PENSAX PARISH COUNCIL

Proposal: Replace the existing non-functional notice board at the Pensax and Stockton War Memorial for Peace with a small interpretation board

Recommendation: 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.

1. Background

The Pensax and Stockton War Memorial for Peace was erected on a raised site opposite The Bell Inn at Pensax, on land donated under licence by Worcestershire County Council's Highways department. It commemorates sixteen men from Pensax, Stockton-on-Teme and the surrounding area who died in the Great War — the parish having decided against a memorial in 1919 “because the Parish was so poor.” The memorial was dedicated on 2 June 2014 by the then Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Revd Dr John Inge.

A £1,000 grant from the Museum and Heritage Group for Worcestershire funded, among other things, a notice board for the site at the time of the memorial's creation. That board (?) is now well over a decade old, has reached the end of its useful life, and was used for Parish News and Minutes till 2020.

Separately, substantial research was carried out into the men commemorated — including work by pupils of Chantry High School, Martley — and published as the booklet “The Men Behind the Names.” Copies of the men's stories are also held in Pensax and Stockton churches. None of this material is currently presented at the memorial itself.

2. Why change it

- The current notice board is a generic parish noticeboard, not a heritage feature — it functions as a display case rather than telling the memorial's story.
- It is due for replacement on condition grounds regardless of this proposal.
- The parish already holds the primary research (names, biographies, dedication history) needed to populate a proper interpretation panel, at no extra research cost.
- An interpretation board would give visitors, families and the schools who contributed to the research a permanent, on-site way to understand who is commemorated and why.

3. What is proposed

Replace the existing post-mounted notice board with a single-sided interpretation board, sited next to the memorial covering:

- The sixteen names, and the context of the 1919 decision not to erect a memorial
- A short history of how the memorial came to be built, including community and school involvement
- Details of the design (the Dhu stone, sourced from Hanson Aggregates' Clee Hill Quarry) and its intended meaning
- Acknowledgement of funders and contributors, and a note directing readers to “The Men Behind the Names” in the parish churches for fuller accounts

4. Design and indicative cost

Three broad options, based on current supplier pricing for small interpretation panels (indicative only — the Council should obtain at least two written quotes before committing spend):

Option	Material / style	Indicative cost*	Notes
A — Lectern panel	Recycled plastic, sloped lectern	~£800–£1000	Lowest cost, low maintenance, modest visual presence
B — Upright display board	Oak-effect frame, rural style	~£1,400–£1,700	Matches the character of a village memorial site; recommended starting point
C — Premium display board	Stainless steel, fully bespoke	~£2,000–£2,500	Higher spec than the setting arguably needs?

**Excludes VAT, artwork/design, and installation. Figures are market indications from current supplier pricing, not quotes.*

5. Site and consents

Land ownership: the memorial site was donated under licence by Worcestershire County Council (Highways), not owned by the Parish Council outright. Written confirmation should be sought that the existing licence covers replacing the noticeboard, or that a variation/consent is not required, before any board is ordered.

- Highways interests: the site sits by the roadside and previously required moving a telegraph pole, postbox and a road sign — check there is no highways sightline or verge issue with the new structure's footing or footprint.

6. Funding

- Parish Council capital funds

7. Recommended next steps

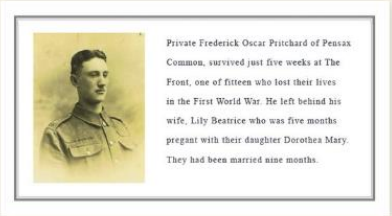
- Council to resolve support in principle for the change
- Confirm consent position with Worcestershire County Council as landowner
- Obtain two to three supplier quotes against the brief in Section 3
- Report back with firm costs and consent confirmation before ordering

Mock Up Board

Pensax & Stockton

War Memorial for Peace

In 1919 Pensax Parish Council considered a war memorial and, minutes record, decided against one — *"because the Parish was so poor."* Almost a century later, this memorial was raised on land given by Worcestershire County Council, and dedicated on 2 June by the Rt Revd Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester, to honour sixteen men of Pensax, Stockton-on-Teme and the surrounding area who did not return from the Great War.



Private Frederick Oscar Pritchard, of Pensax Common, survived only five weeks at the Front. He left his wife Lily Beatrice, five months pregnant with their daughter Dorothea Mary, after nine months of marriage.



Headmaster, Mr Stephen Jowett (right) with pupils of the Chantry High School, Martley and Mr David Blakeway Smith (left) December 2010

Pupils of Chantry High School, Martley, researched the lives behind the names and presented their findings — work that still underpins what this board tells visitors.

The Design

The memorial's Dhu stone came from Hanson Aggregates' Clee Hill Quarry, shaped by stonemason Mark Hamblin. The memorial was intended, above all, as an inspiration for peace.

Those We Remember

John Barber	William E Deakin	Herbert Flello	Thomas Hardman
Henry J Hill	William J Jones	Harold Lamb	James McNally
William C Massey	Thomas J Millichip	Albert W Palmer	Ernest E Pead
Edwin C Powell	John Poyner	Frederick Pritchard	Charles Yarnold

Erected with support from Awards for All England, the Museum & Heritage Group for Worcestershire, M&M Timber and the people of Pensax and Stockton.
Their fuller stories are told in *"The Men Behind the Names"*, held at Pensax and Stockton churches.



1A Lectern-style interpretation board

