

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Pensax Village Hall at 7.00pm on Tuesday 5th April 2016

Present: Cllr Gready (Chairman), Cllr Rudd, Cllr Keron, Cllr Weston

In Attendance: Clerk, District Cllr Paul Cumming, 3 members of the public and Parish Lengthsman

1. **Apologies:** Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Wise.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs to keep updated.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – Chairman item 14 Dog Fouling due to walking on land and having been spoken to by landowner.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – Chairman see (b) 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** – Chairman requested Dispensation to speak and vote on item 14 Dog Fouling. It was agreed by all to grant this request until May 2019.
4. **Public Question Time** – See notes below.
5. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January 2016 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
6. **District Cllrs report** – See end of minutes.
County Cllrs report – Apologies received, report at end of minutes.
7. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Pensax Village Hall** – Meeting open to all was held on 8th March but only 2 Cllrs and Hall Trustee attended. Chairman stated if residents are not willing to help run events the halls future is in doubt. Cllrs asked to help find residents who were willing to go onto hall committee.
 - b. **Improved Broadband** – Cllr Wise to give update at next meeting.
8. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:**

MHDC Neighbourhood Planning presentation - Clerk and 2 Cllrs attended on 25th and 28th January. This is discussed at item 12 below.

WCC Conference - Clerk attended details circulated. More cutbacks planned, Devolution was outlined and WCC should know more in autumn on this as it needs to be agreed with Central Government.
9. **Finances:**
 - a. **Payments made** – Mr K Gittins (Internal Auditor 2014-15) = £20.00, Mrs S Burrows (printer ink, memory stick) = £16.99, Worcestershire CALC (Good Cllrs Guide 2016) = £2.70. (See item 17).
 - b. **To report receipts since last meeting** – WCC LM November/December 2015 = £917.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – January/February 2016 was agreed and signed. Balance agreed as £6464.29.
 - d. **Internal Auditor 2015-16** – It was agreed by all to appoint the same auditor as last year at cost of £20.00.
 - e. **Internal Audit procedures (circulated)** – It was agreed by all procedures are being adhered to.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – See item 17.
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –

Appeal decision – 14/00004/FUL – APP/J1860/A/14/22596 Workshop at Tilterdown, Pensax Common, Stockton WR6 6NX – Demolition of existing steel clad workshop, timber storage shed and construction of a new single storey dwelling with basement. **The appeal decision of February 2015 was quashed in June 2015 by the authority of the Secretary of State, the application is therefore refused.**
 - c. **Plans for comment on tonight** –

16/00420/CPU – Spring Meadow, Pensax, Abberley, WR16 6AG – Proposed side extension. It was agreed by all to comment ‘so long as this is subject to normal planning the Parish Council had no further comments to make’.
 - d. **Subsidence at Heather View, Pensax Common** – MHDC have advised this matter is a civil matter and not a

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District Council matter. Information will be passed to concerned residents.

11. Road report

- a. **Lengthsman** – Work ongoing, thanks to be passed to LM for work undertaken this winter.
- b. **Any problems to report – Penn Hall Lane** - weeds growing in middle of road. Clerk will report.
Stockton Road – Kerb stones have been put in, road looks narrower, why were half batter kerbs used rather than full batter kerbs. Clerk to query.

12. **Neighbourhood Planning** – It was agreed by those who attended the presentation at MHDC the idea was good but for a small parish it would be a massive task that would be expensive/time consuming and of little benefit. It was agreed by all not to pursue the matter at this point in time.

13. **Queens 90th Birthday 12th June 2016** – It was agreed by all to meet on 14th April at 7pm to discuss further. Pensax Church to be asked to help.

14. **Complaint regarding Dog Mess – See notes at end of minutes.** Advice obtained from Worcestershire Country Service and MHDC. It was agreed by majority to put notices on noticeboards alerting residents to the problem and recommending the Countryside Code is followed and to offer landowners notices to put up, wording and costs to be agreed at next meeting. Article to be put in local Temespan. Chairman voted against this decision. Dist Cllr to check byelaws.

15. **Annual Parish Meeting** – It was agreed to change date of meeting to Tuesday 3rd May at 7.00pm.

16. Correspondence for information –

Items available at the meeting.

MHDC Conference – 18th April – 6.00pm to 8.30pm – 2 Cllrs and Clerk to attend.

17. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting

Payments – 10th March 2016 – Information Commissioners Office (Data Protection fee) = £35.00,
Mr R Whiteman (LM November/December balance of underpayment) = £84.00.

Plans circulated for comments –

29th February 2016 – 16/00247/FUL – Spring Meadow, Pensax, Abberley, WR6 6AG – Creation of Agricultural Track. It was agreed by all to object to this application. Comments in files.

Complaints received –

2nd March 2016 – Track on Worles Common – complaint regarding possible creation of new gateway/track into lane. MHDC have advised this is an old track that has been cleared and no permission is required. Cllrs expressed concern regarding caravan in field. Dist Cllr advised if lived in to report to MHDC.

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

Agenda items – Village Hall, Broadband, Clerks Review, Queens 90th Birthday, date of meetings, Dog mess notices, bin for Pensax Village.

19. **Date of next meeting: - 3rd MAY 2016 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7pm
followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm.**

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

21. **Lengthsman Contract 2016-17** – It was agreed by all to renew contract with Mr R Whiteman at same rate as last year. It was agreed not to advertise the post due to the specialized nature of the work, to be reviewed in 2018. All agreed the standard of work this year has been very high and thanks to be passed to LM.

22. **Clerks Review** – All matters were discussed and no major issues of concern raised. Clerk's hours to be increased. Clerk obtained Certificate in Local Council Administration in March 2016. It was agreed Chairman to complete Review for circulation and signing at next meeting.

23. **Meeting Closed – 9.10pm.**

Signed----- Date 3rd May 2016
Chairman

Public Question Time - Treasurer of PCC thanked Cllrs for mowing grant, it was very much appreciated.

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Dog fouling – Landowner attended meeting and circulated photos of dog mess and outlined the problem regarding amount of mess he is finding on his set aside land where adjoining land is used for growing crops. The advice obtained from Malvern Hills District Council and Worcestershire Countryside Service is that it is not an offence on Private Agricultural Land to allow your dog to foul and fail to remove the material, nevertheless it was noted that the Countryside Code recommends that dog walkers should clear up after their dogs. Rob Gready stated that footpath users had advised him that the landowner has upset walkers in the past. Rob Gready suggested if dog friendly stiles were installed dog owners may be more inclined to be co-operative and clear up mess. (Rob Gready's comments were his own personal opinion, he was not speaking for the Parish Council). Landowner stated that after seeking Police advice he had recorded incidents occurring on the footpaths crossing his land. Landowner also had concerns regarding dogs off leads and not under control. Cllr Weston stated the dog mess on the Millennium Green in Menith Wood was a problem.

District Cllr Report – Planning for a Solar Farm at Stockton was heard at MHDC Planning Committee Meeting in March and has been refused due to the visual impact on landscape it would create.

SWDP - now in place and will run until 2030.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Simon Geraghty was elected as the new Leader of the Conservative Group, and then as Leader of the Council. This created a vacancy on Cabinet namely that of being responsible for the Economy, Skills and Infrastructure. He asked me to take on this new role. This is a significant position, with a budget for the directorate that includes Highways and the Environment of around £60 million, although that is much less than the cost of the caring roles of Adult Social Care and Children's Service. The brief extends to the following areas:

1. Strategic planning – community and spatial
2. Economic development and regeneration
3. Business Partnerships (including Local Enterprise Partnership)
4. Regional, European and international relationships
5. Strategic Transportation (including Local Transport Plan)
6. Skills Policy and Development, including training/apprenticeships/business engagement/employment skills
7. Broadband.

In this context, it is worth noting again that Worcestershire's productivity growth has been second fastest in the country, equalling Oxford and behind London. The economy as a whole is the fourth fastest growing in the country. The budget for 2016/17 was set in February. It is clear that the coming year will be one of serious austerity and we will be aiming to see that front line services are maintained as far as possible. As already announced, the County's contribution to Council Tax will increase by 3.94%, including the 2% precept that the Chancellor has allowed to be devoted to Adult Social Care.

1. Broadband - One of my areas of responsibility as CMR Economy, Skills and Infrastructure is broadband and I can assure you that I am working closely with our officers and BT in the implementation of the two contracts to bring faster broadband to the whole of Worcestershire. You may be pleased to have the services of the Airband contract, although the extension programme under the second BT contract will benefit 82 properties in Pensax, leaving about 40 without. I would be pleased to hear of any problems with broadband coverage via Airband as we are making strenuous efforts to increase coverage and to use the BT "Never say no" project to find answers for all properties, particularly those beyond the reach of the conventional methods..

2. Road Works - The Council is devoting £12 million towards the Driving Home project to improve the state of the county's roads. While we believe that our roads are in better condition than many neighbouring counties, we recognise that residents are very aware of the deficiencies of the roads near them. This investment should bring the condition of the roads to a state that can be maintained into the future without extensive efforts each year.

Please use the online reporting system for letting us know which roads need attention and let me know if the response is inadequate.

Ken Pollock, Martley, Worcester, WR6 6QA