

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held in Pensax Village Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 17th September 2018

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

In Attendance: Clerk, One Member of the Public, County Cllr Ken Pollock, District Cllr Paul Cumming, Alice Spearing from St Richards Hospice

1. **Apologies:** Received and accepted from Cllr Hingley. Cllr Rudd attended at 8pm due to work commitments. Cllr Hingley has sent in her resignation due to health family commitments, Clerk will inform MHDC.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs are reminded to keep their registers up to date.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – None declared.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – None declared.
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** – See notes at end of minutes.
5. **County Cllr Report** – Report at end of minutes.
Dist Cllr Report – Report at end of minutes.
6. **Minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on 16th July 2018 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
7. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **BT Box** – A resident offered to paint the Box if PC would provide the materials. This was accepted by Cllrs. Clerk to order paint and contact resident.
 - b. **Community Speedwatch** – still waiting for feedback from Community Speedwatch Team. Concerns from Cllr regarding speeds in Menith Wood had been passed to WCC. Lindridge PC had passed their concerns on to Highways, after monitoring average speed was found to be 21mph, details to be passed to Clerk for circulation.
 - c. **Standing Orders** – Due to legal amendments the Orders have been updated. Details to be circulated to Cllrs and document to be published on website.
 - d. **Pensax Village Hall** – A meeting with Pensax PC, Hall Trustees and Community First has been arranged for 24th September at 7pm to discuss the lack of use of the Hall. Trustees to confirm attendance, Cllrs felt Trustees should attend to ensure they were aware of advice given and could ask questions.
 - e. **SWDP Housing Survey online consultation** – Response agreed by email, comments returned on 27th July.
 - f. **Data Protection Law changes May 2018** – Advice given to PCs now updated. Clerk to ensure the policies agreed are still acceptable before publishing. Computer records being erased, paper copies of items being shredded, email contacts being reviewed.
8. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors** –
Clerk – GDPR Training - 18th July 2018 – Record Retention.
Clerk - CALC Area Meeting - 15th August (cuts to bus services in south of County).
9. **Finances** -
 - a. **Payments made** – Mrs S Burrows (Microsoft Windows programme 2018-19) = £59.99, Came & Company (See item 13) = £218.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – WCC LM (April/May 2018) = £546.00
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** (circulated) - Signed for July/August 2018. Balance agreed as £10361.10 in cash book.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **See item 17.**
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting –
APPEAL 16/0441/FULL (WFDC) - APP/R1845/W/17/3189794 – Whytehouse Farm, Greenway, Rock DY14 9SJ – 20 starter homes and ancillary works. The Appeal has been dismissed by Planning Inspector.

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- c. Plans for comment on tonight – **None**.
 - d. **Update - 14/01586/FUL – APP/J1860/W/15/3133352 – Ridding Coppice, Worles Common, Stockton. MHDC update** – MHDC have advised an Appeal has been lodged against the Enforcement Notice.
11. **Road report -**
 - a. **Lengthsman** – WCC require LM to do refresher training and are reviewing safety equipment held. Clerk to contact LM (who is ill at present) to establish when he will be returning to work and to update him.
 - b. **Problems to report** – None.
 12. **South Worcestershire Development Plan Development Boundary Review – Proposed Methodology Consultation comments by 8th October (circulated)** – It was agreed to send the comments that have been circulated. Further consultation with PCs will occur later in process. Pensax does not have any Developments Boundaries so the area is referred to as ‘open countryside’ restricting all development.
 13. **Insurance Renewal due 26th October 2018 (circulated)** – it was agreed to renew at a fee of £218.00.
 14. **Risk Assessment (circulated)** – It was agreed for Chairman to sign the Risk Assessment, items outstanding to be actioned by Clerk.
 15. **Publication Scheme** – Clerk to redraft due to data law changes and circulate for next meeting.
 16. **Correspondence for information –**

Email correspondence circulated - list in minute’s folder. Training dates as circulated.

Celebrating the humble hall in Worcestershire – a study by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service – survey to be completed by Clerk with details of age, type, use etc of hall.

MHDC Enviro Week - October half term – litter picking being promoted/supported this week

Hereford and Worcester Radio – community input requested for evening programme – suggested Pensax Village Hall and Bell Inn be subjects of interest in the future.

WCC Parish Conference – 9th October – Clerk booked in.

MHDC Forum – 22nd October – Clerk booked in.

MHDC - Revised Statement of Principles Gambling Act 2015 – comments by 2nd November, document circulated and was interesting, but no comments felt necessary.
 17. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.**

South Worcestershire Development Plan Consultations circulated –

Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey – comments by 31st August – Survey completed and returned with Cllrs input.

Open Space Assessment (including Community Buildings) Town/Parish Survey – comments by 5th October – Clerk to complete.

Planning Appeal discussed at close of meeting held on 16th July 2018 –

Chairman declared an interest when this matter was discussed and left the building. Chairman also did not pass comment on any emails that were circulated on this matter.

APPEAL – APP/J1860/X/17/3187727 - 17/00338/CLE – New Inn Farm, Worles Common, Stockton – Certificate of Lawful Development for the siting of a static caravan for use as ancillary residential accommodation for a period in excess of 10 years. It was agreed to support the fact the caravan had been onsite for over 10 years but after discussion it was agreed from local knowledge held by Cllrs the caravan had not had continuous use as ancillary residential accommodation for this period. Clerk to word comments for circulation and comment by Cllrs before sending in to Planning Inspector.

10th September 2018 - Comments from resident regarding planning comments and Cllrs acting in a personal capacity. Clerk had replied, Chairman was aware of the issues. The matter is not for the Parish Council to discuss as actions of Cllrs is not to be discussed at PC meetings.
 18. **Councillors’ reports and items for the next agenda.**

Agenda items – Pensax Village Hall, BT Box, Data Protection, Publication Scheme, Co option of a Cllr.

Hedges – Chairman stated concern has been raised by parishioners about the need for hedge cutting on road sides in the parish, particularly on the road from Pensax Court to the B4202. The closed period on hedge cutting is over with effect from 1st Sept; the owner of the land on the west side of the road has agreed to prioritise this activity but has requested parishioners to be aware that there are other, more weather sensitive operations to be carried out on the farm at the same time as hedge cutting.

18/00244/FUL - Far Town, Pensax WR6 6AE- Demolish existing machinery storage building and construct a replacement machinery store building – A review of the MHDC website shows ‘the Coal Mining Authority has continuing dissatisfaction with the applicant’s submission, this is delaying a decision by MHDC.

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Caravan and field shelter sited in Pensax Road, Stockton end – Clerk to report to Enforcement and Dist Cllr.

19. Date of next meeting - **MONDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2018**

20. Meeting closed – 9.11pm

Signed----- Date 19th November 2018
Chairman

St Richards Hospice Speaker attended the meeting – The hospice was set up 30 years ago and has 17 beds with a total of 900 volunteer helpers (600 work in shops). The Hospice cares for cancer patients and people with life limiting/long-term illnesses. It has day care facilities and holds courses to help and support people living with an illness. 77% of the funding comes from public support, the rest is funded by NHS. There is a Nursing Team who go out into the community to give support in people's homes. A £5.4million expansion is in the process of being built which will increase day care facilities by 25% and enable more day services to be held. With funding cuts in all sectors the hospice sees itself as being used more in the future to help patients with chronic illness and to support other services. More volunteers are always welcome, you put in as much time as you wish. An open day is being held on 21st October at the Hospice, Clerk to send details out on email list and to circulate further information from the Hospice.

Q - A Cllr asked about care for 16 to 24 year olds who have illness – Acorns Hospice cares for younger children but the older children seem to lack facilities.

A - St Richards Hospice does have a Social Worker for children if the need arises but no special facilities for the age group mentioned.

The speaker was thanked for coming to the meeting, it was a very informative about the work of the Hospice and how it helps lots of people with long-term illness, not just cancer patients.

Bell Inn, Pensax – it was noted the Bell Inn had been sold. After discussion with Dist Cllr it was felt the building should be registered as a Community Asset by PC. This would enable the building to be purchased by the community in the future if it came up for sale. Clerk to circulate information to Cllrs. Clerk had received an email from the Campaign for Real Ale offering to help with this process.

Cllrs comments to County Cllr –

Q - A Cllr had used the Park and Ride in Worcester. He was surprised to find the bus went to the Hospital but not to the city centre. Signs say Park and Ride.

A - County Cllr to ensure the correct signage is displayed, he was not aware of the issue.

Housing versus Health – County Cllr explained a Health Report would go with a Housing Policy but there is no data at present to say what impact extra housing will have on hospitals. There is provision for schools, Dr Surgeries etc. The Health Service would be aware of housing needs, they then ask Central Government for funds to take on the extra capacity.

Q - Worcester Hospital overcrowded now, where are the plans to tell us that the NHS plan is for extra capacity.

A – This is an NHS issue, not a WCC problem but County Cllr agreed with concerns raised.

It was commented that the Public should have a better understanding of the problem.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Universal Credit - is being rolled out in the District. There have been problems for self-employed people which is now being addressed.

South Worcestershire Development Plan – District are told how many houses they need up to 2041, sites for development have been called for. Preferred new development to have easy access to motorways. Development boundaries are being looked at, PC have been consulted and will send in comments after this meeting. Dist Cllr agreed NHS should be advised of new housing and hospitals asked to take the extra capacity.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Rail Developments – In July, I mentioned our aspirations for further developments in our rail network. I was able to pursue these at a meeting at the House of Commons ten days ago, courtesy of GWR. The MD of Network Rail's Midland Region was lobbied in detail by Harriett Baldwin, Tenbury's MP, and by me, as a member of the North Cotswold Line Task Force. We are hopeful that we will see dualling of the North Cotswold Line soon, complementing the opening of the Worcestershire Parkway station next year. It is crucial in our arguments with the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Midlands Connect that these rail improvements will help move some traffic off our motorway and major roads that are already experiencing congestion.

The Financial Position - Councillors will be aware of the extensive and detailed examination of all county

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expenditure necessary because of our financial position. One area under examination is supporting bus services, the reduction of some commercial services has been announced recently. The Tenbury area has the advantage of the excellent service provided by Tenbury Transport Trust and I am hopeful that the DfT will amend legislation to combat the impact of a recent court case that threatened the continued use of volunteer drivers. There were notices of motion at last week's full Council meeting calling for more support for bus services and, while we are all aware of their value, any public subsidy needs to be justified. If there is insufficient demand, it is hard to argue that the public sector should intervene when many isolated communities have not been able to avail themselves of such services for many years.

At Cabinet on the 27th September, a detailed examination of our library services across the county will be presented. While it would be premature to go into detail, it is noted that Tenbury is recognised as having the third highest need in the county behind Redditch and Evesham. This should indicate it is secure, although visits have declined by 6% in the last year. Stourport library lies 10th in the table for greatest need, and its recent relocation has resulted in a 28% increase in visits. Martley library is run as a community resource, a pattern that may be copied elsewhere in the county.

Tenbury Public Realm works - We will all be aware of various small items of work needed to complete the second phase of the Public Realm work on Teme Street, and I am assured that these problems will be tackled starting a last Wednesday. The work will include the following:

- Permanent repairs to the footway areas outside the Vaults and Smarty Pants
- Installation of bollards at discrete locations to protect against further vehicle loading
- Replacement of the 'wobbly' service covers outside the old post office.
- Repairs to the vent to the cellar beneath Smarty Pants

Local issues - I am sure many Pensax residents will be pleased, as I am, that the appeal against the rejection of an application to build 175 houses in the centre of Great Witley was turned down. There are many smaller such developments in existence and planned, and Pensax residents will know of the application to build on the field off the B4202 in the middle of Abberley. While this is a matter for the MHDC, I would be pleased to hear of any concerns of residents about the scale and nature of these developments. Clearly the economic health of the county and its income are dependent to a degree on this growth but it must not be allowed to jeopardise the quality of the lives of those living in the area. As was pointed out at a previous council meeting, infrastructure developments must keep pace with increased housing, and hence demand. I trust the expansion announced recently for the Worcestershire Royal Hospital will help ease the congestion experienced there.

Following concerns about the surface of the B4202 through the village, various works have been undertaken and I hope that these have made a material improvement. No doubt there will still be concerns about speeding and I would like to hear of anyone concerned about such problems.

Next Sunday, a cycling sportive will take place based at Goodwood in Sussex. This is instead of a second running of the Velo Birmingham that received a mixed reception when run through the county last year. Next May, a further such event is planned, but, while this will be based in Birmingham, it will go east to Warwickshire. This route is likely to become the one to be used by the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

CIlr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ