

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in PENSAX VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm on Monday 20th November 2017

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

In Attendance: Clerk, two residents and District Cllr Paul Cumming.

1. **Apologies:** Received and accepted from Cllr Hingley.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs are reminded to keep their registers up to date.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – Chairman and Cllr Rudd item 15 – 17/01598/FUL – The Glen, Pensax Common, Stockton, Worcester WR6 6XL – Both Cllrs know the applicant and prefer to make no comments.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – see above.
3. **Dispensations** –
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – **None requested.**
4. **Public Question Time** – None.
5. **County Cllr Report** – Apologies received. Report at end of minutes.
Dist Cllr Report – Brief report given, see notes at end of minutes.
6. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 25th September 2017 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
7. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **BT Box** – Resident of Menith Wood had passed email list to Clerk of residents interested in helping to restore box. Clerk to contact the residents and update at next meeting. Suggested uses for box - information point, defibrillator box, book box.
 - b. **Community Speedwatch** – waiting for details of speed monitoring on B4202 from Police.
 - c. **Smart-water initiative from Police**- Speaker booked for meeting to be held on 15th January 2018, 7pm at Old Chapel, Menith Wood, notices to be put up.
 - d. **Broadband** – Cabinet in Pensax Village not yet live, Clerk to update residents as soon as possible.
 - e. **Pensax and Stockton War Memorial Remembrance Service 12th November** – The Service was attended by about 50 people. The traffic on the B4202 was very distracting. Clerk to ask WCC about having a road closure for the 2018 service.
8. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors** –
MHDC Conference - 23rd October, Clerks Gathering – 30th October, CALC AGM - 15th November – details of meetings circulated.
Chairman's meeting with Millennium Green Trustees AGM 26th October – it was agreed to work closer with the Trustees, it is acknowledged the land lies in Pensax Parish. Clerk to obtain Newsletter for email distribution. Wassail event planned for January 2018.
9. **Finances** -
 - a. **Payments made** – Mr G Rudd (see item 12b) = £26.40.
 - b. **Payments received** – MHDC Precept = £2125.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** (circulated) - Signed for September/October 2017. Balance agreed as £10107.96 balance in cash book.
 - d. **To discuss budget 2018-19** – Budget to September 2017 circulated with a draft budget for 2018-19. Cllrs discussed expenditure for next year, precept will need to be agreed at the January meeting.
 - e. **Bank Mandate** – It was agreed to add new Cllrs present, mandate signed and Cllrs to present ID to bank.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **See item 15.**
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting - **None.**
 - c. Plans for comment on tonight – **None.**

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

- d. **Update - 14/01586/FUL – APP/J1860/W/15/3133352 – Ridding Coppice, Worles Common, Stockton.** Land-owner is removing the decking the yurts were standing on; legal action is still being considered by MHDC due to the slow progress of the work. The occupier has not applied for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the caravan now on the site, MHDC are considering Enforcement action for this contravention.
- 11. Road report -**
- a. **Lengthsman** – Work to keep drains/gullies clear ongoing.
 - b. **Problems to report** – Penn Hall Lane, mud on road erosion of verges, caused by HGV.
 - c. **Penn Hall Lane** – WCC have agreed to an advisory sign saying 'No HGVs' at each end of lane. Clerk to ask for Satnav error sign to go with this if possible.
- 12. Pensax Village Hall –**
- a. **Hall Insurance** – It was agreed by all exact amount of grant to Hall for insurance costs to be agreed by email. Clerk to obtain costs from Trustees.
 - b. **Outside lighting for Hall** – It was agreed to fund light at total cost of £26.40. Fitting to be responsibility of Hall Trustees. Cllr thanked for purchasing the new light.
 - c. **Inside lighting in Hall** – Cllr reported problem with kitchen light. Cllrs agreed to consider costs of any fittings by email if it is required.
- 13. Attendance of Cllrs at meetings** – Cllrs are required, by law, to send written apologies to Clerk if they cannot attend meetings. Cllr Donnelly has failed to attend meetings for 6 months and no apologies have been received by Clerk. Cllr Donnelly can no longer sit on the PC, he is aware of this matter. The Clerk will inform MHDC and advertise the vacancy. A letter will be sent to Mr Donnelly thanking him for his time on the PC.
- 14. Correspondence for information –**
Email correspondence circulated - list in minute's folder.
Training dates as circulated.
MHDC Conference 23rd October 2017 Malvern – 6-8.30pm
CALC AGM 15th November 2017 – Worcester – 6.30-8.30 (Trade fair 5pm)
MHDC Consultation on 5-year Plan consultation
Alternative Velo Bike Ride – email to be sent to resident's email for them to respond if they wish.
- 15. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.**
Plans circulated by email 16th October 2017 – 17/01598/FUL – The Glen, Pensax Common, Stockton, Worcester WR6 6XL – Canopy for storage of restored vintage farm machinery and tractors. Cllr Rudd and Chairman declared an interest in this application and did not make any comments. Other Cllrs agreed to make no objections to the application.
- 16. Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.**
Agenda items – Broadband, Pensax Village Hall, BT Box, Welcome pack for residents, Vacancy on PC, Precept 2018-19, Smart-water item. Dates of 2018 meetings to be agreed by email.
- 17. Date of next meeting - MONDAY 15th JANUARY 2018 AT 7.00pm OLD CHAPEL, MENITH WOOD**
- 18. Cllrs agreed to close meeting to Public and Press due to the confidential nature of business to be discussed**
- 19. Clerks Review** – Chairman had circulated the review prior to this meeting, no queries raised, review signed by Chairman and Clerk.
- 20. Meeting Closed 8.57pm.**

Signed----- Date 15th January 2018
Chairman

Residents queries – Resident was concerned regarding mess left on public footpath on his land. Clerk to seek advice from WCC. **Penn Hall Lane** – reports of HGV lorries using lane for reasons unknown. Enquiries have been made and none of the building projects use that lane for deliveries. Damage has been caused to verges and mud is in middle of road causing a danger to other users of road. Clerk to report to WCC. See also item 11c above.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Refuse – MHDC to send letter to residents in new year regarding refuse system starting in April 2018, pink bag users to be reduced if possible.

Centenary WW1 ending Celebrations - Bonfires are planned nationally, Cllrs to ask landowners who have held events in past if they are willing to organise an event on 11th November 2018.

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Council Affairs - While the overall picture of our finances is difficult, there are many very encouraging developments. The Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy was approved. This plan, based on work done by our consultants, outlines the priorities for rail development in the county, with great emphasis on the new Parkway station to be opened in the winter of 2018/19 and achieving two trains per hour from Worcester to Paddington. One of those should be a high-speed train averaging a lot more than the current 55 mph. We also approved the developments of Kidderminster station, the second most used station in the county, but with very poor facilities. Pershore will also see important road improvements, including a new bridge over the main railway line to link up with the Wyre Piddle bypass. This will relieve some of the problems at the Pinvin crossroads. Finally, the revised Local Transport Plan (LTP4) was approved. This outlines all the possible transport improvements across the county to be considered between now and 2031. It does not in any way guarantee the funds to carry out these projects, but rather describes an envelope encompassing all the schemes we would like to see implemented. There are also priorities given, so that it can be seen what work might be undertaken first, as funds become available. In these matters, we see a useful counter balance to the difficulties experienced in Children's Services and with Adult Social Care and demonstrate there are valuable developments that will affect the lives of the great mass of Worcestershire people in a positive way.

Tenbury Public Realm -The public realm work has continued, and the general response seems to be very positive. A third crew from Ringway has been deployed, in an attempt to make up for time lost, after the late arrival of the second crew. This has resulted in some disruption to traffic, and the need for traffic management using stop go boards. While I have heard of difficult periods, in general the delays experienced seem to have been small. The work is on schedule to finish before the end of the month, with four-night closures scheduled for next Monday, the 27th November onwards for the carriageway works, i.e. laying new tarmac on Teme Street, and relaying the raised tables using proper red coloured tarmac as originally specified. The closures will be from 21.00 to 06.00 and will last only as long as necessary. It is therefore clear that the Teme Street work will be complete before the Santa Parade, scheduled for Saturday, 2nd December. It is hoped that the disruption to trade in the run-up to the night closures will be as small as possible, given the inevitable problems of access. I trust that all parties will be satisfied with the end result of this extended work, and that Tenbury will flourish as a retail and visitor centre once the work is complete. It was good to see that the Headway traffic controller Steve was appreciated and actually switched on the Christmas lights in Teme Street last Saturday. Steve became the most popular man in Tenbury with his big smile and engaging personality, making everyone held up by the traffic management much more patient and cheerful. Very many thanks to him.

Velo Birmingham Bike Event - County officers and relevant councillors met the organisers earlier this month to hear all the evidence of positive and negative impacts, caused by Velo. There have been many positive comments about its value and one of the major charities benefitting from the event, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Charity (including three other hospital trusts) and the Leukaemia Trust informing me that they are each in receipt of £400,000 from the participants. I will be very interested to hear from Pensax councillors and residents how they were affected by the event. Before it took place, there were several people who expressed concern about its impact, and some were pessimistic about how it would be organised. On the day, there were significant failings, both in stewarding and signage, and the whole event was tainted by some extensive sabotage in the county. The Director will now decide whether to permit the event to go ahead in subsequent years and, if so, whether the route might be modified to minimise disruption and loss of business.

Road problems - I am aware of the problems caused by a large lorry driving down Penn Hall road and causing considerable damage to the verges. Your clerk has been very active in seeking ways to stop this in future and I have strongly endorsed the mounting of signs at either end of the road, saying it is "unsuitable for HGVs". I trust the County officials will approve this idea soon.

County Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ