



MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2023
BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM

Present: Councillors – Cllr. Felton (Chairman), Cllr. Bedson (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Turner, Cllr. Woodward, Cllr. Oberholster, Cllr. Owen, Cllr. Porter (District), Cllr. Flunder
(County)

1 members of the public

Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

1. Chairman’s Welcome and Announcements:

Cllr. Felton opened the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Lea – Dispensation for ill health.

Cllr. Wright

Cllr Hargreaves

3. Parishioners Concerns:

The issue was raised concerning newspaper deliveries. To be discussed item 12a.

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

5. County Councillors Report:

- Cllr. Flunder announced that a Corporate Parenting Panel has been set up to look in detail at improving outreach to potential Foster Carers to help with outcomes for LAC and social care for children needing families to care for them. More activities for young people are also being rolled out across the County.
- The County Council are currently in progress with Budget setting for the forthcoming year.
- DHP – Costs of posts and signage have risen. A discussion was had about contractors. Councillors and Clerk to look at local suppliers for quotations to fit signposts.
- Incidents of Fly Tipping have been reported in the area.

Cllr. Owen arrived 7.15pm

6. District Councillor Report:

- Cllr. Porter reported that Councillor Surgeries have now started again on Saturdays at Nisa supermarket, 9-10am twice a month.

- a) **Grit bins** are an issue for many residents. There are two types of Bins on the County map:
 Blue – filled by County Highways each winter.
 Red – Community bins – filled by request.
 Please report empty bins to the Clerk or report direct on the County Report It App.
 - b) **Ice Busters** - Another option is to have an ice busters grit pile delivered to a location in the Parish for the Lengthsman or residents to take some when needed. Cllr. Flunder will arrange a site visit to look at locations for this.
 - c) **Delivery Trucks on High Lane** are still causing problems caused by the new housing development and new access road.
- **Recycling of Christmas trees** has been launched. Any trees over 5 foot high can be left next to Wheely Bin to be collected. Although there has been disruption to waste collections caused by vandalism to eleven vehicles at the Fowlchurch Depot.
 - **Climate Change Grant Fund** has now closed. Brown Edge Allotment Association have been awarded £500 for a Community Allotment which can be developed for an educational area for local Community groups to come to learn about Gardening and growing produce on an Allotment, incorporating wellbeing and outdoor activity.
 - **Councillor Community Initiative Fund** – Cllr Porter, Lea and Bond all have funds available for community projects. Please encourage to apply.
 - **A Cost-of-Living Hub** to access advice has been launched on the SMDC website.
 - **Cllr. Porter volunteered as an Elf on the Leek Rotary Santa Sleigh** which visited the Village during December. **Thanks was given to Cllr Bedson and Cheryl for all there help with making this event a success.**
 - **Food parcels** were delivered to vulnerable families in the area before Christmas.
 - **The Community Speedwatch Group** are now active at least two sessions a month. Volunteers are very welcome to join this group, please continue to promote. Cllr. Porter will issue the equipment when needed to the volunteers.

7. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Owen – Maintenance Contract

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

8. Approval of the Minutes of the 7th December 2022 meeting were approved as an accurate record.
Proposed Cllr. Bedson – Seconded Cllr. Turner – Motion Carried

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

A member of the public is considering the post and will confirm at the February meeting.

10. Matters Arising from previous meetings:

a) Christmas Tree and Christmas Lights Competition:

The Christmas Lights competition winners will be chosen by the sponsors and announced on Social Media. There was a ‘cracking effort’ by the Village. The Community have really come together. The Council and the Carnival Committee are to be commended for the work they do. The Chairman offered to write to the chairman of the Carnival Committee to thank everyone involved. Clerk to supply address details. Edwin supplies the vehicle and tows it around the villages. The event was really busy, raised lots of donations and was live screened on social media so that people knew when it was coming.

b) Assets of Community Value:

The Clerk reported on information gathered. It was suggested that the Clerk should arrange a meeting request with the leader of SMDC, Cllr. Paul Roberts and Head of Planning Ben Haywood and Officer Mark James Head of Communities, to discuss the best way forward for the Parish Council to pursue either by ACV applications or through the Neighbourhood Plan to protect the remaining Commercial Centre of the village.

c) 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.

d) Maintenance Report:

The weather has been unsuitable for the strimming in the New Cemetery Field.

e) Grazing Licence:

The Clerk has prepared the Grazing Licence and asked the council to approve the content. The Council then resolved that the Agreement is ready to be delivered to the Tenant for signatures. The Clerk will arrange to make this visit with a witness.

Proposed Cllr. Turner – Secoded Cllr. Bedson – Motion Carried

f) Sports Grant progress:

Cllr. Oberholster, Cllr. Porter and the Clerk met with Officer Angela Dale on 20th December to discuss opportunities to apply for sports funding. Football Association have some funding available – more information will be sent to the Clerk to investigate the possibility to utilise the New Cemetery Field. The covenant deed was mentioned. The Clerk to ask John for a copy of this to check any limitations. A discussion was then had that this covenant may now have expired.

The second idea of an outdoor gym on the Playing Filed would need public consultation to be gathered. It was suggested the council prepare a questionnaire and have a stall at any public events in the spring and summer of 2023. This evidence base can then be used to determine what the community of Brown Edge feel they may need to improve active exercise opportunities in the village.

The third idea to create cycle ways alongside Marshes Hill was also discussed and this would need public consultation and discussions with County Public Rights of Way and also now Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

11. Finance and Governance:

a) The Precept was resolved at the extraordinary meeting on 3rd January 2023, to set the Precept at 5% increase.

This will mean a total of £26,265.00 is to be requested by the Council from SMDC. This will equal a £1.51 per annum increase to an equivalent band D household. A total of £31.61 per year per household.

The Chairman and Clerk then signed the Precept request documents.

- b) **The Groundwork Maintenance Tender** has now been amended with additions and is ready to be published.

The Council resolved to advertise the Tender with a deadline of 1st February 2023 at 4pm

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

c) **Cemetery Recorders Report:**

8th.	December 2022.	Headstone Fee.	£ 120 – 00.
11 th .	December 2022.	Purchase of Grave & Interment (@ Double Fees).	£ 790 – 00.
12th.	December 2022.	Purchase of Grave & Interment (@Double Fees).	£ 790 – 00.
17th.	December 2022.	Purchase of Cremated Remains Grave & Interment.	£ 250 – 00.
18th.	December 2022.	Headstone Fee.	£ 120 – 00.
23rd.	December 2022.	Purchase of Grave & Interment.	£ 395 – 00.

Other Finance Received:

30 th	December 2022.	Interest on Reserve account	£ 7 – 32.
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d) **Hooping Wall: A quotation for maintenance work was received:**

The Clerk to check Standing Orders and Financial regulations to clarify if a quotation of up to £500 can be authorised without 3 quotations. A separate quotation for work on the wells was also received. Quotation accepted if legal.

Proposed Cllr. Turner – Secoded Cllr. Felton – Motion Carried

e) **Playing Field Gates: Repair and Painting of the metal work:**

Other contractors have been approached but only one quotation has been received. The Council resolved to have the repairs done in spring ready for the His Majesty King Charles III Coronation on 6th June and the summer Carnival events.

Proposed Cllr. Porter – Secoded Cllr. Turner – Motion Carried

f) **Authorisation of Payments due:**

		<u>Cheque</u>
Cheque cancelled	(incorrectly written)	1142
Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary, Phone, Mileage, Stamps (Dec 2022)	Total £479.96	1143
Mr J Bourne Cemetery recorder Salary, Phone, Mileage, Stationary (Oct – Dec 2022)	Total £477.90	1144
HMRC PAYE	Total £218.40	1145
N&J Tree Services Ltd. Invoice 10 th Maintenance Visit	Total £820.75	1146
Eon Highway Lighting Maintenance	£158.15	
Highway Lighting Energy 2022/23	£498.54	
Plus VAT	£131.34	
	Total £788.03	1147
SMDC. Election Expenses 4th (final) Instalment	Total £818.82	1148
CPRE Staffordshire Yearly Membership fee	Total £60.00	1149
		Direct Debits
British Gas Lite	(New contract – no invoice to date)	
Water Plus	Total £10.78	

Proposed Cllr. Turner – Secoded Cllr. Bedson – Motion Carried

12. Items on Notice:

a) Cllr. Bedson asked to discuss Local Newspaper deliveries.

Brown Edge young people have been made redundant and a media company have been commissioned to deliver local newspapers. Delivery costs have risen, and it is no longer a community service as deliveries occur in-between 3am and 7am which means vulnerable and isolated people no longer have contact with their newspaper delivery person. The Parish News was commended for being a lifeline for some parishioners. It was resolved to send a letter to the District Council (Cllr. Keith Flunder and Cllr. Ross Ward – Cabinet members for business and community) to highlight the loss of traditions and detriment to our community.

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

b) A complaint has been received to Cllr. Bedson that a HGV is parking and operating from Hill Top without licence.

It was resolved that the Chairman would write to VOSA and the Clerk should alert the Police to check the situation. Villagers have reported the parking situation as dangerous. A discussion was had that HGV's should only park at an operating base on in an authorised layby to rest.

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

13. a) H. R Committee Report:

The HR Committee met on Tuesday 3rd January at 6pm to discuss the future of the Clerk role. It would be a sad loss to the Council if Denise was to leave. It was resolved to discuss further as a confidential item to look at a possible additional member of staff.

b) New Projects Committee:

No update

c) Maintenance of Assets Committee:

There are still some metalwork jobs to be completed at the Cemetery. The gates need to be galvanised and holdbacks fitted. Further information will follow when the blacksmith has been to give a quotation.

14. Reports and Actions of parish Councillors undertaking business or actions on behalf of the council.

Cllr. Felton reported that he had started to research Electric Vehicle Charging opportunities for installation on the Holly Bush Car Park. More details to follow at the February meeting.

15. Correspondence: None received

16. Matter for the District Council: Newspaper deliveries

17. Matters for the County Council: Blocked Gullies opposite the well at the bottom of Jobs Pool

18. Matters Pertaining to issues in the Parish for the next Agenda:

To Co-opt a new Councillor to fill the vacancy until the 4th May elections.

Meeting Ended at 9pm

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