

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Old Chapel, Menith Wood at 7.00pm on Monday 20th September 2021

Present: Cllr Alistair Keron (Chair), Cllr Weston,
Cllr Abraham, Cllr Sanders

In Attendance: Clerk, Three Members of Public, County Cllr David Chambers, Dist Cllr Paul Cumming

1. **Apologies:** Noted from Cllr Meese, Cllr Rudd.
2. **Co-option of a Cllr** – No applications received.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs are reminded to keep their registers up to date.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – All Cllrs Items 13/ 24 Pensax Village Hall.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – See above.
4. **Dispensations** –
To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – Dispensations requested - Items 13/24 – Village Hall – All Cllrs have been granted a Dispensation until May 2023 at the January 2020 meeting.
5. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes.
6. **County Cllr Report** – See report at end of minutes.
District Cllr Report – See report at end of minutes.
7. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 19th July 2021 and minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9th August 2021 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Menith Wood** – 90% of properties now enabled. Properties along Penn Hall Lane are yet to be enabled as further work is needed.
 - b. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Worles Common to Abberley** – completion expected by January 2022.
 - c. **Broadband Fibre To The Property in Pensax Common** – Vouchers issued need to be validated so the contract and installation process can start within next 12 months.
Chair advised a resident is working on a scheme for Snead Common.
 - d. **Stockton Road speeding** – Awaiting update from WCC.
 - e. **Footpaths in Parish** – No update as Cllr not at meeting.
9. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:** None.
10. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – See item 20.
 - b. **Payments received** – HMRC VAT Repayment = £182.97.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliations** (circulated) - Signed for July/August 2021 balance agreed as £12879.22.
11. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – None.
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** – None.
 - c. **Plans for comment on tonight** –
21/01305/FUL Cross Keys Inn, Menith Wood, Worcester WR6 6UB – Demolition of building and erection of garage/outbuilding. It was agreed by all to support this application.
 - d. **ENF/19/0333 Stockton Road agricultural field** – MHDC have served an Enforcement Notice to the landowner to remove the caravan and hot-tub from the land within four months 21st September 2021.
12. **Road report**
 - a. **Lengthsman** – See item below, the LM position is vacant at this time.
 - b. **Problems to report** – None.
 - c. **Stockton Road drainage issues** – see below.
 - d. **Worles Common/Menith Wood roads drainage issues** – See below.
Chair still waiting for MHDC Drainage Officer to confirm meeting date for issues above.
 - a. **Grit bin request for Penn Hall Lane** – Councillor to liaise with resident in Penn Hall Lane regarding

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positioning of the bin. The PC will discuss costs at next meeting. A supply of grit is held in Chairs barn.

13. Pensax Village Hall –

- a. To discuss progress of sale and any other issues that may arise regarding the sale – The sale is making slow progress, PC Solicitor is trying to speed things up, Clerk in contact with Agent.
- a. **Consultation with residents regarding funds generated by Sale (circulated)** – It was agreed to send the letter as drafted when the sale is nearing completion.

14. Grievance Policy (circulated) – It was agreed by all to adopt as drafted.

15. Disciplinary Policy (circulated) – It was agreed by all to adopt as drafted.

16. Equality and Diversity Policy – It was agreed by all to adopt as drafted.

17. Clerks' resignation – Advert to be put on noticeboards, in local papers, Facebook page and email.

18. Insurance Renewal from 26th October 2021 – It was agreed by all to agree renewal by email.

19. Correspondence for information – COVID 19 updates from CALC, NALC, WCC, MHDC, Police

South Worcestershire Development Plan information

A456 CLOWS TOP CLOSED 20TH SEPTEMBER 8PM TO 5AM – 12 DAYS

WCC consultation - Dark Sky and Net Zero Policy – not relevant to this Parish

20. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –

Payment made 2nd August – SSE (Electric for Pensax Hall April to July 2021) = £62.30.

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

Agenda items - Pensax Village Hall, Co-option, Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022, Lengthman Contract, Clerks vacancy. Cllr report drone over isolated property causing concern recently.

22. Date of next meeting: 15th NOVEMBER 2021 – 7pm - OLD CHAPEL HALL, MENITH WOOD

23. It was agreed to exclude the Public and Press from the meeting due to the confidential nature of The business to be discussed.

24. Pensax Village Hall Sale – There were no issues to discuss.

25. Lengthsman Contract 2021-2022 – It was agreed to advertise the position.

26. Meeting Closed 8.50pm

Signed----- Date **15th November 2021**

Chair

Issues raised by residents – Postcode issues Chapel Lane, Menith Wood WR6 6UG – Resident was speaking on behalf of residents in lane. The postcode covers 36 properties in MW, the central point for satnavs is bottom end of Chapel Lane which is too narrow for large vehicles to turn. He has tried to get the postcode changed but has been told he needs to contact PC to do that. Clerk to inform Lindridge PC as the Lane is in that Parish. Resident left detailed notes with Clerk, Dist Cllr to ask MHDC for advice.

Dist Cllr Report – South Worcestershire Development Plan delayed until 2023, causing issues with some planning applications going to appeal and MHDC losing.

County Cllr Report

Latest Covid Figures issued to County Councillors are:

Worcestershire is showing an infection rate of 266 cases per 100,000.

The infection rate in the Malvern Hills District is 233 cases per 100,000.

The infection rate of people over 60 in Worcestershire is 83 per 100,000.

The infection rate of people over 60 in the Malvern Hills District is 75 per 100,000.

Three care homes in Worcestershire have more than two cases.

Vaccinations continue to progress well in Worcestershire although the number of young people aged over 18 years of age coming forward, is not as positive as we would like.

Traffic update

a. Traffic volume levels in Worcestershire are now 97% of pre-Covid levels.

b. Bus travel levels in Worcestershire are now 21% of pre-Covid levels.

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Road "Surface Dressing"- continues to take place across the County. Structural repairs are completed first followed by an application of hot bituminous binder to the surface, followed by one or two layers of chippings. After about a week the road is then swept and road markings re-painted.

Afghan Resettlement Schemes -

The current schemes are being co-ordinated by WCC. WCC will work closely with the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership who are delivering this programme for the West Midlands, on behalf of the Government. WCC will consider wider support arrangements for Afghan arrivals, co-ordinate financial support from the Government and donations from communities.

There are two schemes:

The Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) - for Locally Employed Staff (LES) in Afghanistan. This scheme is designed to support those Afghan nationals who have worked with our forces, e.g. Interpreters. This scheme was launched in April 2021.

The Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) - This was the scheme that was announced in late August and which is designed to welcome 5,000 vulnerable Afghans into the UK in the first year of the scheme and 20,000 over the longer term.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division