PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held on

Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7 pm

Present

Cllr. A. Gillett; Cllr. Meese, Cllr. D. Abraham, Cllr. M. Pedersen;

0 members of the public + 3 Vacancy; Clerk, Carole Hirst, Cllr. Bowen WCC Councillor, PC Kim Jones (Police)

1 Apologies for absence-,

Absent: Cllr. D Godwin MHDC Councillor;

2 Declarations of Interest. None

Requests for Dispensation: None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

PC Kim Jones gave a verbal update on crime statistics and access to new technology acquired for the area.

3 Approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday the 13th January 2026

Cllr. Gillett Proposed and Cllr. Stu Meese Seconded that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of the 13th January 2026 be approved. All in favour.

4 District and County Councillor Reports.

Cllr. Godwin- MHDC Councillor Report.

No report received.

Cllr. Bowen - WCC Councillor Report.

Worcestershire County Council finances

On Thursday 26th February, Worcestershire County Council agreed a Council Tax increase of 8.98%. The Council also confirmed it will receive nearly £60 million of Exceptional Financial Support from the government in 26/27. Without the increase, the Council faced a S.114 notice, the local authority equivalent of bankruptcy.

I have set out the reasons for the financial position previously, and the focus now is ensuring that our county never again has to face such an increase. I sincerely believe that this time next year I will be able to report a significantly improved position.

The next significant financial moment for Worcestershire is when the government announces its decision on Local Government Reorganisation. This is expected in the summer.

Rural Funding

I am delighted to say that at the same Council meeting, a vote was passed to ringfence government grant funding for rural roads, drainage and flood alleviation (it should be noted that this is entirely separate from Council Tax, which is local revenue).

I spoke in favour of this during the debate, citing the collapse of the B4204 at Rochford as being an example of the impact when rural roads fail. Needless to say, I will work towards securing as much of this funding as possible for our area.

Tenbury Division Matters

Flood Warden Scheme

I have held further discussions with the Flood Warden Scheme group and have agreed to allocate funds for protective equipment. The coordinators will draw up a list of items needed ahead of funding being requested. This scheme, which will be operationally independent, has my full support and is a key part of the strategic approach to securing further flood funding for the area. Once operational, alongside the PFR scheme it will demonstrate that we have done all we can locally to protect ourselves from flooding.

Local Funding Awards

In February, the following requests for funding were agreed:

- The Regal Theatre £500
- Tenbury Scout & Guides Group £500
- Teme Valley Wildlife £500

Blocked drains and gulleys

As previously reported, we continue to make good progress in having blocked drains and gullies cleared. 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!

5 Finance

a. To Note the Bank Reconciliation to 26th February 2026.
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 26th February 2026.
Councillors agreed the Budget Monitoring Report. **Noted.**

c. To Consider list of due payments and receipts to 10th March 2026. Cllr. Gillett Proposed and Cllr. S Meese Seconded that all payments be approved. All in favour.

PAYMENTS at March 10th 2026		
C Hirst Clerk Pay Jan	£	552.52
HMRC Clerk Tax, and Employer NIC Jan	£	179.26
WCC Lengthsman Dec	£	178.50
IN2OUT Lengthsman Jan	£	182.75
C Hirst Clerk Pay Feb	£	552.72
HMRC Clerk Tax, and Employer NIC Feb	£	179.06
IN2OUT - Lengthsman Feb	£	187.00
C Hirst clerk expenses x 2 months to March	£	81.75
TOTAL	**£**	**2,093.56**
Receipts not previously recorded		
WCC Lengthsman Dec	£	178.50
WCC Lengthsman Jan 26	£	182.75
TOTAL	**£**	**361.25**

6 Planning – Nothing to report

7 WCC Paths Officer Report – Cllr. Meese has now resigned as WCC Footpaths Officer. A vacancy now exists with WCC for this voluntary post. Cllr. Meese agreed to draft an advert for the PC website and social media to promote the WCC voluntary post.

8 To adopt Pensax Parish Council IT Policy, Publication Scheme and note the Accessibility Statement and Privacy Policy.

Cllr. Gillett Proposed and Cllr. Meese Seconded that the IT Policy and Publication Scheme be approved and that the Accessibility Statement and Privacy Policy be noted. All in favour.

9 Councillors' suggestions for reports for the next agenda.

Please note that the cut off for WCC Lengthsman for work in 2025/26 for invoices to be input to the WCC portal is 15th March 2026 If not processed on time WCC will refund us out of the 2026/27 budget meaning we have less money to spend next financial year.

Cllr. Pedersen has now received the permits for the gates, only one is allowed on the Clows Top side as the verge is too narrow, WCC will install them once purchased which is good news. It was mentioned that a budget was already set for the gates and Cllr. Pedersen agreed to progress this.

10. Date of next meeting- The next Parish Council Meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the AGM of the Parish Council and will be held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7pm at the Old Chapel, Menith Wood.

The meeting closed at 19.27 pm.