

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held on
Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 7 pm**

Present

Cllr. Meese, (Chair) Cllr. Gould, Cllr. Abraham, Cllr. S. Rudd.

+ 3 Vacancy - Clerk-Carole Hirst

13 Members of the Public.

- 1 Apologies for absence-** Cllr. David Chambers WCC; Cllr. Paul Cumming (MH District Councillor)

Absent: None

2 Declarations of Interest. None

Parishioners Question Time –

The Bell Public House spoke about the reasons why they were selling the pub. The pub has been advertised on Rightmove. The pub is advertised as a drinking establishment. No money had been spent on the pub prior to the current owners taking over.

The parishioner that has submitted the ACV then spoke. He asked if the Parish Council would support the Save the Bell groups ACV application and think how the PC could help the group in the future. He outlined the process he had gone through and spoke about others in the group supporting Save The Bell.

ACV is the last community asset in the Parish. The Bell supports the social well-being, health and mental well-being of the community, and it supports employment.

An ACV gives the group a point of last resort.

There are 5 bids currently on the forthcoming auction, which should conclude on the 23th Nov.

Another member of the public highlighted that the PC has funds to be used for a community asset.

- 3 Approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday the 19th July 2022. Note that the September meeting was cancelled due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the official period of mourning.**

Cllr. Meese Proposed and Cllr. Rudd Seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 19th July 2022 be approved. All in favour.

4 District and County Councillor Reports (Circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Cumming- MHDC Councillor Report.

The current points of interest are where some activity has taken place revolve around planning. Members have just been informed that another exercise has just been carried out which establishes that in accordance with current Planning Practice Guidance, the District can demonstrate a five-year land supply. This will be particularly relevant to certain planning applications which are made on the premise of the supply falling short. Evidence supporting this is due to be published later this year.

The public consultation of the SWDPR has now been published is open for comments until 13th December.

Cllr. Chambers - WCC Councillor Report.

- Concerns remain regarding the long delays that ambulances continue to wait outside the Worcester Royal Hospital. The poor flow of patients from ambulance to the Emergency Department, to Wards and then to discharge, also remains a major concern. On the 1st December, the next meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (of which I am a member), will be held at the Worcester Royal Hospital. Following the meeting we will be given a tour of the new Emergency Department, which is due to open shortly and where we will be able to question and assess any likely potential improvement to the services mentioned above.
- On Sunday 6th November, as a Member of the Fire Authority, I attended an emergency services exercise at Worcester Cathedral. Hereford & Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service, the Ambulance Service and the Police all took part. Some 100 officers from the various services were in attendance, some active on the exercise and others as observers. The exercise lasted almost three hours based on a fire in the lower ground floor of the cathedral, the evacuation of the injured, the removal precious of archives based in the roof section of the cathedral and so on. Specialist appliances were mobilised including an appliance with a 30 metre extending ladder with platform, which could reach the roof area of the cathedral. There was also an appliance which was deployed at the river, enabling water to be pumped out of the river up to where the fire engines were located; this one appliance was able to supply five fire engines with a constant supply of water.

This type of exercise takes place several times each year at different locations. Mindful of the Manchester Arena disaster, which is very much in the news at present, this can give reassurance that our own emergency services are planning for potential serious eventualities.

5 Report on meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors since the past meeting. None attended.

6 Finance

- To consider the Formal Bank Reconciliation to 18th October 2022.**
Councillors reviewed the accounts and confirmed that the Bank Reconciliation was accurate and reconciled and signed the bank reconciliation as true and accurate. **Noted.**
- To consider the Budget Monitoring Report to 18th October 2022.** Councillors agreed the Budget Monitoring Report. **Noted.**
- To Consider list of due payments and receipts to 15th November 2022. Cllr. Meese Proposed and Cllr. Rudd Seconded that all payments be approved. All in favour.

PAYMENTS at 24th November 2022

In2Out - Lengthsman July	£	157.50
HMRC Period 3 correction to previous clerk pay.	£	50.25
C HIRST Clerk Expenses from July 20th to 20th September	£	107.77
Carole Hirst- Clerk Pay June 14th to end of July	£	560.04
HMRC Clerk Tax	£	139.80
C Hirst Clerk Pay August	£	359.13
HMRC Tax August	£	89.80
Worcestershire CALC	£	36.00
Worcestershire CALC Subs	£	220.19
Wyre Piddle PC - Shared Stationery	£	28.24
HMRC Previous clerk short payment tax	£	50.25
In2Out - Lengthsman Aug	£	157.50

HMRC Clerk Tax Sept	£	89.80
C Hirst Clerk Pay Sept	£	359.13
DM Payroll services - Pay Queries	£	25.00
Susan Burrows - Reimburse McAfee Subscription	£	99.99
PKF Littlejohn - External Audit	£	720.00
In2Out - Sep lengthsman	£	165.00
C Hirst - Clerk expenses July 19th to Nov 24th	£	121.10
C Hirst Clerk Pay to end of Oct	£	359.13
HMRC to end of Oct	£	89.80
Hiscox Insurance	£	603.76
In2Out - Lengthsman Oct	£	157.50
C Hirst Clerk Pay to end of Nov with NALC BACKPAY	£	514.80
HMRC to end of Nov	£	128.80
Menith Wood Community Association - Jan 2021 to Nov 22 hall hire costs	£	152.00
TOTAL	£	3,985.42
Receipts to 20th Sept 2022		
Precept payment 2	£	2,781.00
WCC Lengthsman	£	157.50
WCC Lengthsman	£	165.00
WCC Lengthsman	£	157.50
WCC Lengthsman	£	165.00
TOTAL	£	3,426.00

- d. consider approving the payment of tax to HMRC relating to previous Clerk (£50.25). Cllr. Meese Proposed and Cllr. Rudd Seconded that the Parish Council absorbs this cost. All in favour.
- e. To report that the VAT Return has been completed from Aril 1st 2021 to 30th June 2022. £1272.28 received on the 13th September 2022. **Noted**
- f. To note the conclusion of External Audit for 2021/22 and note the display of Notice of Conclusion of Audit and discuss any recommendations if appropriate. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit and Audit report were uploaded to the PC website on September 29th 2022. Audit report circulated for information. **Noted.**
- g. To discuss and agree the out-turn budget for 2022/23, the 2023/24 budget and Council Precept for 2023/24. Cllr. Meese proposed and Cllr. Abrahams Seconded that the out-turn budget for 2022/23 be approved and the Budget for 2023/24 be approved setting the precept at 5% increase at £5840. 3 in favour 1 abstained.
- h. **To note that NALC/CALC pay award was approved for 2022/23 on the 1st November 22. The outcome is:**
 With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above
 With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave entitlement. (£1 per hour increase) **NOTED.**

7 Planning

M/22/01566/NMA-Spring Meadow, Pensax, Abberley, Worcester, WR6 6AG-Application for a non-material amendment following a grant of planning permission M/22/00099/CU - Change of cabin/accommodation design- REFUSED

Planning enforcement - Tipping/dumping soil waste at Heather View - a statement was agreed to be sent to Planning Enforcement regarding ongoing issues.

8 Highways – Lengthsman Report – Nothing to report

The issue next to the Whitehouse is now sorted.

Parish Path Warden Vacancy. The current Parish Path Warden has resigned, and it was suggested that a replacement be sought who would have to apply through the WCC Path Warden Scheme.

9 Pensax Parish Project – Cllr. Meese sent around a spider diagram with all the Parishioner suggestions from Pensax, Stockton and Lindridge (Menith). Stockton PC are continuing consultation on uses for the funds. Cllr. Gould is to do a final leaflet drop. A public meeting is being held on Friday 18th November 7pm to 9pm at Old Chapel, Menith Wood. The decision on the disposal of funds lies with Pensax Parish Council. Stage 1 concludes Dec 31 2022. Stage 2 is proposed to conclude before the election in May 2023.

10 The Bell (Application to become an Asset of Community Value)

MHDC wrote to the Parish Council asking the Parish Council to make a comment or objection for the ACV application made by Save the Bell group.

A total of 4 Pensax parishioners and 3 people outside of the parish (CAMRA Bewdley & Abberley parish) and Stockton PC have contacted the Chair direct or through the Clerk to notify, ask for support, or to give money for the Bell Public House.

An auction concluded on 9th Nov, and the Bell remained unsold. There are 5 bids currently on the forthcoming auction, which should conclude on the 23th Nov.

Cllr. Gould outlined the process of registering the Bell as an ACV.

Cllr. Meese agreed to write a statement by the 20th of November and circulate it to all councillors for submission and to the Save the Bell Group

11 Neighbourhood Plan.

Discussions took place as to whether the Parish Council should consider beginning the process of a reduced Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Meese proposed that after the election, consideration be given to progress this. The Clerk to explore consultants and identify the grant process.

12 Correspondence for information circulated.

- 1/11/22 – Menith Wood Community Association – Request for meeting dates for 2023 and confirmation that the PC requires an annual invoice. Parish Council dates for 2023 are confirmed as 17th January, 21st March, 16th May, 18th July, 19th September, 21st November 2023.
- Correspondence from parishioners regarding the Sale of the Bell Public House and registering the Bell as an Asset of Community Value (ACV)

13 Email from Chair of Stockton on Teme Parish Council expressing the support of Stockton on Teme Parish Council for the ACV. A future meeting to discuss to be agreed.

14 Councillors' suggestions for reports for the next agenda.

None.

15 Date of next meeting- The Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7pm at the Old Chapel, Menith Wood The Open meeting closed at 8.37pm.