



MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH JULY 2023
BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM

Present: Councillors – Cllr. Bedson (Vice Chairman)

Cllr. Woodward, Cllr. Hunt, Cllr. Oberholster, Cllr. Berrisford, Cllr. Wright, Cllr. Hargreaves, Cllr. Porter (Parish and District), Cllr. Jebb (District) and Cllr. Flunder (District & County)

1 members of the public

Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

- 1) **Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:** Cllr. Bedson opened the meeting.
- 2) **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Felton (Chairman)
- 3) **Parishioners Concerns:** No concerns were raised.
- 4) **PCSO Report:** No PCSO's were present.
- 5) **County Councillors Report:** Cllr. Flunder reported the following:
 - Ben Adams the Chief Crime Commissioner is going out around the County and is doing visits to Parishes. The PCSO numbers are increasing in the area. There is currently a recruitment plan in progress.
 - Childrens Services report: SMDC has more children's homes than anywhere else in the country. Foster parent's award ceremony in Stafford has been held. The support these people give to children in care is to be commended. There was a long service award for 40 years fostering and Mr and Mrs Biddulph are to be congratulated for winning the overall award.
 - County and District have audited their accounts. Long term investments are being considered. The Committees are doing their own internal audits.
 - An Integrated Health Care Board is being implemented. One of their aims is to get patients into GP appointments quicker and general health care improvements.
 - At District there is a Full Council is soon and if any Parish issues need to be addressed, please speak to Cllr. Flunder.
 - DHP: Cllr. Bedson has done a site visit with Cllr. Flunder to look at sign locations. The groundwork contractor will liaise with the Clerk to apply for the licences and permits to dig.
 - A site visit with Highways Officer Dave Rushton has been completed around the area. Rock End has been inspected and access for emergency vehicles has been discussed. Sixteen blocked gullies were found around the village on the inspection.
 - Overgrown hedges have been reported by a resident on St Annes Vale overhanging the road.

19.14 pm Cllr. Hargreaves arrived.

6) a) District Councillor Report – Cllr Joe Porter:

- Residents have contacted Cllr. Porter about the St Annes Vale overgrown vegetation also.
- Councillor Surgeries have been very well attended. The PCSO has not been attending recently. A new PCSO is being introduced to the area. PCSO Staples and PCSO Cantrell need to be invited to meetings if they are available.
- Bank End Orchard is doing well and growing healthily.
- A planning application for Sytch Road has gone through the Planning Committee for three dwellings. It was unanimously voted against as it was on green belt land.
- Four incidents of fly tipping have been reported on Woodhouse Road and Hole House Lane. SMDC environmental team come out within 24 hrs to move.
- Community Speedwatch is being operated regularly. The team are reporting speeding and speeding drivers are receiving letters as a result.
- Rural bin collections: Some problems have been solved for people with mobility issues.
- Knypersley Reservoir: Issues with of water pollution have been reported, the environment agency are looking into the issue.
- Fairfield Avenue issue. A resident has put in access ramps for mobility issues. They have not applied for permission from Highways. Any objects in the highway need to be applied for.
- Community Lottery has now been launched – local organisations can benefit if they register.
- Complaints have been received about the HGV deliveries at Nisa. Planning conditions stated that all the deliveries to Nisa should have been done on the car park. Cllr. Porter reported that the enforcement team have done a full survey.

b) District Councillor Report: Cllr. Christina Jebb asked to be included in the circulation of documentation to Councillors.

She attended the SMDC Parish Assembly with the Chairman. Please find the report below:

Nigel Yates (Cabinet member for Climate Change at SMDC) gave a very interesting presentation. He said the least we can all do is to mitigate the effects of the crisis and the most is to show leadership as councillors and as individuals.

He wants to empower towns and parishes to deal with this and to do the most we can. He asked councils to contact him with questions, ideas, suggestions for how we can work together with SMDC to improve things and how the council can help us.

He is also a County Councillor in Biddulph. He spoke about how his vision was for farms and agriculture to become mini generating stations and to become self sufficient in this using solar, ground source heat pumps and wind turbines. On the county council he wanted to see the county farms used as models for this vision.

That sparked a lot of discussion about farms and farming generally with strong views on all sides.

Nigel mentioned green space and verge management and I said how in Endon parish, we have been working on this for several years on our own land and on verges. We had discussed the mowing schedule with the county and agreed areas to be left unmown - but this wasn't always respected in spite of large signs asking the teams not to mow.

He wants every parish to review their green spaces (council owned as well as owned by partners) and to look at how we can encourage wildlife corridors and increase bio-diversity. I pointed out that individuals had a role in this as well, no matter how large or small their garden or balcony.

There was general agreement that more could be done to encourage developers to improve insulation and install solar panels - as with the new development behind Keith's / Nisa (or other self generation methods where appropriate) as a matter of course. It was agreed that Planning needed to come on board and issue Supplementary Planning Guidance notes on important issues like this that aren't presently covered by regulations.

I supported this and also said that we need to look further afield to see how people with existing properties can access help and advice with retrofitting Solar etc in an affordable way - this can be especially problematic and expensive if you're in a conservation area or have a listed property.

Nigel said he planned for SMDC to produce a toolkit showing helpful or ideal ways to do things on both a commercial and an individual basis. He said SMDC is here to help and engage with parish councils and wants to empower them.

There was discussion about encouraging more people to use public transport and general agreement that it had to be safe, clean, reliable and comprehensive. Cllr Felton said he had been having discussions with a bus company about getting a better service to and within Brown Edge.

Mike Gledhill (Leader of SMDC) said he would be happy to be invited to PC meetings to get to know people's concerns.

Nigel mentioned the climate change community fund and said organisations could apply for small grants - Community Climate Change Fund - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (staffsmoorlands.gov.uk)

<https://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/ClimateChangeFund>

He also said that on the Friends of the Earth site there's a useful link to 20 things parish councils can do. <https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/solutions/climate-action-plan-parish-and-town-councils>

Cllr. Jackson from Ipstones circulated a letter about ambulance delays and wait times, wanting other councils to join their campaign and support them. It will be on the agenda for next meeting.

Cllr. Tony Holmes said he would be visiting parish council areas to talk about health and wellbeing.

Next SMDC Parish Assembly meetings: 28th September, 23rd November, 7th March.

7) Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Berrisford – Holly Bush

Cllr. Porter - Carnival Committee and Staffordshire Police

Cllr. Hunt – Luncheon Club and Carnival Committee

8) Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2023 were amended to include attendance of Cllr. Hunt, then approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice- Chairman.

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

9) Matters Arising from previous meetings:

a) **HGV parked at Hill Top:** Nothing to report.

- b) Holly Bush Car Park Signage:** Move item to the next Agenda
Proposed Cllr. Bedson – Secoded Cllr. Wright – Motion Carried
- c) Spring Planting around the village:**
Sandy Lane Well has now been completed. Thanks were given to Cllr. Wright.
- d) Bollards on Breach Road** –The area was discussed where the parking is occurring. A large van has been parking regularly. Tubs and rocks were mentioned, but they need maintaining. On the opposite side the grass is wearing away. Rocks would need strimming, the maintenance costs would go up. No parking on the grass signs were discussed. The council resolved to send polite letters (approx. 30) to residents in the vicinity explaining that parking may be stopped with bollards and to invite residents to the next meeting to raise any views on the matter.
Propose Cllr. Bedson - Secoded Cllr. Hargreaves- Motion Carried
- e) Hough Hill Junction Safety** – Cllr. Bedson has researched the planning decision but has not found the information to date. Item to be moved to the August meeting.
- f) New Cemetery Field Consultation** – The feedback from residents is that the maintenance is the biggest concern they have. Cllr. Bedson proposed council arrange an on-site meeting with the residents to discuss the matter. The council wish to bring uniformity and diversity to the borders of the field. A hedgerow would need to be maintained and kept to a certain height. The other hedge that borders onto the Playing Field is becoming overgrown.

The Standing orders were suspended to allow resident Mr. McGrath to speak.

He told the council that the school trim their side of the hedge and half of the top of the hedge.

Cllr. Woodward proposed to get in touch with the school to establish who is responsible for the hedgerow. The school hedge (Beech) is maintained by the school. Cllr. Bedson suggested asking the Maintenance team to cut the hedge. There was a debate on who is responsible between the Council or the School. This needs to be clarified. Item to be on the next Agenda.

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

g) HGV deliveries at the village

Planning have reported that there has not been any breach of Planning Rules.

We can all see that there is an issue, we need options to solve it.

Red lines restricting parking would just close the shop.

There was a heated discussion about the deliveries. We would need a petition to get the matter discussed at County Council.

Cllr. Porter proposed to organise a site visit with all parties and residents.

The Clerk was asked to formally write to Cllr. Flunder who will then formally request Highways Officer David Greatbatch to come to do a site visit at the time of a delivery. Clerk to make sure residents are aware of the meeting. The deadline is 15th July deadline for the Parish News.

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

h) Breach Road VOS sign. Phil was thanked.

Cllr. Beresford was thanked for taking over the battery change for the Breach Road VAS sign. The data download now needs to be established to start recording data statistics of speeding at that location.

i) Parish Council Website:

Keys for the Parish Notice Board were discussed. Key holders are the Clerk, Cllr. Bedson and Cllr. Felton. Mr. McGrath offered to put up Agendas when required. It was resolved for Mr McGrath to have a password to the Council website to help the Clerk manage the upload of documents.

Propose Cllr Bedson – Second Cllr Woodward – Motion Carried

10. Planning Applications and Related Issues:

Application Number	Applicant Name	Location	Proposed Development	Decision
SMD/2023/0250	Mr J. Corbishley	Emsgarth St Annes Vale Brown Edge	Existing outbuilding to be demolished to form new ancillary living accommodation	No objection
SMD/2023/0265	Mr J. Beck	Heakley, 68 High Lane Brown Edge	Single storey rear extension and internal modifications	No objection
Complaint		Bemmersley Road	Blockage of view and other Planning issues	District Planning enforcement issue

11. Finance & Governance : Payments were Authorised for the following:

1. Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary (June)		£454.60	Cheque
Phone (Tesco Mobile Top Up)		£7.50	
Mileage (June 2023)		£13.50	
Postage (Book 1 st & 3 books 2 nd Class Stamps)		£26.80	
Bouquet and Card for Cllr. Linda Lea		£32.00	
	TOTAL	£534.40	1184
2. Mr J Bourne Cemetery Recorder Salary (March – June)		£567.37	
Phone		£10.00	
Mileage		£21.64	
Postage		£10.88	
Paint for Grave markers	B&Q	£12.00	
	TOTAL	£621.89	1185
3. HMRC PAYE	(D Wheat & J Bourne)	£125.00	1186
4. N&J Tree Services Ltd.	Invoice 3rd Maintenance Visit	£924.00	1187
5. Proctors Nursery	Plants for Village projects	£333.96	1188
6. Mrs DM Corbishley	Internal Audit Fee	£150.00	1189
7. British Gas	Playing Field May 23	£12.16	Direct Debit
8. British Gas	Playing Field Jun 23	£4.10	
9. British Gas	Cemetery Jun 23	£6.15	
10. WaterPlus	Cemetery Jun 23	£14.13	
11. WaterPlus	Cemetery Jul 23	£14.60	
12. Carnival Committee (Approved under correspondence)		£750.00	1190
	Total Payments	£2,740.39	

13. Bank Transfer

To move from the Current Account to the Reserve Account to gain interest on reserves

£50,000.00

Cemetery Recorders Report and Finances Received:

Clerk Receipts

Bank Interest - Reserve Account (May)	£	10.85
Bank Interest – Reserve Account (June)	£	34.20

Cemetery Recorder Receipts

Grave & Interment.	£	395.00
Cremation Grave & Interment Fee.	£	250.00
Total Income June	£	690.05

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

12. Item on Notice:

Public Rights of Way Path 33 from Marshes Hill. The residents have put up Private Land signage. Some walkers have been turned away. The Clerk has reported this to the Rangers at County Council Public Rights of Way who have responded to say they will investigate. Situation to be monitored.

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

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

- a) Cllr Bedson has been around the village with Cllr Flunder and Highways officer Dave Rushton. Cllr Bedson has been trained on the Report It App and will be on responsibility for uploading all the Blocked Gully issues and any other report of Highway faults. Potholes on the Rocks were visited. A request has been put in by Cllr. Flunder who will look at when the road can be resurfaced. Cllr. Porter will find out if SMDC are responsible for clearing grit after the roads have been resurfaced.
Proposed - Cllr. Bedson – Seconded - Cllr Hargreaves – Motion Carried.
- b) **Code of Conduct Training:** Cllrs. Bedson, Oberholster, Porter and Hunt attended. The Councillors agreed this was a good course and worth attending.
- c) **Travel & Tourism Meeting:** No councillors attended the Travel & Tourism meeting at SMDC due to other commitments.
- d) **SMDC Parish Assembly Report:** Included in Item 6b.
- e) **Neighbourhood Plan Report:** An amended policy has been returned by Hannah with some adjustments and she has recommended to study Denstone’s Plan which is now at referendum stage to look at ways to improve the Policies further. Applications for grants have not been released to date. Cllr. Berrisford said the Neighbourhood Plan committee needs to be reformed.

14. Correspondence:

- a) **SPCA are offering a Councillor Fundamentals Course.** Cllrs. Hunt and Oberholster would like to enrol on this. Clerk will book places.
- b) **Invitation from Bruno Peak, Royal Pageant Master to participate in a D-Day 80 event on 6th June 2024.** The Council are all in favour to participate. Item for the next Agenda.

c) **Application for the Clerk role. An application has been received.** The Clerk to consult the Chairman to arrange an interview date and contact the applicant. Cllr. Oberholster and Cllr. Wright will also attend to hold the interview.

d) **Invitation from the Mayor of Biddulph:** Clerk to apologise on behalf of Brown Edge Councillors as it is Carnival Day.

15. **Items of attention of other Local Authorities:**

a) No matter for the District Council

b) No matter for the County Council

16. **Matters pertaining to Issues in the Parish for the next meeting agenda:**

a) **The Maintenance Contact** needs to be checked with the contractor so that all the new items are actioned as specified.

b) **Speeding Tractors. The village is suffering with speeding tractors coming down Hough Hill**

c) **Staffordshire Wildlife Trust:** Cllr Porter will arrange a date for SWT to come to present to the Parish Council regarding the Conservation Management of Marshes Hill.

d) **A resident has reported an overgrown bush at the top of Jobs Pool.**

e) **The Holly Bush Car Park** and the relationship with the Buy The Bush Group needs to be put on the Agenda. The car park also needs tidying up.
How the council can fund the repayments without selling the land.

Meeting closes 21.09

Date of the Next Brown Edge Parish Council Meeting:

Wednesday 2nd August 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: