
 - b. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Menith Wood** – Waiting for Openreach to survey area anticipated completion in twelve months.
 - c. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Worles Common** – The scheme is currently under review by Openreach, the funding application is with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media, Sport for approval. Residents looking into schemes for Pensax/Pensax Common and Snead Common area .
 - d. **Fitness Walks** – No update from MHDC.
 - e. **Stockton Road speeding** – Due to lack of vehicles Clerk had delayed asking for a speed survey. Clerk to ask WCC for anticipated time of wait for survey.
 - f. **Adopt a Street** – Cllr has registered a road in Pensax with MHDC and been provided with litter picking equipment. Cllr confirmed he is doing this as a resident. Clerk will email details out to residents.
 - g. **Remembrance Service 11th November 2020** – A successful short service was held following Covid 19 regulations, three wreaths were laid. It was agreed by all to donate £25.00 to Royal British Legion for wreath provided. Stockton Parish agreed to donate for their wreath this year.

At 7.35pm the meeting closed for five minutes due to technical issues. The meeting resumed at 7.40pm.
8. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:**

Clerk - 1st October - Zoom free webinar regarding Data Protection – interesting meeting.
CALC - Cllrs Training 8th September and 6th October (circulated) – helpful to new Cllr.
9. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – Worcestershire CALC (Cllr training 8th September and 6th October) = £60.00, Mrs S Burrows (Microsoft update 2020-2021) = £59.99, Royal British Legion (see item 7g) = £25.00, Mrs S Burrows (see item 9d) = £153.78, Menith Wood Community Association (see item 13) = £300.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – MHDC Precept £2525.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliations** (circulated) – Agreed to be signed for September/October balance agreed as £15155.11.
 - d. **Clerks Expenses 2019-2020** – It was agreed by all to pay £153.78 as circulated.
 - e. **Budget Review** – Budget agreed as circulated.

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10. Planning:

- a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **None.**
- b. Decisions received since last meeting – **None.**
- c. Plans for comment on tonight – **None.**

11. Road report

- a. **Lengthsman** – No Timesheets received. Work has been done.
- b. **Any problems to report** – Problems raised at last meeting have been reported, no updates received from WCC. Cllr reported repairs to Menith Wood road poor, it has been reported to WCC.
- c. **Stockton Road drainage issues** – WCC to update Clerk .
- d. **Grit bins Worles Common/Pensax Common** – **Grit bins** have now been delivered and sited by WCC. The bins are full of rock salt for Highways use only. WCC will be responsible for refilling the bins as the salt is used.

12. Pensax Village Hall (circulated) –

- a. **Plans** – Plans submitted for preplanning advice but WFDC have not made any comments. It was agreed by all to follow the architects advise and submit a full planning application with mezzanine and altered roof.
- b. **Trustees Accounts** (circulated) - Accounts now closed copy will be held in PC files.

13. **Menith Wood Community Association** (circulated) – Application for grant towards cost of new Blinds for Old Chapel Menith Wood, total cost of blinds £1155.10. It was agreed by all to grant £200.00 from Grant Budget and £100.00 from Hall Rent Budget making a total grant of £300.00. It was agreed to consider making a donation to running costs of Old Chapel at the next meeting.

14. **Tenbury Community Bus** – It was agreed to discuss at next meeting.

15. **Community Engagement Policy (circulated)** – It was agreed by all as circulated.

16. **Social Media Policy (circulated)** – It was agreed by all as circulated.

17. **Facebook Page** – It was agreed by all for Cllr Meese to set up Face Page for Pensax Parish Council. Cllr Meese and Clerk to be administrators.

18. Correspondence for information –

- COVID 19 updates from CALC, NALC, WCC, MHDC, Police
- South Worcestershire Development Plan information
- MHDC – Standard Housing Methodology - response to Consultation
- MHDC – Rural Lettings Policy – comments by 5th November
- MHDC – Planning for the Future White Paper – response to Consultation
- MHDC – Boundary Commission Briefing – On-line event 19th November (**Chairman and Clerk to link in**)
- WCC – Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership 1st Anniversary invitation to On-line event 6th November

19. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting** – **None.**

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

- Agenda items** - Pensax Village Hall, Precept 2021-2022, Tenbury Transport Trust, Old Chapel Menith Wood.

18. **Date of next VIDEO meeting:** 18th January 2021 at 7pm.

19. **Meeting Closed 8.10pm**

Signed----- Date 16th November 2020
Chairman

Public Question Time – No matters discussed.

District Councillors Report

Enforcement – Concerns regarding inconsistency on Wychavon and MHDC approach.

Refuse – Bins/sacks to be put out night before, reasons for change not give.

Cllrs asked why sacks still being used. Bin lorry to big to go down lanes.

Dist Cllr was thanked for his grant towards cost of Defibrillator signs.

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County Councillors Report

Corona Virus effects - Your meeting comes a week or so after the start of the latest national lockdown. You could spend the whole evening discussing whether this is wise and justified, but it would essentially be ineffective. We have to do as instructed, and trust that this is brought about by the highest motives of wishing our society to be free of this scourge as quickly and painlessly as possible.

The County Council is doing its best to provide help and grants to deserving cases, through the Here2Help website. *Please visit there for more information on what is available.*

We are keen to encourage people to stay local and shop local. It is easy to resort to buying everything online and that might be convenient but also helps big multi-national organisations. We also need to support local shops that might otherwise go out of business permanently. Hence, we are making moves to assist setting up local click and collect services for those businesses, so we can continue to patronise our small local shops, rather than the big multinationals. The government has suggested it should be possible to find a way for pubs to serve visitors as if they have an off-licence, even if it means ordering in advance and turning up with your own containers for beer and wine. It is not for me to tell people how to behave but I hope we all appreciate the significance of this next lockdown and trust that it is short lived and successful, so we have a chance of enjoying Christmas in a more or less normal fashion.

County matters - There was a full council meeting last Thursday, which was held on zoom, but also live webcast as normal. A number of members of the public expressed concern about our progress on cutting our carbon output, and there was discussion on the zero carbon report from Cabinet. A notice of motion praised the importance for the economy and tourism of the county's rivers and canals, while another wanted more time for motions, as some of the opposition thought the time spent on Conservative motions was disproportionate. That motion was lost.

At this Thursday's Cabinet meeting, I will be presenting a report that will seek to commission a report on whether we can start a "Wheels to Work" scheme encouraging people to hire bikes and e-bikes from the county to get to work, where bus services are inadequate. The latter certainly applies to the Stoke Bliss area. If the report is positive, we may be able to create such a service, to help those without access to a car to get to and from work more easily.

At the scrutiny meeting of the environment and economy panel this time last week, a number of members of the public were concerned about our plans for promoting active travel, i.e. walking and cycling. While the discussion was not detailed, it is worth looking at the agenda of the meeting on the WCC website to see the extent of the efforts we are making to encourage walking and cycling across the county. While there may be limitations of funding, the intention is to assist those who choose to walk and cycle wherever possible.

Remembrance Day - It was a privilege to lay a wreath on behalf of the County Council during the attenuated service held outside St Mary's church on Sunday 8 days ago. While this was a lesser event than normal, it was certainly worthwhile, remembering all those from Tenbury and the surrounding district who fell in the many wars over the last century. I am very grateful to the British Legion and all the church elders for enabling this simple ceremony to take place. **We will remember them!**

Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ