



MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2ND AUGUST 2023
BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM

Present:

Chairman Cllr. Adrian Felton, Cllr. Bedson (Vice Chairman) Cllr. Woodward, Cllr. Oberholster, Cllr. Berrisford, Cllr. Wright and Cllr. Hargreaves
Cllr. Jebb (District) and Cllr. Flunder (District & County)

1 member of the public and PCSO Sara Staples Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

1) Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A letter has been received to Brown Edge Parish Council from the King. The Chairman will ask to publish this in the Parish News.

2) Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Porter, Cllr. Hunt,

3) Parishioners Concerns: No Parishioners concerns were raised.

4) PCSO Report: PCSO Sara Staples. The Chairman raised an incident which has happened on the playing field. The PCSO responded that this must have come from the City as the report hasn't come through the Moorlands police. She asked residents to report issues to the Police. A lot of people are reporting issues on the social media, but not reporting to the Police and getting a Crime number. Clerk to post the contact details for the police. Residents can phone or email the PCSO's with any concerns at any time.

Any incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) please do ring 101, or use the Staffordshire Police website. Facebook posts will not trigger a response from the Police.

Hill Top HGV illegal parking – Sara has an email from VOSA to say they will look into the matter. A traffic officer is going to come to have a look at the situation.

Cllr. Hargreaves arrived 19.08

Speeding Tractors in the village were then discussed. This is also a problem in the Biddulph area. It is hard to prove they are speeding. It was recommended to get the registration number and report to the PCSO who will then visit the farms to offer advice. Clerk to circulate PCSO Sara's email to the Councillors.

5) County Councillors Report: Cllr. Keith Flunder reported the following:

- Leek Show was very successful. The weather was changeable but on the whole it was very successful and the additional car parks worked easing traffic congestion.
- The Heath Committee are working to free up beds so people don't stay in hospital unnecessarily, to try to get waiting lists down.

- An Audit is being undertaken on the Social Care Assurance plan, to assess the speed of financial assessments for people that need to go into care.
- At the full Council meeting –Support Staffordshire are focusing on helping new community groups to get registered.
- The Integrated Health Care Board and focusing on School immunisation through School nursing. There are four immunisations that children can receive. Please promote immunisation to the community as numbers are falling.
- DHP –Thanks to Cllr. Bedson and Berrisford who have cleared some gullies in the Village.
- DHP: Cllr. Bedson has done a site visit with Cllr. Flunder to look at sign locations for HillTop. The groundwork contractor will liaise with the Clerk to apply for the licences and permits to dig.
- Thank you for all that went to the meeting at the Village Supermarket to meet the DHL Health and Safety officer. If this issue is solved he will divert his attention to the other issues on High Lane.

6) **District Councillor Report: Cllr. Porter:** In his absence had sent a written report, read by Cllr. Flunder:

- **SPACE** – The summer sport and activity camps for children have been launched for the summer holidays.
- **The Safer Roads summer road safety campaign** has been launched on various media platforms.
- **Your Housing** have a Climate initiative approved for Swift Boxes to be fitted to their properties.
- **Brown Edge Carnival:** Cllr Porter acknowledged all the volunteers who helped put on the Carnival and Well dressing but gave special recognition to Cheryl Fish for her contribution to organising the event.
- **Canals and Rivers Trust** – Cllr. Porter is getting involved with this organisation to improve the waterways in the area.

7) **District Councillor Report: Cllr. Christina Jebb:**

- **Code of Conduct training** for councillors on 13th Sept is now going to be on Teams.
- **West Midlands Ambulance Service** concerns about response times were raised at the District meeting due to the reduction of Community First Responders. We have not got the full cover over the Moorlands they we used to have.
Problems have occurred in Ipstones resulting in possibly two fatalities due to a defibrillator unit not appearing as available to emergency services when needed.
There has been unsatisfactory correspondence with West Midlands Ambulance Service.
Moorlands defibs need to be upgraded and replaced. Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst (Chair of SMDC) is leading this campaign. Cllr Flunder and Cllr. Charlotte Atkins also spoke on this issue at County.
- **Moorlands Partnership Board** do have some funding left for projects which fit their criteria. Please check for eligibility.
- **The Staffordshire Moorlands Community Lottery** is now up and running. Please encourage people to join to support good causes in the Staffordshire Moorlands.
- **New Cemetery Field:** Cllr. Jebb has some information from the past about the New Cemetery, concerning boundaries. She will find this and share with the council in a future meeting.

8) **Declaration of Interests:**

Cllr. Berrisford – Holly Bush, and a pecuniary interest in a quotation for work relating to the lifting and transporting of the Playing Field gates from the Moorlands Partnership Board Grant.

9) **Approval of the Minutes** of the Meeting held on 5th July 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed Cllr. Bedson – Seconded Cllr. Wright – Motion Carried

10) Matters Arising from previous meetings:

- a) **Highways issues reported on the App:** Gullies have been cleared, A tree in the vicinity of Sytch Well, is on the jobs to be done list. Potholes on Willfield Lane have been reported and are already fixed.
- b) **HGV deliveries at the Village supermarket.** Brakes food was still delivering in front of the shop this morning. After the meeting the Nisa, staff at the shop were defensive. They have been getting all the grief off the customers. Cllr. Wright had explained the arrangement with DHL and they now feel informed and understand the situation. The Chairman said he would call in to speak to the Manager.
Proposed Cllr. Felton – Secoded Cllr. Bedson
- c) **Breach Lane parking on green spaces.** Cllr. Hargreaves has delivered leaflets produced by the Clerk to residents to advise.
- d) **Holly Bush Car Park Signage:**
The company have the design and these are in progress. The old quarry needs to be investigated to see if it has any potential as a space for the village. A visit to the Car Park and the Quarry is to be arranged. Item to be on September Agenda.
- e) **Bollard research on Breach Road.** It was proposed to see if the leaflets have any effect. Take item off the agenda.
Proposed Cllr. Hargreaves - Secoded Cllr. Wright
- f) **Hough Hill Junction Safety** – No update to date
- g) **New Cemetery Field**

The Council need to have a meeting with residents to discuss the hedgerow. At the July meeting the other side of the field was discussed. (to the right in-between the New Cemetery field and the School Playing Field. This has never been maintained and this was the resident's concern. There are some self-setting trees which have grown through the hedge.

Previous councillors have talked with the school. It was proposed that the Council do need to move forward to tidy up the hedge if it is going to be a Cemetery. A task was set to find out legally who is responsible to maintain. Clerk to ask SPCA and research divisional hedges and to consult previous Clerk John Bourne to find out the history of the purchase of the land.

Proposed Cllr. Berrisford - Secoded Cllr. Bedson

- h) **VAS Sign data collection** – Cllr. Felton offered to help Cllr. Berrisford download the data from the device.
- i) **Website** – Invite Mr Turner to the next meeting to discuss the website so that Mr McGrath can be given access to assist the Clerk.
- j) **Report on the interview for the Clerk role:**
The interview panel (Cllr. Felton, Wright and Oberholster) were impressed with the candidate and she has the right skill set. The Clerk has a good working relationship with the candidate through Girlguiding. She was keen and flexible about coming to meet people in Brown Edge when

necessary in-between meetings. There were longevity concerns, but this is the same with any new employees in any profession. Other concerns were whether it had been advertised enough locally. The Clerk suggested a job role split between RFO and Clerk split within the current salary to bridge the changeover/training phase and to ensure financial management is maintained. It was resolved to offer the job to the candidate.

Proposed Cllr. Wright – Seconded Cllr. Woodward – Motion Carried

Cllr, Oberholster left the meeting at 20.07

k) Brown Edge Carnival Report:

The weather was very wet, but the event did go ahead. A discussion for the future is that the tarmac may need extending in the playing field gateway because the ground was so wet vehicle access was difficult. It has been the 1st year in the last eight that it has rained.

l) D – Day 80 Beacons event: Councillors need to read the booklet and decide what elements to include in a Brown Edge event.

Remembrance and the Brown Edge bake off coincided well last year. Councillors to arrange this again if possible, with the Community volunteers. The Clerk to order the wreath for Remembrance Day for the Chairman

m) Moorland Partnership Board Grant: Renovation of the Playing Field Gates was proposed to go ahead. Clerk to arrange the work schedule.

Proposed Cllr. Hargraves – Seconded Cllr. Woodward – Motion Carried

10. Planning Applications and Related Issues:

Application Number	Applicant	Location	Proposed Development	Decision
SMD/2023/0343	Clement	Land at Ball Green Farm, Woodhouse Lane, Brown Edge	Removal of variation of condition 3 and 11 from Application SMD/2021/0179	No objection
SMD/2023/0282	Morrey	Land off Sandy Lane, Brown Edge	Proposed Detached Dwelling	Object overdevelopment Building would be in a garden. Natural water comes through gullies into a pond. The infill is creating loss of green space and identity of the vale within the village
Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Willis	194 High Lane, Brown Edge	Appeal	Not previously objected to so item for information only

11. Financial and Governance:

a) Bank Statements:

Natwest Current	£6,549.70
Natwest Business Reserve	£61,289.54
Total in Banks	£67,839.24

b) NatWest bank signatories have now been updated.

Signatories are now Clerk and Cem Recorder (Signing group A) and Cllr. Wright, Cllr. Felton and Cllr. Bedson (Signing group B). The Clerk will now try to activate internet banking.

c) Payments were Authorised for the following:

1. Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary (July)	£454.80
Phone (Tesco Mobile Top Up)	£ 7.50
Mileage (July 2023)	£ 27.00
TOTAL	<u>£489.30</u>
2. HMRC PAYE	<u>£113.60</u>
3. N&J Tree Services Ltd. Invoice 4th Maintenance Visit	<u>£924.00</u>
4. E-Set Internet Security (3 year licence)	<u>£ 83.98</u>

Direct Debits

5. British Gas Playing Field Jul 23	£23.81
6. British Gas Cemetery Jul 23	£12.60
TOTAL	<u>£36.41</u>

Proposed Cllr. Felton - Seconded Cllr Bedson – Payments authorised.

Cemetery Recorders Report and Finances Received:

Clerk Receipts

Bank Interest - Reserve Account (July)	£ 68.85
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Cemetery Recorder Cemetery Recorder's Receipts for July 2023.

Cremated Remains Grave & Interment Fee.	£ 275.00
Headstone Fee	£ 135.00
Headstone Fee	£ 135.00
Grave & Interment Fee.	£ 435.00
Headstone Fee	£ 135.00
Total Income July	<u>£1,183.85</u>

Proposed Cllr. Hargreaves – Seconded Cllr. Wright – Motion Carried

12. Item on Notice:

a) Cllr Woodward moved for letters to be sent to homes with overgrown hedges which have been reported.

Cllr Bedson will also report the hedge at Jobs Pool on the County Council app.

Proposed Cllr Woodward – Seconded Cllr. Hargreaves- Motion Carried

b) Cllr Woodward moved for the Graffiti on the Play equipment to be removed.

Cllr Berrisford has some product and will clean the equipment.

Signs needed on the equipment

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

c) Cllr Wright moved to report speeding tractors. It was resolved to Report sightings to the PCSO including the registration number. Brown Edge Website and Brown Edge Social Media to be used to publicise the Police report it methods to inform residents how to report incidents.

13. Reports and Actions of Parish Councillors undertaking business or actions on behalf of the council:

- a) Cllr Bedson has been busy reporting on the County App and some jobs have been done.
- b) 29th June Cllr Felton attended the Parish Assembly at SMDC.
 - Chief Inspector Mark Barlow, Moorlands Policing Commander gave a presentation. The force is increasing PCSOs and reviewing where we need them. Report it to the Police was the message “The squeaky wheel gets the oil”. They can only work from hard evidence. Use the phone number 101, or the Staffordshire Police online website report it portal.
 - Cllr. Yates, Member for Climate Change and Environment presented about a programs to improve Climate goals in the District including Solar Panels and electric recharging for greener futures

14. Correspondence:

- a) MP Karen Bradley sent a letter about funding for more defibrillators across the District.
- b) Street Soccer – Have asked to use the Playing Field for SPACE football training sessions.
Cllr. Hargreaves asked to fill the hole in the goal mouth which has worn away.
- c) Staffs Wildlife Trust can come to Brown Edge to the October meeting to present about their plans to manage the land at Marshes Hill.

15. Items for the attention of other Local Authorities:

Fiddlers Bank still needs repair – County have brought a JCB pothole Pro.

16. Matters pertaining to issues in the Parish for the next Agenda:

- a) **Local Bus service**
- b) **Playing Field** – the maintenance team have struggled to maintain the slope. A suggestion was received as an ideal place for a wildflower area and wildlife corridor.
- c) **SMDC lottery funding** was mentioned.
- d) **Neighbourhood Plan Report:** Funding has now been re-opened for applications. **A new** committee needs to be formed. Cllr. Felton, Beson and Berrisford offered to be on this Committee. Item for the September Agenda.
- e) **Clerk is on annual leave the first week of September.** The Chairman proposed to move the meeting to the second Wednesday 13th September.

Cllr Hargreaves left 21.06

Meeting closed at 21.09

Date of the Next Brown Edge Parish Council Meeting:

Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7pm at Brown Edge Village Hall

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