PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held on

Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7 pm

Present

Cllr. A Gillett; Cllr. Meese, Cllr. David Abraham, Cllr. Marc Pedersen;
O members of the public + 3 Vacancy; MHDC; WCC – Clerk, Carole Hirst.

1 Apologies for absence-,

Absent: Cllr. D Godwin; Cllr. Bowen

2 Declarations of Interest. None

Requests for Dispensation: None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS – No Public present.

3 Approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday the 25th November 2025.

Cllr. Gillett Proposed and Cllr. Stu Meese Seconded that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of the 25th November 2025 be approved. All in favour.

4 District and County Councillor Reports.

Cllr. Godwin- MHDC Councillor Report. No report received.

Cllr. Bowen - WCC Councillor Report.

Report for Tenbury Division Parish Councils January 2026

Worcestershire County Council Matters

Worcestershire County Council finances

As reported previously, Worcestershire County Council is more than £600 million in debt, with emergency funding (Exceptional Financial Support) being required from the government for this year of £33 million, alongside reserves of £15 million being used to balance the budget. Additionally, the government has now announced its funding formula for local authorities for the next 3 years. Unfortunately, this has resulted in Worcestershire County Council being allocated £7.1 million less per year by the government than anticipated, equating to £21 million over the next 3 years. This has increased the already acute financial pressures on the Council and ensures that 2026 will be even more challenging than previous years.

It is therefore inevitable that Worcestershire County Council will again need to request Exceptional Financial Support from the government in order to balance the budget for 26/27. Additionally, with no further reserves available to draw on, the Council has applied to the government for permission to increase Council Tax by up to 10%. The government is likely to decide on whether to grant these requests in February, ahead of a full Council meeting on 26th February. Although 10% is the maximum option that is being asked

for, it is hoped that through various measures being taken by the Reform administration that any Council Tax increase will be below that. Any increase will only be at the level necessary to balance the budget and prevent a S.114 notice being issued.

With the government also due to make a decision on Local Government Reorganisation, the coming months are perhaps the most important faced by Worcestershire for many years.

Tenbury Division Matters

Flood Defence Funding

The next Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 14th January. I will again be deputising for the Cabinet Member for the Environment and attending as the Worcestershire County Council representative. With funding having been agreed, I'll be asking the RFCC to press for the Environment Agency to act with the urgency needed to progress the Tenbury Property Flood Resilience Scheme. I will also reiterate that the ambition should remain to build a large scale Flood Defence Scheme for Tenbury. Additionally, we need to continue building on the excellent Natural Flood Management work being undertaken in the area.

Blocked drains and gulleys

Before Christmas, good progress was made in our area on having blocked drains and gullies cleared thanks to local residents making efforts to report any that were blocked. I've had confirmation both from Highways and residents themselves that in Tenbury and surrounding villages work has been carried out. However, it is important that we collectively keep the pressure on, so please continue to report any blocked drains directly here:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/report-road-or-path-issue/report-drainage-and-flooding-highway

If there is no response, or the response is slow, then please let me know so that I can chase it up by emailing jbowen4@worcestershire.gov.uk

This approach is working, so please keep going!

Traffic

I have been informed that the Highways Department has completed a review of its traffic management policy and has decided to make no changes at this time. I believe that this is the wrong decision and that the policy fails to take into account the needs of our rural community, particularly with the criteria for reducing speed limits failing to take into account the impact on quality of life. I will therefore continue to pursue this in 2026 as it remains one of the main issues in our villages.

5 Finance

a. To Note the Bank Reconciliation to 22nd Dec 2025.

Councillors reviewed the accounts and confirmed that the Bank Reconciliation was accurate and reconciled and signed the bank reconciliation as true and accurate. **Noted.**

b. To Note the Budget Monitoring Report to 22nd Dec 2025. Councillors agreed the Budget Monitoring Report. **Noted.**

c. To Consider list of due payments and receipts to 13th January 2026. Cllr. Gillett Proposed and Cllr. S Meese Seconded that all payments be approved. All in favour.

PAYMENTS at January 13th 2026		
Menithwood Community Association-Grant	£	900.00
IN2OUT Lengthsman Nov	£	187.00
Wel Medical - 2 sets of Defib pads	£	152.22
C Hirst Clerk Pay Dec	£	552.52
HMRC Clerk Tax, and Employer NIC Dec	£	179.26
IN2OUT Lengthsman Dec	£	178.50
C Hirst - Clerk Expenses 2 months	£	95.43
TOTAL	**£**	**2,244.93**
Receipts not previously recorded		
WCC Lengthsman Nov	£	187.00
TOTAL	**£**	**187.00**

d. To report the impact that the 2026/27 Precept will make on Council Tax Band D. The Parish Council Precept for 2026/27 has increased from £9000 in 2025/26 to £9360. This calculates at a 4% increase. The impact of the rise on Council Tax Band D is a rise from £58.24 to £59.79. An increase on the Parish Precept for Band D of £1.55 per year.

6 Planning – Nothing to report

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7 WCC Paths Officer Report – Nothing to report

8 Councillors' suggestions for reports for the next agenda.

9. Date of next meeting and meeting dates for 2026- The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7pm at the Old Chapel, Menith Wood.

The meeting closed at 19.16 pm.