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MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2023  
BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM

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**Present:** Councillors – Cllr. Felton (Chairman), Cllr. Bedson (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr. Turner, Cllr. Woodward, Cllr. Hargreaves, Cllr. Oberholster, Cllr. Wright, Cllr. Porter (District),  
Cllr. Flunder (County) and Cllr. Berrisford

2 members of the public

Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

**1. Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:**

Cllr. Felton opened the meeting and welcomed Phil Berrisford to join the council.

**2. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr. Lea – Dispensation for ill health.

Cllr. Owen

**3. Parishioners Concerns:**

A question was asked to the council to find out what plans are in place for the His Majesty King Charles III Coronation? A suggestion was then made by members of the Carnival Committee for events around the village including Brown Edge Village Hall and the Playing Fields.

***The Coronation events will be discussed item 16b.***

**4. PCSO Report:** PCSO's Staples and Peacock were not present.

**5. County Councillors Report:** Cllr. Flunder reported the following:

The Budget has been at the forefront of County business. There is some negative budget from the Covid period. There will be more funding going into children's services. A 4.99% increase has been recommended.

- £1,500 will be going to the Highways study on the Clay Lake, Breach Road area and more funding going to the Endon High area.
- The Planning Department have recruited a new planning officer at SMDC – Holly
- Funding – Staffordshire Moorlands is the only district to win a bid in North Staffordshire, Rural Prosperity Fund, Arts Council funding, 24.5 Million pounds to be spent in the Staffordshire Moorlands. There will be consultations meetings similar to the Tourism strategy meetings for the Parishes to take part in. There are different categories to the funding including the UK shared prosperity fund, the Rural Generation fund. Business, Arts, History and Culture will benefit. A Shared Prosperity Fund Board has now been formed.

**6. District Councillor Report:** Cllr. Porter reported the following:

- £17.1 Million bid has been approved for Leek for Arts, History and Culture and Business regeneration.
- For the Coronation each Parish Council can apply for approximately £400 to use for community events, which replicates the jubilee grant.
- Local Businesses are supporting the Police surgeries, promoting presence on the streets and in the community. Resident complaints included vandalism to Spring Crescent Grit bin.
- Community Speedwatch. Michelle Shaker, Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator, has risk assessed a location in between Brown Edge and Norton Green and this has now been verified as a Speedwatch location.
- SMDC Officers and Councillors are receiving 'Carbon Literacy' training in Climate matters.
- Waste management. There were disruptions to rural areas during the snowy period. Some of the waste vehicles have been vandalised at the Fowlchurch depot.
- The first litter pick of the year is due, Cllr. Porter is still recruiting for volunteers.
- Community Orchard – A suggestion has been received for some Damson Trees to replace the dead saplings.
- Outdoor street lanterns have been replaced with LED lighting on all SMDC controlled areas which will reduce energy consumption across the district.
- A District EV strategy has been agreed at Council for 5% coverage over the car parks. These will be the fast charger version.
- New Planning Officers are working on a (SPD) Supplementary Planning Document – to advise contributions to leisure, tourism and green space to contribute to the wider community.

**7. Declaration of Interests:**

Cllr. Woodward – Quotation for Lengthsman tasks at the Hooping Wall and Sytch Well

Cllr. Wright, Bedson and Porter – Item 11 Planning

Cllr. Turner – Declaration of interest in the Maintenance Tender as Director of Brown Edge Holly Bush Ltd with Cllr. Owen.

- 8. Approval of the Minutes** of the Extraordinary Budget & Precept Meeting on 3rd January 2023 and the Ordinary Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were amended as Cllr. Berrisford had agreed to be Co-opted as a Councillor at that meeting. The minutes were then approved as an accurate record.  
***Proposed Cllr. Bedson – Seconded Cllr. Wright – Motion Carried***

**9. Co-option to fill the Vacancy on the Council:**

Cllr. Phil Berrisford has now confirmed his acceptance as a co-opted Councillor for Brown Edge. The clerk will complete the relevant documents for the electoral office and send Cllr. Bedson the declaration statement.

**10. Matters Arising from previous meetings:**

- a) Neighbourhood Plan** - The Chairman and Clerk met remotely with Head of Planning, Ben Haywood and the Leader of SMDC Cllr. Paul Roberts. The Planning Department recommended for Brown Edge to complete the village Neighbourhood Plan, and an explanation of the Community Asset Value process was explained. The Chairman asked for the support of Cllr. Berrisford to complete the N.P. The council resolved to apply for some grant funding from Locality. Policies are already drafted and the rationale for the Neighbourhood Plan needs to be aligned with the District Local

Plan, Cllr. Bedson and Cllr. Porter volunteered to help finish the project. Timing is crucial so a CAV should only be applied for when needed.

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee need to identify the assets in the village which are in the commercial zone, ***Proposed Cllr. Hargreaves – Secoded Cllr. Bedson – Motion Carried***

**b) Allotment Report:**

The Clerk has been working with the Allotment Secretary to apply for two grants. The second grant for £500 from the County Climate fund has not yet been approved subject to the receipt of accurate quotes and match funding. The Council currently does have £500 earmarked for an Allotment project in the current budget. It was resolved to support the Allotment Committee with match funding to support the grant application. Permission was also resolved to allow beehives in the Wildflower Meadow.

***Proposed – Cllr. Bedson – Secoded Cllr. Wright – Motion Carried***

**c) Electric Vehicle charging** – The Chairman has had a good response from requests for quotations. The income will contribute towards the repayments on the PWLB Loan, the chargers would be sustainable for the future. Investment model or Profit Share models were discussed. It was resolved to invite a company to present the proposal to the council.

***Proposed – Cllr. Felton – Secoded – Cllr Woodward – Motion Carried***

Cllr. Woodward offered to visit the Garage with the Chairman to negotiate a parking agreement.

***Proposed Cllr. Woodward – Secoded Cllr. Wright – Motion Carried***

**d) HGV Parking at Hill Top** - The Chairman was advised by the DVSA to contact the police. The Clerk was advised by the police to contact the DVSA. The advice has been conflicting. The PCSO will visit the property. The Council resolved for Cllr. Bedson to speak face to face to the HGV driver.

***Proposed Cllr. Bedson – Secoded Cllr. Hargreaves – Motion Carried***

**e) Community Orchard** – The Clerk presented a quotation from Leek Signs, the council were unsure if the design would withstand vandalism. Clerk to do more research and get a sample if possible. Cllr. Porter will order trees to replace the ones which have not survived.

***Proposed Cllr. Bedson – Secoded Cllr. Felton – Motion Carried***

**f) Sports Grant** – work in progress. The Clerk needs to give more information about the field to the officer so she can consult the Football Association. Cllr. Hargreaves advised of the additional information required about Brown Edge F.C.

**g) Parishes Online** – Clerk to reactivate access to this software and share with councillors so everyone can input information if they wish.

**h) Sandy Lane Well gully was reported as blocked.** Clerk will report. Potholes category 1 and 2 will get fixed first as part of the winter program. Filling in the patches will be filled in spring when the summer program begins.

**11. Planning: SMD/2023/0036 Hodgefields Farm, Ladymoor**

Replacement agricultural building to house livestock and to store fodder and implements.

***No objection***

**12. a) Groundwork Tender:** The Clerk opened the sealed Tender received and the document was scrutinised by the council. The Tender was then approved, and the new Contract with N & J Services will be prepared to begin on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

*The Clerk will notify N&J Tree Services to let them know they have been successful in their bid.*

***Proposed – Cllr. Bedson - Seconded Cllr. Woodward – Motion Carried***

**b) Cemetery recorder report** - Quiet month, No transactions in January.

**c) Playing Field Gates** - A quotation for the paint work was considered. The Council would like the work completed for the Coronation. The Clerk to check if this is possible.

The bins and benches are to be inspected for possible replacement. A spare bin may be in storage.

To have a working party to be on the next Agenda. To ask IAE for a quotation for new gates. Clerk to apply to Moorlands Partnership Board for Grant funding for restoration.

**d) Payments were authorised for the following:**

**Cheque no.**

Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary, Phone, Mileage, Acetate Pockets **Total £484.76** **1150**

HMRC PAYE **Total £108.40** **1151**

N&J Tree Services Ltd. Invoice 11<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Visit **Total £820.75** **1152**

EON – re-issue cheque not received cancel 1147 **Total 788.03** **1153**

**Direct Debits**

British Gas (Electricity) Playing Field **Total £30.72**

British Gas (Electricity) Cemetery **Total £26.67**

Water Plus **Total £11.14**

***Proposed Cllr. Turner – Seconded Cllr. Bedson – Motion Carried***

**13. Items on Notice:**

**a) Cllr. Bedson to move to repair the Playing Field Path**

It was discussed that the path is actually the responsibility of the County Council Public Rights of Way. The Clerk will check on the progress of the report for repair.

**b) Cllr. Bedson to move to repair the Playing Field footpath lighting.** Cllr Berrisford reported that the style of lighting is no longer available. Councillors to look at other options.

**c) Cllr Woodward to move to open the Cemetery Toilets as a facility for the Village, for people to use daily.** A discussion was had about the advantages and disadvantages of doing this. Staffing issues were debated.

**14. a) H. R Committee Report:**

i. The Grazing Agreement is prepared for the New Cemetery Field. The farmer attended the meeting to sign the document. This was signed by witnesses Chairman Felton and Cllr. Bedson.

ii. The Clerks job role to be on the next Agenda under confidential item.

- b) **New Projects Committee:** No report
- c) **Maintenance of Assets Committee:** No report

**15. Reports and Actions** of Parish Councillors undertaking business or actions on behalf of the council.

**16. Correspondence:**

- a) **A resident has applied for a new memorial bench and asked for an update.** The Council were unable to approve an additional bench as there is no fund left in the current budget. It was discussed that the Bench policy was put in place because the council need to be in control of the maintenance and upkeep and repair of the benches. Memorial plaques can be purchased but the benches must be owned and maintained by the council. Clerk to respond to the resident.
  
- b) **A letter from the Secretary of State** has been received with the recommendations from Buckingham Palace for the organisation of events to celebrate the His Majesty King Charles III Coronation. The Council resolved to support the Carnival Committee to organise events at Brown Edge Village Hall and on the Playing Field. The Carnival Committee will set up a working group WhatsApp.
  
- c) **Dog Show request to use the Playing Field.** The Council discussed the dog bylaw on the Playing Field, and it was resolved to ask the District Council if this could be allowed.

**17. Matter for the District Council:** To ask if the dog show can be allowed for the Brown Edge Carnival.

**18. Matters for the County Council:** Blocked Gullies and Public Right of Way through Playing Field.

**19. Matters Pertaining to issues in the Parish for the next Agenda:** It was raised that an accident had almost happened on High Lane caused by the HGV unloading goods at the Supermarket. The Council asked the Clerk to report to the Police and to write to the County Council.

Meeting Ended at 9.20pm

<b>I hereby state this is a correct account of the monthly meeting held by Brown Edge Parish Council.</b>		
<b>Signed: (Chair)</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Date:</b>