

# PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Pensax Village Hall at 7.00pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**Present:** Cllr Gready (Chairman), Cllr Stanhope (Vice Chairman),  
Cllr Rudd, Cllr Randall, Cllr Warr, Cllr Wise

**In Attendance:** Clerk, 2 Members of the Public and District Cllr Paul Cumming

1. **Apologies: None.**
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
  - a. **Register of Interests** – No changes declared.
  - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – Cllrs Gready, Warr, Stanhope and Wise – items 9(d) due to all Cllrs paying Council Tax within parish.
  - 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 granted** – Cllrs named at item 2(b) were granted a Dispensation to speak and vote until May 2015 for all matters in items 9(d).
4. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes.
5. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
6. **District Cllrs report** – See notes at end of minutes.  
**County Cllrs report** – Apologies received, report at end of minutes also circulated by email.
7. **Progress reports for information:** None.
8. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:**  
**Pensax Village Hall 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014 see agenda item 12.**
9. **Finances:**
  - a. **Payments made** – Mss C Clark (Secretarial Services) = £15.63, Mr T Wise (monkey survey re. Pensax Village Hall) = £52.00, Information Commissioner (Data Protection 2015-16) = £35.00, Clifton upon Teme Parish Council (VAS batteries) = £40.00, Mr R Whiteman (LM August-October 2014) = £308.00.
  - b. **To report receipts since April 2014** - MHDC Precept = £3000.00, Lloyds Bank = £75.00 (reimbursement for advice given regarding mandate).
  - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – Signed for April-December 2014. Balance agreed as Current Account £4209.93.
  - d. **To consider request for precept for 2015-16** – a budget was circulated. After discussion it was agreed by majority to increase precept to £4000.00 for 2015/16, an increase of £1000.00. Cllr Rudd wished it to be noted he opposed this increase. Clerk to put item in local news regarding increase. Clerk to query non-payment of Pensax War Memorial grant.
  - e. **To agree signatories for bank mandate** – It was agreed Clerk to be contact for Bank but not signatory. Signatories to be Cllr Gready, Cllr Stanhope, Cllr Randall and Cllr Rudd.
10. **Planning:**
  - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – See item 18 below.
  - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –

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**14/01421/HOU – Spring Meadow, Pensax, Abberley WR6 6AG – Single Storey extension (Retrospective). Refused by MHDC.**

- c. **Plans for comment on tonight – None.**
- d. **Complaint regarding created track way at Spring Meadow, Pensax** – it was agreed to inform Enforcement Team at MHDC. Chairman to mark area of concern on map for Clerk to action. Dist. Cllr to be kept informed. Alleged encroachment onto neighbours land is a civil matter.

### 11. Road report

- a. **Lengthsman** – Drains cleared, work to find drains continues.
- b. **Any problems to report** – none.
- c. **Over grown hedgerow within parish** – Cllr Stanhope agreed to contact landowner to ask when hedge would be cut as it is blocking ditches and intruding into road. Clerk to send letter if hedges not cut in reasonable time.

### 12. Pensax Village Hall

- a. Notes of meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> December to be re-circulated. Chairman and Clerk attended, new Trust Document to be drafted with Community First by Trustees.
- b. Letters to resigning Trustees – Clerk to draft for Chairman's approval.
- c. New Lease document for Pensax Village Hall – Clerk to seek legal advice when new Trust Document has been agreed. Clerk to contact Trustees for update.
- d. To discuss May 2015 elections and use of hall – Clerk to see Trustee for details.

**13. Draft Financial Regulations** (circulated) – it was agreed to adopt draft. Chairman, Cllr Randall and Clerk to review for next meeting.

**14. Standing Orders** (circulated) – it was agreed Clerk review for next meeting.

**15. Data Protection** – it was agreed Chairman, Cllr Wise and Clerk review.

**16. WCC Website** – it was agreed only Cllrs names and responsibilities on Parish Council be on site. Clerk main point of contact. Cllr Wise may set up separate website for Parish.

### 17. Correspondence for information –

Items available at the meeting.

### 18. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting

#### Planning –

**14/01586/FUL Ridding Coppice, Worles Common, Stockton** – Change of use of land to site 2 yurts for residential use associated with the long term management of Ridding Coppice – Plans circulated by email and comments to support were agreed.

**14/01674/FUL – Hazelhurst Farm, Stockton WR6 6XG** – Conversion of part of existing barn to residential accommodation and two self-catering holiday units – Plans were circulated by email and comments to support were agreed. (Cllr Stanhope not involved due to owning property).

### 18. Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.

**Agenda items** – Village Hall, Clerks Contract, Lengthsman Contract 2015/16. Cllr Wise stated Survey for hall came back with concerns regarding roads and other issues, summary to be produced and circulated.

**19. Date of next meeting: TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 AT 7.00pm**

**20. Cllrs agreed to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**

**22. Lengthsmans Contract** – Contract to be drafted by Clerk and signed by LM. Hourly rate agreed, details in files. Clerk to contact LM.

**23. Clerk's contract** – Clerk and Chairman to review draft contract. Clerk agreed to do 2 hours per week from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 at national rate. Details in files, hours to be reviewed if necessary.

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**24. To discuss quotes for Pensax Village Hall fencing** – Hall Survey showed concerns for children's safety due to no fencing by road. Three contractors had been approached but only one gave quote. It was agreed to defer this matter for present.

**25. Meeting Closed – 9.23pm.**

Signed----- Date 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015

**Chairman**

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**Public Question Time** – John Collins attended and complained about speed of traffic down road to Pensax and into 30mph at Pensax (Pensax Court area). He felt road was used as a shortcut to Tenbury road due to diversions put up last year. Hedgerows and wall had been hit by traffic, felt only time before serious accident. Several residents have same concerns. It was also felt volume of traffic has increased over years. Cllrs stated speed had been monitored in that area 4 or 5 years ago and very few cars over 30mph. Clerk to contact County Cllr, Community Safety Partnership and Highways to ask advice.

Resident also asked if Parish Council meetings could be better advertised, information will be put in Teme Span and on website. **Residents left meeting.**

**District Cllrs Report** – SWDP still not adopted, many planning applications being received from developers - cuts in government grants ongoing but savings have been found by MHDC with no cuts to services – MHDC will not be increasing their Council Tax for second time in four years - Chief Executive now shared - running costs 8 million net. Neighbourhood Plan mentioned but Cllrs had looked at this in past and decided not to pursue due to costs and time needed to undertake.

**County Cllrs Report**

**Budgetary Forecast** - The budget for the year 15-16 still to be agreed by Council, we still need to find £2.4 million of savings and the shortfalls in succeeding years are £6.2m, £12.0m and £22.6m. Increases in spending for adult social care and looked-after children, as in the latter case demand has increased by 18% in just the last year. This will require a combined total of about £7million.

**Tenbury Public Realm update** - Work started two weeks ago, to be complete by the end of March. Tesco are not pulling out of Tenbury, they will support area by giving £95,000 to local bus services, this be used by the Tenbury Transport Trust, and a sum of money under S278 to help complete phase 2 of the Public Realm work, along Teme Street.

**Winter Gritting** - There has been no cut in the gritting budget, the same level of salt stocks available (15,000tonnes at the start of the winter), there is the same number of vehicles 31 (using the new brine system that makes it more efficient) and the same number of operative available to drive the vehicles.

**Highways** - I note that you are concerned about speeding and potholes. We have two VAS speed warning devices in the division and one is on a rota to visit the B4202 at Snead Common. This moves on an 8 month rotation, with a month at each place. It will next appear at Snead Common in April and then December. If you wish it to be more frequent or to add another stop, we will have to purchase another machine and get some other locations involved, to make its use economical.

**Potholes** - I hope you will publicise the recently introduced online pothole reporting system. It is remarkably easy to use and gives you messages to tell you what has happened as a result of your report. You can upload photographs as well, to help locate the item, but putting a cross on the map is easy to do and does not have to be accurate to a couple of yards...

**Broadband Penetration and Importance** - I understand your keenness to get linked in to the Superfast Broadband roll out. The situation is not immediately apparent. Clows Top cabinet went live last month, December 2014, but it is also listed for activity in the next few months. Abberley is covered by a cabinet labelled Great Witley and that will be surveyed in the first quarter of this year. Their second cabinet is not yet scheduled. Visit Superfast Worcestershire pages of the WCC website. The next phases will be announced as they are determined, according to the results of surveys, value for money and demand.

More money has been allocated to increase coverage from 90% to 95% and the contract for this work will be signed imminently. WCC and BT will be working on a sequence of coverage in that sector and I can only suggest continued increase in demand from households and businesses that are not well covered as yet, to seek to get into the 95% sectors.

**Websites** - WCC website available for Parish to use and upload information. Your own War Memorial website is still looking for support and illustrating where it will be situated...

**Project Optimise** - The County is running a Project Optimise with councils at all levels to see if we can remove duplication and promote joint working across the spectrum. Three pilot areas have been selected to see how this may work before it is rolled out across the county as a whole.

**WCDF** - I still have some money in my Divisional Fund and I am very keen to hear of suitable projects on which to spend it. My principle is to give relatively small sums to as many groups as possible, ideally involving a large number of beneficiaries and for projects that can be self-sustaining in the long term.

**Cllr Ken Pollock**