PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pensax Parish Council held on

Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7 pm

Present

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

0 members of the public + 2 Vacancy; Clerk, Carole Hirst,

1 Apologies for absence- Cllr. Bowen WCC Councillor.

Absent: Cllr. D Godwin MHDC Councillor;

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 14th July 2026

Cllr. Gillett Proposed and Cllr. Marc Pedersen Seconded that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council of the 14th July 2026 be approved. All in favour.

4 District and County Councillor Reports.

Worcestershire County Council Report- Cllr. Bowen

Local Government Reorganisation

We are awaiting the outcome of a boundary review for the new North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire authorities. These will then determine how many Councillors each council will have, as well as the representation for each division.

Farming and Food Procurement Policy

Our farmers are facing unprecedented challenges from increasingly higher costs and tight margins, and as such I believe there is a responsibility on Worcestershire County Council to do what it can to help.

I have therefore submitted a motion for full County Council on September 10th for every Worcestershire County Council school to source food it serves from local farmers and local producers. The same would apply to any catering services commissioned by the Council.

Clearly to achieve this will require solutions and changes throughout the supply chain, so the motion also instructs officers to report back within 3 months on progress and any barriers to implementing the policy.

Speeding Policy

Following work I began last year, and liaising with Councillors from all parties, progress is being made on changing County Council policy on speed limits. Although there is still work to be done, I remain hopeful that we will

reach a point where decisions on speed limits will include local people and councillors, whether that be parish, town or county councillors.

Tenbury Division Matters

Rochford Landslip

Highways have confirmed that previously I was given incorrect information on how the project was progressing, and that assurances on work having been completed weren't accurate. The landslip is now being managed by Worcestershire County Council's Major Projects Team, which has promised much tighter control over the project and significantly improved communication.

I have now been assured that the landslip now has a renewed focus, with topographical surveys and geotechnical surveys being completed, which will be followed shortly by Design Teams working on solutions to have the landslip repaired.

I have also been informed that on 24th September, a paper will be presented to Cabinet requesting funding.

I will be attending that meeting and asking questions on progress across the board.

Tenbury Property Flood Resilience Scheme

I contacted the Environment Agency about concerns raised by residents and businesses regarding Property Flood Gates that would be installed. The industry standard height is 600mm, which for some properties would not be sufficient to offer flood protection. I have been assured that wherever possible and where needed, 900mm gates would be installed. The only exceptions will be on some older properties where 900mm gates are not suitable. In those circumstances, alternative solutions will be explored.

Collaborative Working

After liaising with Burford Parish Council, Shropshire to secure joint funding, I have had agreement from Highways that Teme Bridge in Tenbury Wells will be cleaned in September. This is an excellent example of how collaborative working can get things done, even when it crosses county boundaries.

Similarly, cooperation with our parish councils, including Pensax, Abberley, Great Witley and others has resulted in a number of improvements going ahead, including new Vehicle Activated Signs, road repairs and drainage issues being resolved.

Additionally, by working closely with Malvern Hills District Councillor Duane Hubbard, progress has been made and outcomes improved on a number of issues over recent months, including flood management and on roadworks.

I look forward to other councils and councillors adopting a similar approach of working together to achieve results for our community.

MHDC Councillor Report- Cllr. Godwin

No report received.

5 Finance

a. To Note the Bank Reconciliation to 24th August 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 and listed as APPENDIX 1

b. To Note the Budget Monitoring Report to 24th August 2026.
Councillors agreed the Budget Monitoring Report.
Noted. And listed as APPENDIX 2

c. To Consider list of due payments and receipts to 8th September 2026. Cllr. Gillett Proposed and Cllr. M Pedersen Seconded that all payments be approved. All in favour.

PAYMENTS at 8th sept 026		
C Hirst July Pay	£	552.72
HMRC Tax and employer NIC deductions July	£	179.06
IN2OUT JULY LENGTHSMAN	£	174.25
C Hirst July Pay	£	552.52
HMRC Tax and employer NIC deductions July	£	179.26
Clerk Expenses to 7th Sept	£	83.45
Zurich Municipal Insurance 2026/27	£	327.00
IN2OUT AUG LENGTHSMAN	£	174.25
TOTAL	**£**	**2,222.51**
Receipts not previously recorded		
WCC Lengthsman June	**£**	**182.75**
WCC Lengthsman July	**£**	**174.25**
TOTAL	**£**	**357.00**

d. To note that the CALC National pay increase for 2026/27 has been awarded which is backdated to April 1st 2026. The clerk pay grade is Scp 27 which has now increased from £19.81 to £20.46 for 2026/27 Noted

e. To replace the existing non-functional notice board at the Pensax and Stockton War Memorial for Peace with a small interpretation board with funding from the Parish Council Capital Project Fund (allocated reserves)
Next Steps;
● Council to resolve support in principle for the change
● Confirm consent position with Worcestershire County Council as landowner
● Obtain two to three supplier quotes against the brief in Section 3
● Report back with firm costs and consent confirmation before ordering
Cllr. Stu Meese Proposed that the Council approves in principle the replacement of the notice board at the War Memorial with an interpretation board, subject to landowner consent (WCC) and a funded design, and delegates progressing quotes and consents to SM

for report back to the next meeting. Preferred option upright. Seconded by Cllr. Andy Gillett. All in favour.

6 Planning

- **M/26/00697/FUL - Rowley Farm, Pensax- Personal permission for use of land as a caravan site for the stationing of a twin-unit lodge for dependant relative accommodation – REFUSED**

- **M/26/00905/HP - White House, Pensax Common, Stockton- Above ground swimming pool- APPROVED**

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7 **VAS update –** Cllr. Pedersen gave a verbal update on the VAS and agreed to continue to monitor the data produced from the VAS. It was agreed that Cllr. Pedersen would talk to WCC Highways regarding signage displaying speed camera and ask about licensing of signs and locations and report back to the next meeting.

8 Councillors' suggestions for reports for the next agenda.

- Pensax Lane/Stockton Rd– hedge needs cutting back. Poor visibility.

- The Clerk agreed to request dates for Councillor Training Courses

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

The meeting closed at 19.46 pm.

APPENDIX 1 BANK RECONCILIATION AT 24th August 2026

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PENSAX CASH BOOK 2026_27

PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL BANK RECONCILIATION at 24/8/26		£
Closing Cash balance at 31/3/26		221,567.33
Add Receipts 2026/27	£	5,485.11
less Payments 2026/27		-6954.39
Closing Balance at 24/8/26		220,098.05

	£
current account at 24/8/26	13,091.70
Sale of village Hall lloyds deposit	37,185.61
Unity Bank	85,000.00
	85,000.00
HMRC not left the account	-179.26
Bank Balance at 24/8/26	220,098.05
Reconciled	-

Restricted Reserves - from sale of Village Hall	£	205,617.02
Unallocated Reserves	£	14,481.03

Appendix 2 Budget update report 24th August 2026

2026_27 PENSAX P C Budget Year to Date
As at 24/8/26

		BUDGET	Spend/income to date	% to date
INCOME				
Precept		£ 9,360.00	4,680.00	50.00%
Bank interest		£ 5,000.00	£ 78.36	1.57%
Parish Lengthsman	Increased in April 2024	£ 2,450.00	726.75	29.66%
Grants VAS GRANT FROMWCC			0.00	-
Other, donation			0.00	-
VAT			0.00	-
TOTAL		**£ 16,810.00**	**5,485.11**	**32.63%**
EXPENDITURE, excluding VAT			Expenditure to date	-
Administration	Clerk salary Increased Apr 25	£ 8,491.00	3,658.90	43.09%
Insurance		£ 350.00	0.00	0.00%
WEBSITE AND COMP	added in April	£ 250.00	15.00	6.00%
Audit		£ 170.00	153.60	90.35%
Membership fees		£ 235.00	216.39	92.08%
Other and Office expenses (includes Cascade £510)		£ 750.00	334.66	44.62%
Training		£ 200.00	0.00	0.00%
Parish Lengthsman	Increased in April 2025	£ 2,450.00	726.75	29.66%
War Memorial - Mowing		£ 240.00	0.00	0.00%
Village Hall Hire		£ 200.00	0.00	0.00%
Donations/Grants/S137		£ 2,555.00	0.00	0.00%
Defibrillator		£ 300.00	0.00	0.00%
Election Costs	added in April		0.00	-
Noticeboards/L'Bins/Seat		£ 1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Allocated reserves spend on items from sale of Village Hall	**carry forward to next year**	**£ 16,320.00**	1,506.00	9.23%
VAT		£ -	343.09	-
TOTAL		**£ 33,511.00**	**6,954.39**	**20.75%**

DETAIL OF LLOCATED AND UNALLOCATED RESERVES at 24/8/26

Balance Brought Forward from 31st March 2026	**£**	**221,567.33**
Add income 2026/27	**£**	**5,485.11**
Less Expenditure 2026/27	**£**	**6,954.39**
	£	**220,098.05**
Less income not yet received		
Less Restricted funding	**£**	**205,617.02**
Balance at 25/6/26 (unallocated Reserves)	**£**	**14,481.03**