Brown Edge Parish Council www.brownedge-pc.gov.uk

Chairman: Vice Chairman: Cllr. Adrian Felton Cllr. Anthony Bedson



**Brown Edge Parish Clerk:** 

Mrs. Denise Wheat Tel: 07835 812787

3 The Island, Upper Tean, Staffordshire Moorlands, ST10 4JE Email: clerk@brownedge-pc.gov.uk

# MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL — 7.00PM

**Present:** Councillors – Cllr. Felton (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Turner, Cllr. Bedson, Cllr. Hargreaves, Cllr. Wright, Cllr. Owen, Cllr. Porter (SMDC) and Cllr. Flunder (SCC).

Four members of the public were in attendance, and an apology received from PCSO Sara Staples.

Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

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

Chairman Felton opened the meeting and announced the receipt of a letter of resignation from Cllr. Sherratt: "After much thought and deliberation, I have made a difficult decision to relinquish my place on Brown Edge Parish Council. Due to increased family and work commitments, I cannot afford the time and commitment required to continue as councillor. I have learned an awful lot about the village in my 15 years as councillor and I will of course support the council in any way I am able in the future. Please accept my resignation forthwith."

#### Proposed Cllr. Felton – Seconded Cllr. Bedson – Resignation accepted

#### 2. Parishioners Concerns:

- a) **Hill Top** A resident asked if there had been any progress with the HGV over use of the lane from Hill Top as more walls and property has been damaged. Residents were urged to report any incidents to the Police as they have the powers to enforce restrictions. Road signage and reflectors to be on the next Agenda.
- b) **Bemmersley Road, Ball Green** A resident asked for information about a battery energy storage plant. Cllr. Porter confirmed that it was an environmental assessment, and that no Planning Application has been submitted to date.

#### c) Brown Edge Allotments:

- i. A holly hedge at the bottom of the field has grown high and needs cutting back as it is shading the allotment plots.
- ii. The lane down to the Wildflower Meadow is in need of repair to make it more accessible.
- iii. Procedure for Allotment Vacancies and the waiting list Clerk asked to find the original documentation.
- d) Jubilee Celebrations A resident asked if the Council would be getting involved with the community Jubilee celebration planning. Item for the next Agenda.

- 3. County Councillors report: Cllr. Flunder reported the following items:
  - 21st February is the public enquiry date for the Western Power consultation.
  - DHP two speed monitoring points have been passed to the Highways Officer for approval and support of £1000.00
  - Fiddlers Bank Highways officers have been to inspect the flooding report and it was found to be the landowners responsibility.
  - Cllr Flunder SCC. Community Fund Brown Edge have been successful in being allocated £400 for a community cohesion idea, following covid for a village information newsletter to inform the local people of what help and activities are available in the Surrounding Community – either a special edition of the Parish News free to all, or a leaflet.
  - Covid Walk in Centres most of these are now out of the Moorlands area.

## **4. District Councillors report:** Cllr. Porter gave his report as follows:

- A reminder to encourage applications for the Covid the business support grant from SMDC. <u>Business Financial Support - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</u> (staffsmoorlands.gov.uk)
- A reminder that the High Street Vacant shop grant of up to £5000 is available.
- Market Trader grants of up to £3000 are available to boost the Outdoor Market trade
- SMDC Sports Initiative Fund Brown Edge are encouraged to apply for the Playing Field. Item to be on Next Agenda
- A New initiative for County and District Councils to work together to improve Public Services has just been launched. SMDC have come 2<sup>nd</sup> when assessed for their Climate Change Action Plan.
- Calendar cards have been distributed in some areas of the Moorlands with information for residents.
- District Councillor Community Initiative Fund £500 available from each District Councillor.
- Community Orchards Plan needed to get trees planted before the end of March.
- Climate Action Eco Fund launched in November can support tree planting for up to £500 per application deadline 25<sup>th</sup> February. The Council proposed for the Clerk to apply.

Proposed Clir. Turner – Seconded – Clir. Bedson

Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Woodward - holiday

Staffordship County fund

Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft - illness

Cllr. Lea – dispensation while recovering from illness

# 6. Declaration of Interest on forthcoming agenda items:

Cllr. Owen declared an interest as Director of Brown Edge Holly Bush Ltd. (Item 9a)

Cllr. Turner declared an interest as Director of Brown Edge Holly Bush Ltd. (Item 9a)

Cllr. Owen declared a pecuniary interest in Maintenance Contract (Item 9f)

Cllr. Turner and Owen declared an interest in Brown Edge Village Hall Committee (Item 9f)

7. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Approved Minutes – Brown Edge Parish Council (brownedge-pc.gov.uk)

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

# 8. a) Appointment of Vice Chairman:

A proposal was received for Cllr. Wright by Cllr Hargreaves

A proposal was received for Cllr. Turner by Cllr Felton

A proposal was received for Cllr. Bedson by Cllr Turner – Seconded by Cllr. Owen

A proposal was received for Cllr Hargreaves by Cllr Wright – Seconded by Cllr Bedson

A vote was cast resulting in 5 votes for Cllr Bedson and 1 vote for Cllr. Hargreaves

Cllr. Bedson accepted the role of Vice-Chairman – Motion carried

- b) HR and Legal Committee Cllr. Turner proposed that himself and Cllr. Owen both continue on this committee whilst looking for new members of the public to recruit or new councillors when the two current vacancies are filled.
  - Proposed Cllr. Turner Seconded Cllr. Wright All in favour
- c) New Projects Committee Cllr. Felton requested to step down as Chairman of this committee due to Council Chairman responsibilities. It was resolved to postpone the New Projects Committee temporarily until the situation can be reviewed at the Annual meeting.

Proposed Cllr. Hargreaves – Seconded – Cllr. Wright – All in favour

#### 9. Finance and Governance:

a) The Clerk explained the process of application to seek the approval for permission to borrow from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to enable the Parish Council to purchase the land adjacent to the Holly Bush Inn. The Clerk explained the amendments and extra information required which were needed to improve the application as follows:

At the meeting of Brown Edge Parish Council on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £175,000.00 over a borrowing term of 25 years for the purpose of purchasing the Land Adjacent to the Holly Bush Inn and the Jubilee Playing Field on High Lane, Brown Edge (currently a car park).

The next stage of the plan is to form a Community Organisation which can offer shares to Members of the Community to purchase, thereby forming a group of local people with the vision to create a Community Hub and car park facility in the centre of the village to save the area from development by private developers with no interest in the village.

The land is bordered by the Parish Council's Jubilee Playing Field and will be an asset to village events with the potential to provide accessible toilet facilities, possible minibus pick-up point to assist with congestion at the local school where there is little parking and a pay and display car park area for visitors to the area to generate some funding. The car park could also provide essential electric car charging points to help meet Climate Change goals, while retaining some parking for residents who already use the space free of charge, who currently have no off-road parking at their properties who may wish to become shareholders/stakeholders in the project.

If the Community Group is successful, in the future members could decide to purchase the adjacent Holly Bush Inn if this can be secured with Community Asset Value. This would then secure the second to last public house left in Brown Edge, which historically was a vibrant Mining Community with the village pub very much a part of its heritage. This application is not for that purpose, but it is the Parish Councils vision that if in the future the opportunity arises, the Community Organisation would be formed and ready to take on this further challenge. Currently the pub is running successfully with its current tenants. The Parish Council only wish to safeguard the future of the Public House from potential developers should it come onto the market.

#### b) The Council considered the options of a Fixed Rate Annuity Loan and an EIP Loan.

Brown Edge Parish Council RESOLVED to apply for an EIP Loan (Equal Instalments of Principal) which means equal half-yearly instalments of principal loan together with the interest on the balance outstanding at the time. The annual loan repayments for an E.I.P. are estimated by the PWLB office to be approximately £5,556.25 every six months in the first year totalling £11,112.50 per annum to date.

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

District Cllr. Porter left the meeting for another appointment at 20.00.

c) Brown Edge Parish Council then reviewed the budget for 2022/2023. The Clerk confirmed the council do not need to increase the Council Tax Precept for the purpose of the loan repayments if successful in getting approval to borrow from the PWLB lending facility.

Brown Edge Parish Council RESOLVED to use the Councils reserves previously earmarked for the development of a New Cemetery field. An assessment of the current Lawn Cemetery has been done and it is estimated to have at least 10 years space left for internments before the new field needs to be opened. The Parish Council Reserves will cover the annual repayments until the Holly Bush Car Park land can be purchased by the Community Organisation of which this sale of land will then replenish the Council reserve.

The Council RESOLVED to form a Community Organisation within 2 years. If unsuccessful it will sell the Holly Bush land and Vire any funds received back to the Council Reserve for the development of the New Cemetery field. (The Council already own this field).

Proposed Cllr. Hargreaves – Seconded – Cllr. Bedson – All in Favour

Receipts and Payments													
									Loor		IDGET		
	2019, Actua		2020 / Actual	2021	Vired Funds Holly Bush Project	2021 / 2 Actual	022		/ 2022 mated	202	22/ 2023		
	, tota			ar 2021	nony busin'i lojeut	1st Jan	2022		t Mar 2022		d Feb 2022		
	£	21,572.00	£	22,959.75		£	23,595.00				pproved th PWBL		roved cept only
	£	-	£	-		£	-						
RECEIPTS							increase			-	increase		increase
Total Precept	£	21,572.00	£ Actual	22,959.75		£ Actual	23,595.00		23,595.00 imated		25,046.00 c. PWLB	£	25,046.00 inc. PWLB
Bank Balance Carried Forward			rictuu			riotaai				£	2,399.05		
Lengthsmans Grant (SMDC) Interest on Investments	£	400.00 205.81		200.00		£	400.00 166.94		400.00 166.94	£	400.00 10.00	£	400.00 10.00
Donation Income	£	203.01	£	2,933.25		£	100.54	£	100.54	£	-	,	10.00
Insurance Claim						£	2,495.00	£		£	-		
Cemetery Fees / Receipts Compensation Received	£	9,677.00 12.60	£	8,746.00 115.31		£	6,435.00 5.75	£	8,500.00 5.75	£	8,500.00	£	8,500.00
Misc. (Wayleaves and Grazing)	£	223.29	£	107.98		£	48.69	£		£	225.00	£	225.00
PAYE Refund Allotment Rent Receipts	£	1,706.00	£	206.40 3,251.66		£	302.04 74.00	£	302.04 1,670.00	£	1,670.00	£	1,670.00
Vired Funds from Reserves	ı.	1,700.00	L	3,231.00		£	95,000.00		95,000.00	£	-	•	1,070.00
VAT Refund	£	4,188.36	£	-		£		£	2,625.72	£	2,618.00	£	2,618.00
PWLB LOAN Estimated Vat refund											40,000.00 40,000.00		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£	37,985.06	£	38,526.73		£	128,522.42	£	134,984.14		255,868.05	£	38,469.00
OTHER INCOME													
Covid 19/Climate Grant SCC Covid 19 Grant SMDC (Cemetery)			£	750.00 10,000.00		£		£		£			
Western Power Grant			£	500.00		£	-	£		£	-		
			£	49,776.73		£		£		£			
PAYMENTS			Actual			Actual		Ent	imated				
- ALMEINIO			Actual			Actual		EST	aceu				
CLERK											C F00		
Clerk Salary & PAYE PAYE	£	340.00	£	8,927.75 79.00		£	4,536.21	£	6,190.00	£	6,500.00	£	6,500.00
Clerk Admin Expenses	£	718.37	£	1,789.54		£	965.59	£	1,000.00	£	1,000.00	£	1,000.00
Annual Subscriptions Website Fees (some costs for 2 yrs)	£	416.00 216.00	£	1,013.95		£	450.81 58.99	£	480.00 250.00	£	500.00 250.00	£	500.00 250.00
Website Fees (some costs for 2 yrs) Professional Fees (Insurance/Audit)	£	216.00 3,755.58	£	413.99 1,752.23		£	1,651.08	£	2,000.00	£	2,000.00	£	2,000.00
Election Expenses	£	818.77	£	818.77		£	-	£	818.77	£	819.00	£	819.00
Hall Room Hire								£	250.00	£	250.00	£	250.00
ASSET MAINTAINANCE													
PF Grounds Maint 60%	£	4,001.94 124.78		4,296.60		£	3,593.49 140.25		4,850.00 140.25	£	5,100.00 150.00	£	5,100.00 150.00
Play Field Utilities Play Equip. Inspection & Repair	£	136.50	£	138.13 103.50		£	1,430.71		1,430.71	£	140.00	£	140.00
Highways Street Lighting	£	390.53		422.96		£	405.95		405.95	£	420.00	£	420.00
Agency / Lengthsman	£	1,020.00	£	611.00		£	900.00	£	900.00	£	950.00	£	950.00
CEMETERY													
Cemetery Recorder Salary & PAYE	£	235.75	£	129.94		£	1,574.34 155.19	£	2,099.12 200.00	£	2,205.00 175.00	£	2,205.00 175.00
Cem. Rec. Expenses Cem Grounds Maint 40%	£	511.22	£	2,864.40		£	2,395.67		3,250.00	£	3,500.00	£	3,500.00
Cemetery Utility Costs	£	568.54	£	1,722.72		£	423.06		500.00	£	450.00	£	450.00
Cemetery Pest Control Cemetery Maintenance	£	150.00 27.93	£			£		£		£			
VARIABLE EXPENSES/ PROJECTS Donations (Gifts, flowers, wreath)	£	1,688.54	£	529.82		£	50.00	£	100.00	£	60.00	£	60.00
Floral Projects	£	-	£	1,348.41		£	630.81		1,000.00		600.00	£	600.00
S137 Grants (Carnival, Well Dressing)	£	889.97	£	-		£	-	£	2,000.00 800.00	£	600.00 800.00	£	600.00 800.00
New Memorial Seat SID Speed Camera	£		£	-		£		£	1,500.00		1,500.00	£	1,500.00
Footpaths / Bridleways project						£		£	1,000.00	£	1,000.00	£	1,000.00
Neighbourhood Plan Allotment Conservation Area						£	1,529.17	£	1,529.17 1,000.00	£	500.00	£	500.00
Holly Bush Project/ RJS Solicitor						£	95,000.00	£	95,000.00		175,000.00		
Bus Shelter Replacement Jubilee Garden								£	3,107.00	£	3,000.00	£	3.000,00
Sytch Steps										£	2,000.00	£	2,000.00
Cemetery Turning area PWLB EIP 2022/2023										£	4,000.00	£	4,000.00
No Longer Applicable/ Complete										E	11,112.50		
The Admin Genie (Clerk services)	£	833.99		2,275.42		£	-	£		£			
Clerk Additional Hours Electric/ Water/Bench	£	4,099.10	£	-		£		£		£			
Cemetery Drainage/ Concrete Bases	£	-	£	2,200.00		£	-	£		£	-		
Replace Cemetery Notice Board						£	780.00	£	780.00	£			
PAYMENTS NET TOTAL	£	20,943.51	£	31,438.13		£	116,671.32	£	132,580.97	£2	224,581.50	£	38,469.00
V.A.T	£	2,769.19	£	2,625.72		£	2,611.41		2,611.41				
	£	23,712.70	£	34,063.85		£	119,282.73	£	135,192.38	£2	224,581.50		
EARMARKED RESERVES 4 months Free Cash			£	11,000.00	£ 10,000.00	t	1,000.00	t	1,000.00		1,061.55	EA £	7,470.83
Emergency Contingency			£	5,000.00	£ 5,000.00		-	£	-	£	2,000.00	£	5,000.00
New Complete Design				50,000,00	5 50 000 00					•			
New Cemetery Project Cemetery Car Park Surface			£	60,000.00 7,000.00	£ 60,000.00	£	7,000.00	£	7,000.00	£	2,000.00	£	2,000.00
Cemetery Covid Grant			£	10,000.00	£ 10,000.00	£	-	£		£	-	£	-
Historical Markers Neighbourhood Plan			£	3,000.00		£	3,000.00 6,470.83		3,000.00 6,470.83		1,000.00	£	1,000.00 2,000.00
Bus Shelter						£	2,495.00		- 0,470.83	£	-	£	-
Holly Bush Project/ Maintenance Cost			£	10,000.00	£ 10,000.00	£	-	£		£	1,000.00	£	-
EIP PWLB for 2023/2024 EIP PWLB for 2024/2025											£11,112.50 £11,112.50		_
TOTAL BEPC Earmarked Funds			£	106,000.00	£ 95,000.00	£	19,965.83	£	17,470.83 31-Mar-22	£	31,286.55	£	17,470.83
Account Balances to date			Actua	l 1st Jan 2021		Actua	1 1st Jan 2022		Estimated				
Current Account			£	28,972.38		£	20,193.69	£	8,722.41				
Reserve Ac LEEK UNITED			£	11,116.81 74,338.40	Closed Account	£	11,117.47	£	11,147.47				
					STORE OF ACCOUNT								
TOTAL BEPC Funds			£	114,427.59		£	31,311.16			£	255,868.05		
Earmarked Available funds								£	17,470.83 2,399.05	ca	arry f/w		
								-	2,333.03	cd	, 1/ 40		

d) The Council then RESOLVED to raise the Parish Precept request to SMDC by 5% for 2022/2023. This will be a total of £25,046.00 which will mean an increase of £1.43 per year to an equivalent band D Property. A yearly Council Tax of £30.10.

#### Proposed Cllr. Wright - Seconded Cllr. Turner - All in favour

The Council RESOLVED to a 5% pay increase to reflect inflation for the Clerk and the Cemetery Recorder salaries.

# Proposed – Cllr. Felton – Seconded Cllr. Hargreaves – All in favour

The Council also RESOLVED to cancel the Zoom subscription.

#### Proposed - Cllr Wright - Seconded Cllr. Turner - All in favour

The Groundworks Maintenance Contract to be renewed in May - Tender or extension to the current contract be on the next Agenda.

e)	Cemetery Recorder received (January) –	<b>Cemetery Recorder</b>	£570.00
	Finance Received (Nov/Dec/Jan) – Clerk –	HMRC PAYE refund	£302.04
		<b>AESL Lengthsman Grant</b>	£400.00
		HMRC VAT Refund	£2,625.72
		Interest	£0.09

## f) Payments were authorised:

Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary & Expenses (Dec) (mileage, phone, zoom)	Chq. No.001066	£565.02
HMRC PAYE	Chq No. 001067	£10.60
Brown Edge Village Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2021 – 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Chq No. 001068	£250.00
Cheque incorrectly written (Cancelled)	Chq No. 001069	£0.00
N&J Tree Services Maintenance Visit 10 (Jan)	Chq No.001070	£800.72
Direct Debits: British Gas	Playing Field (Dec)	£17.58
	Cemetery (Dec)	£14.53

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

#### 10. Items on Notice

#### a) Bus Shelter Replacement:

The Council RESOLVED to order the Shelter from BS Shelters. A 3-panel shelter in green with a cantilever roof, but with no seat or timetable frame due to the price increase since the original quotation. Total Bus Shelter £2757.00 +VAT and £350 + VAT for removal of the old shelter.

Proposed - Cllr. Hargreaves - Seconded - Cllr. Bedson

b) The Council RESOLVED to allow tree surgery along Breach Road by Western Power (BTS) if done in a considerate and aesthetic manner to BS3998 standard.

# Proposed - Cllr Turner - Seconded Cllr Owen - All in favour

- c) Cemetery Toilets Cllr. Woodward has requested to move to decorate the toilets. Quotations can be gathered, and it was suggested to apply for some grants.
- d) Cemetery Concrete Plinths A report from cemetery Recorder Mr Bourne that there is a problem with the location of a concrete plinth for headstones. The Chairman has been to inspect. An urgent request was made for a working group to look at the issue before any further internments are booked.

Proposed - Cllr Felton - Seconded - Cllr Bedson - All in favour

# 11. Matters Arising from previous meeting

Notice has now been served to two Allotment Tenants.

# 12. Report from SMDC Climate Change Committee Meeting:

Cllr. Felton gave a brief report of the topics covered – Public Transport, Business Energy Usage, Active Travel and Railway link funding

- 13. No Planning Applications to be discussed.
- 14. Correspondence:
- a) SMDC Planning Office have apologised for the Notice, which was sent to Brown Edge by mistake, instead of Endon.
- **Woodhouse Lane sign** has been reported to the Clerk as dislodged and propped up against the wall. Clerk to request repair.
- c) Police Crime Commissioner reminder that the consultation is still open to until 8<sup>th</sup> February. 'Your Police, Your Voice'
- d) Severn Trent Community Fund Letter received from RT. Hon. Karen Bradley MP to encourage Brown Edge Parish Council to apply.
- **Marshes Hill Damage to heather:** A complaint has been received from a resident regarding damage to Heather on Marshes Hill by farm vehicles.

- f) The Chairman read out a report from PCSO Staples as she was unable to attend this meeting:
  - Reports of young people lighting fire a fire on the Playing field. The PCSO's have stepped up
    evening and weekend patrols of the area.
  - Local properties have been egged. The local supermarket have been asked to not sell eggs to children.
  - Off road motor bikes have been reported using the public footpath that leads to Woodland Manor Care Home. Police signage has been displayed in the area and also a warning on social media to warn that Section 59 can be issued, and the vehicles will be seized.
  - Community Speedwatch Recruitment was poorly attended at The Village Hall. Only one volunteer from Brown Edge has signed up. Weather was not favourable that evening, so it was suggested to rearrange another event and put on some refreshments.

# 19. Items for the attention of other local authorities:

- a) Matters for the District Council: Apply for Councillor Initiative Grant and Moorlands
  Partnership Board Grant
- b) Matters for the County Council: Apply for the Climate Eco Grant and Severn Trent Grant

# 20. Matters Pertaining to Issues in the Parish for the Next Agenda:

- a) Marshes Hill Damage Clerk to contact Mark Preece at SMDC to ask for progress report with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
- b) Battery Charge Site Ball Green
- c) Brown Edge Holly Bush Steering Group report.

#### Meeting was closed by the Chairman at 21.20

Next Full Council Meeting

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 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)  4	Councillor Adrean Felton.	<b>Date:</b> て/3/2022						