



BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Monday 3rd February 2025

7.00pm at Brown Edge Village Hall

Cllr. Adrian Felton (Chairman)	Cllr. Anthony Bedson (Vice-Chair)	Cllr. Phil Berrisford
Cllr. Jane Shufflebotham	Cllr. Joe Porter (District & Parish)	Cllr. Marilyn Marathe
Cllr. Margaret Hunt	Cllr. Phil Woodward	Cllr. Kate Oberholster
Cllr. Keith Flunder (County)	Cllr. Christina Jebb (District),	
No members of the public	Minutes – Mrs. Denise Wheat	Responsible Financial Officer

1) **Chairmans Welcome:** Cllr. Felton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. David Gerrard, Cllr. Hargreaves and Parish Clerk Hayley Harrison

3) **Parishioners Concerns:**

- It was reported that a member of the public (not present) had noted that the website had been down. The RFO confirmed that this was a technical error due to a server changeover.
- The agenda had only been published on social media with one days' notice. The RFO responded that social media although effective is not a legal requirement. She apologised that by creating an event it had not displayed the second page of the agenda on the social media page. This will be addressed for the March meeting.
- It was then discussed that the contact details for the Clerk published on the agenda need to be checked. Parish Council contact details to be on the March agenda.
- The Council agreed that Mr. McGrath could help with the new website.

4) **PCSO Report:**

None present. It was reported by Cllr. Porter that the Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime Commissioner Ben Adams is working on getting more PCSO presence in the Parishes.

5) **County Council Report: Cllr. Keith Flunder**

- **Devolution:** A date is to be arranged for a joint meeting with Bagnall and Endon Parish Councils to be informed from a county perspective of the responsibility changes this will bring to Parish Councils.
- **Highways:** More funding has been released for road repairs and flooding hotspots. A3 maos are in production of Brown Edge faults which have been reported.
- **Health:** Just Add Veg is a new initiative to educate about good eating and health.
- **Stop Smoking:** a helpline and advice page has been launched.
- **CQC assessments** are in progress for all Social Care and Children's services across the County.
- **Apprenticeships:** 720 opportunities are being created
- **Public Transport:** Bus Services Improvement Plan - Capital allocation is to be released soon.
- **Economy:** A Business Development Fund is currently available for applications.

6) **District Councillor Reports:**

Cllr. Keith Flunder

- The refurbished Butter & Trestle Markets in Leek are now open with new food outlets 'Slamwich' and 'Scrumbles'.
- Planning: A dropped kirb on the Breech has been put in without Planning consent. Planning enforcement was discussed. The Council are unhappy that residents can override Planning procedures with a lack of enforcement. The Council Proposed to write to the Planning Officer. The Chairman will write this letter.

Proposed Cllr. Bedson – Seconded Cllr. Woodward – All in favour

Cllr. Christina Jebb

- Finance and Resources: The Council Tax for the District Council has been set at 2.99%
- Car Park Charges are to increase £1.30 - £1.40 and £2.80 to £3.10, Biddulph retains its 1 hour free parking. Season Tickets to increase from 4% to 9%.
- Endon railway track is a strategic asset. There are no safe walking and cycle routes through Endon. A permissive power to use the track bed for a footpath and cycle/bridleway is being investigated. The railway is currently under a lease to the Churnet Valley Railway. If the line and sleepers are removed, it would be then hard to re-open the railway. A feasibility study is needed. Cllr. Felton mentioned linking Brown Edge to Endon. One small section needs to be redesignated from footpath to bridleway. There is also a track from Lask Edge to Horton.
- Cllr. Jebb thanked Cllr Flunder for the donation from his Councillor Initiative fund towards the Sandy Lane defibrillator.
- The Sandy Lane Centre are applying for a Severn Trent Grant. The connection to the gas utility supplies is almost complete.

Cllr Oberholster arrived 19.30

- Moorlands Partnership Board have a small amount of funding available for Heritage if there is a small project in the area contact officer Joanne Brookes. The fund is 25% match funded.
- Planning - Major sites which have not been developed have been identified by SMDC. The War Moors site off Sytch Road has been mentioned as identified for 22 houses. Although passed in committee a technical matter has prevented full approval. Clarification is being sought on this matter.

Cllr. Joe Porter

- SMDC Car park consultation. The Parish Councils are going to be allowed to purchase their village car parks. Car parks are free after 3.30pm. The district is considering charging on car parks which are not currently chargeable. A question was asked about how Parishes will purchase the Car Parks?
- Cllr Porter did a reading at the Staffordshire Moorlands Holocaust Memorial Service. It was well attended and good from an educational point of view.
- Community Speedwatch: Drop-in surgeries are being held to recruit more volunteers. New training sessions. Clerk and Councillors share and publicise this where possible.
- The Battery Storage application has a hearing before Planning inspectorate in March. Cllr. Dave Evans and the Ball Haye Green campaign group will be speaking. Residents can speak at the hearing. Councillors need to book to attend the hearing.
- County Council Elections are going ahead in May.
- Leek and Moorlands Hospital: The Minor Injuries Unit term is going but the services provided are continuing. The building is safe. Cllr. Porter suggested the need for a new name to stop confusion.
- Dog Fouling action: Key Hot spots have been identified. The environmental officer will put stencils down and reports and observation will be monitored. Reports need to be logged onto the SMDC portal.

- Waste Collection: Delays at the beginning of January due to weather have been resolved. Bin crews worked hard to catch up as the weather improved. Communication on the SMDC website was commended. Information was up to date and the targets set were achieved.
- Grit Bins are the responsibility of Highways. Parish Councillors can report any issues on the County Council report it app. Cllrs. Porter and Funder have been doing regular checks on the Grit bins. A small minority are removing the grit and storing in their own homes.
- Severn Trent have created a direct email for Councils to reporting Parish issues. They have also circulated a newsletter for information of interest to Parishes.

7) Declaration of Interests on the forthcoming Agenda:

Cllr. Berrisford: The Bush
 Cllr Hunt: Luncheon Club and The Bush
 Cllr Shufflebotham: The Bush
 Cllr. Porter: NHS and Carnival Committee

8) Minutes of the 4th November 2024 meeting were approved

Proposed Cllr. Bedson – Seconded Cllr. Porter

Minutes of the 6th January 2024 meeting were approved.

Proposed Cllr. Shufflebotham - Seconded Cllr. Hunt.

Minutes of 20th January Extra ordinary meeting to be moved to the March meeting.

9) Matters arising from previous meeting:

Cllr. Beresford asked for information about garage rental in Marshall Avenue, 4 are lying empty, a lady has been told that a safety report is needed. There is an overcrowded parking situation in Marshall Avenue. Cllr Porter will look into this.

10) Correspondence:

- a) **St Anne's Primary School** would like to be involved with any VE Day80 events that the Parish Council organise. A discussion was had about an event which could be held on Thursday 8th May for VE Day 80 at the Flagpole. RFO. to respond to the School to agree to organise a joint event so that the School children can participate.
- b) **The Brown Edge Luncheon Club** would also like to be involved with a VE Day 80 street party style lunch at the club with period music and decorations.
- c) **Annual Parish Meeting:** The Chairman suggested that it might be possible to combine the Annual Parish Meeting with the VE Day 80 events to engage more with the Community groups. Item for the March agenda
- d) **Repair Café:** Moorlands Climate Action repair Café ask for the Parish Councils support to hold a repair café for residents to bring items that need repairing that may otherwise be thrown away. The Council agreed that they would support the event to be held at the Sandy Lane Centre later in the year.

11) Reports and Actions:

- a) **Neighbourhood Plan:** An Action Plan was discussed to move the Plan forward to the statutory Regulation 14 consultation. 3 venues were identified to hold consultations - The Bush, the Village Hall and Top Pub. Each Parish Councillor may need to cover an area to deliver leaflets. The RFO suggested using the Parish News to publicise the consultation. This will need to include delivery to each household in the Parish. Urban Vision need to be engaged to help advise the next phase. The new website needs to be uploaded with any Neighbourhood Plan information. It was agreed to engage Urban Vision Planning Consultants. RFO to report to March meeting reserves earmarked for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Proposed Cllr. Felton – Seconded Cllr. Bedson – All in favour

b) **Car Park:**

The Councillors discussed a possible lease of the High Lane Car Park to The Bush CIC. Concerns were raised. Legal advice is needed. Cllr. Oberholster offered to speak to the solicitor with the RFO and other Councillors who could attend. The council are not in a sustainable position and need to find a solution. Later discussed under Items on Notice below.

c) **Parking on verges on Bank End.**

A letter is to be sent to the residents to ask them to stop damaging the grass.

d) **Marshes Hill:**

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust working group report: The working party was extremely successful, cutting back gorse to diversify the age of the bushes to enable it to survive for future generations. The next session will be to clear footpaths. Thanks was given to Cllr. Porter.

Cllr. Flunder left the meeting 20.33

12) Items on Notice:

a) **Street Lighting provision in Brown Edge.** Several residents have asked for members of the Parish Council to walk around the village to identify any black spots can be identified where additional street lighting may be required.

The Council asked the RFO to contact Eon to ask if they would consider adopting the 5 lamps currently under BEPC responsibility.

b) **High Lane Car Park:** It was decided to consider both Proposals by Cllr Shufflebotham and Cllr Bedson together regarding the High Lane Car Park. The Council would like the deposit to come back into the reserves, then the CIC could take on the loan payments each year. A covenant would need to be put on the land as the Council administration will change to stop any building on the car park land. The carpark needs to stay in the ownership of the Council until the last day of the loan payments are made. The original plans were for the Council to own the Holly Bush Pub and to form a CIC for the community to run it. This did not happen, and the Pub is now privately owned. Concerns were raised if the Parish Council ceases to exist if devolution occurs.

Proposed Cllr Bedson – Seconded Cllr. Woodward – A vote was cast 6 in favour 3 abstain

12 Planning Applications and Related Issues:

SMD/2024/0548	Henridding Farm, Clay Lake, Endon	Proposed reconstruction of Cattery Building to form Annex to Main Dwelling together with an integral reduced scale Cattery Unit	No comment – Property is in Endon.
SMD/2022/0076 APP/APP/B3438/ W/24/3351328	Land off Bemmersley Road Appeal from Anesco – Hearing Consultee letter	49.35MW Battery Storage facility including a compound, a DNO control room, a customer substation, security fencing, landscaping and other associated infrastructure.	The hearing will be on 4 th March at 10am at Moorlands House, Stockwell St, Leek, ST13 6HQ If you wish to attend the hearing, please register with the Council by emailing Planning@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk with your name, email address, telephone number and status within the context of the appeal i.e., interested party

13) Finance and Governance:

a) **Payments were authorised:**

Proposed Cllr Berisford – Seconded Cllr. Felton – All in favour

1. <u>Mrs H Harrison</u> Clerk Salary	Net	Tax	Gross
Month 10 (January)	<u>£583.75</u>	£0.00	£583.75
Statutory Sick Pay			
2. <u>Mrs D Wheat</u> RFO Salary	Net	Tax	Gross
Month 10 (January)	<u>£395.87</u>	£99.00	£494.87
6 hours p/w (absence cover)			
Back dated pay increase 63pp/h			
130 hrs £81.90 included in gross.			
3. HMRC PAYE - DW £99.00			<u>£99.00</u>
4. <u>Mrs D Wheat</u> RFO Expenses			
Stamps x40 2 nd Class @85p			£34.00
Travel Allowance (Jan)			£13.50
			<u>£47.50</u>
5. <u>N&J Tree Services Ltd.</u>			
Invoice 10 th Visit (Year 2)	Net	VAT	Gross
	£808.50	£161.70	<u>£970.20</u>
6. <u>Brown Edge Village Hall</u>			
Hall Hire fees 2024-2025 year	£288.00		<u>£288.00</u>
		TOTAL	<u>£2,384.32</u>

b) **Cemetery Recorders Report for January 2025 was approved**

Income Received

3 rd . January 2025. Interment Fee	£ 170 – 00
13 th . January 2025. Interment Fee.	£ 170 – 00
21 st . January 2025. Interment Fee.	£ 170 – 00

TOTAL RECEIVED £ 510 – 00

The Clerk requested to transfer £6000.00 funds from the Councils Reserve account (general funds) to the Councils Current account to balance payments before the next Precept is received in May.

The Council approved the transaction subject to the Chairman reviewing the current balance in both accounts.

- c) **Dry Stone Wall quotation:** One has been received. The next Moorlands Partnership Board meeting is mid-March. Cllr. Porter will Speak to officer Joanne Blunt about the application.
- d) **New Cemetery Field fencing work.** Three quotations were read out to the Council. The Council approved the quotation from Jack Proctor.
Proposed Cllr. Bedson – Seconded Cllr. Berrisford – All in favour
- e) **Play Equipment Repair:** RFO has sent RosPa report for a comprehensive quotation but with the swing marked as urgent.
- f) **Solicitor quotations to negotiate lease/purchase agreements for the Car Park:** One quotation has been received so far. Item to be moved to the next Agenda or possibly an Extra Ordinary

14) Matters for the attention of other local authorities:

- a) Matters for the District Council: Marshall Avenue Garages – contact Your Housing
- b) Matters for the County Council:
- Keep pressure on Highways to fill up the grit bins.
 - Sytch Road Junction when is the work scheduled for Highways work.

15) Matters Pertaining to Issues in the Parish for the Next Agenda:

- a) **Great British Spring Clean:** How the Parish could get involved.
- b) **Annual Parish Meeting:** VE Day 80
- c) **New Cemetery:** A plan needs to be put in place.

Meeting ended 21:26

Chairmans Name	Signature	Approval Date