



MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH 2022
BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL – 7.00PM

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

Two members of the public were in attendance plus PCSO Laura Peacock.

Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:

Chairman Felton opened the meeting

2. Parishioners Concerns:

a) There were no Parishioners Concerns raised.

b) **PCSO Report**, there have been no reports of Anti-social behaviour in February. The youths which were reported previously have been approached and acceptable behaviour contracts have been agreed with the PCSO's. Police and Councillor surgeries are going well based at the Supermarket.

Cllr. Felton then reported to the Council images of parking on Church Road on grass verges which has been reported to him by a resident. PCSO will put yellow notices on the offending cars, but it was explained that enforcement is a District Council responsibility. Police only have powers to fine vehicle owners if the vehicles are parked dangerously. Reports must be made to a Police Officer via the Staffordshire Police Website. The Clerk will forward the images to the PCSO.

3. County Councillors report: Cllr. Flunder reported the following items:

- Covid Vaccination Centres are still circulating Staffordshire, please check the Staffordshire Covid Website for the latest updates.
- The Prosperous Committee have had to postpone the public transport enquiry day, this will be re-scheduled.
- Health Committee – various Mental Health awareness initiatives are being rolled out in the county. SEND consultation results are now available with 6 out of 8 issues improved across the County.
- Cllr. Flunder congratulated Brown Edge in the successful application for the Community Fund for the County Sustainability grant of £400.00.
- Speedwatch Tean have given a presentation to Endon, and the three Parish approach is beginning to come together. Training days have been organised for 7th and 8th May 10.30am – 1.30pm and 3pm – 6pm – venue to be confirmed.

- Western Power Network are sending notices of road closures via the County Council. The Clerk will post these as they come in. The Consultation held in Bagnall was well attended.

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

- SMDC have allocated in their Budget, funding for frontline services investment including customer services, culture, sport, leisure and climate change.
- A Rural Sports Village initiative has been launched, Cllr. Porter urged Brown Edge to apply for any sport related ideas.
- A Platinum Jubilee Fund has been allocated to be shared throughout the Moorlands in each Parish and Town. The Clerk will apply for this.
- The Staffordshire Moorlands Good Food Guide has been printed and distributed throughout the Moorlands.
- There are still some £300 Climate Change Funds available for schools in the Moorlands.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs. Flunder and Porter for their reports.

Cllr. Owen arrived at 7.20pm – apologies due to disruptions with storms, there have been many trees falling and blocking lanes causing much work to do.

5. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Hargreaves – Family Commitment

Cllr. Lea – dispensation while recovering from illness

6. Declaration of Interest on forthcoming agenda items:

Cllr. Owen declared a pecuniary interest in Maintenance Contract (Item 9a, 11c)

Cllr. Owen declared an interest in Planning – applicant lives next door (Item 12b)

7. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd February 2022 were amended following Cllr. Flunder item - County Council Fund, not District Fund. The Minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

[Approved Minutes – Brown Edge Parish Council \(browncouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.browncouncil.gov.uk)

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

8. Matters Arising from previous meeting:

a) Hill Top

Road signage was discussed to discourage HGV usage. Licences must be in place for operators stating entry and exit routes. Signage needs to be placed in a position that HGVs can go an alternate route. It was resolved for the Clerk to write to Cllr. Flunder to request assistance from the DHP fund to get some signage in place on Hill Top.

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

b) Allotment Tenancy Rules

The Allotment Association have asked for clarification on the rules of offering tenancy to residents from out of the parish should a vacancy arise. A draft document was presented to the council from the council archive.

Previous Councillor - Mr McGrath was granted permission to speak. Mr. McGrath stated that Brown Edge Parish Council had resolved to accept the proposed rules and regulations set out in the draft document that the Clerk presented. **(This was verified following the meeting with the minutes of November 2012, with thanks to Mr. McGrath).**

c) Wildflower Meadow access – improvement needed, reported by a member of the Allotment Association at the last meeting.

The Council resolved to not do any improvements to this area this year due to the work not being budgeted for. **Proposed Cllr. Turner – Seconded – Cllr. Wright – All in favour**

d) Bemmersley Road, Ball Green - Environmental Assessment. The Council resolved for the Clerk to invite Anesco representative to attend the next meeting to do a presentation and to answer any questions.

Proposed – Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft – Seconded – Cllr. Bedson – All in Favour

e) Cemetery Concrete Plinths – Cllr. Turner and Cllr. Felton have been to inspect the site. Mr Beresford has dug a test hole to check the drainage and has advised on the location to the Cemetery Recorder – Mr Bourne, who will speak to the Cemetery contractor. This will resolve the issue.

f) Jubilee Celebration Plans: Various ideas were discussed including the Beacon lighting. A working group needs to be arranged to bring all the village events together.

The Clerk to apply for the Jubilee Grant from SMDC. The Council resolved to hold a Beacon Lighting event on Thursday 2nd June. Clerk to order bunting when the working group has looked at locations to determine how many meters are required.

Proposed Cllr. Felton – Seconded – Cllr. Turner- Holdcroft – All in favour

9. Items on Notice:

a) Maintenance Contract – The Maintenance of Assets Committee moved that N&J Tree Services Ltd. to be asked to extend the current contract for the 3rd year of the Maintenance Contract.

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

b) Community Orchard – Communication has been received by the Clerk from Cllr. Porter to ask the council to consider a resolution to plant an orchard before the end of March. Locations were discussed that must be accessible to the public. Cllr. Porter has also secured sponsorship for the project to help fund the orchard from Greenway Environmental who want to support an environmental project in their District. Cllr. Porter offered to sponsor a Queens Green Canopy Plaque to commemorate Platinum Jubilee from the Ward District Councillor Initiative Fund. The SMDC tree officer needs to come out to inspect the site. Proctor’s nursery, local supplier will deliver the trees. It was RESOLVED for Bank End adjacent to the Playing Field to be the Orchard location.

Proposed Cllr. Owen – Seconded – Cllr. Wright – All in Favour

c) Dangerous Parking on verges in the Village – Discussed under item 2b.

d) Date for the Annual Parish Meeting (Assembly of the Parish) to be set (in-between 1st March and 1st June). The Chairman and the Clerk will agree to set a date to be published.

20.21 – PCSO Laura Peacock left the meeting

10. Reports and Actions of Parish Councillors undertaking business/actions on behalf of the Council

a) PWLB Loan application - progress report – Amendments to the application to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for the permission to borrow £175,000.00 over a borrowing term of 25 years from the Public Works Loan Board for the purpose of purchasing the land adjacent to the Holly Bush Inn on High Lane, Brown Edge. **The Clerk reported that additional links to the ‘Buy the Bush’ community group had been sent with other amendments to the original application as requested and supported by the adviser. She has received confirmation of receipt and is awaiting a reply.**

b) Brown Edge Holly Bush Steering Group report. Cllr. Turner told the Council that the *buythebush.group* website is now live. The steering group have been gathering research to present to the community. They have visited other pubs in the Moorlands which are now being successfully managed by the Community. These include the Auctioneers Arms in Caverswall and the White Hart in Alton. There are others in Rushton, Seighford and Madeley. They all have different situations and different outcomes, but all are successful. It is the community involvement which is bringing the success. Buying the property is only the beginning.

c) 20 is Plenty Presentation: Cllr. Felton registered to attend an information webinar by the 20 is Plenty speed reduction community group, but the meeting did not take place. The Clerk was asked to find out the reason.

d) The Maintenance Committee requested to do a brief report on activity as the Clerk had omitted these reports from the Agenda:

- Cllr Hargreaves in his absence has sent a report that he has replaced plants in a tub on bank End and replaced the tub and plants which was damaged on the corner of Brownhills Road.
- A local Blacksmith has been to look at the damaged post and chain in the cemetery.
- The Blacksmith has also looked at the old bus shelter to see if it can be reused and relocated.
- Cllr. Woodward asked for the County Council to come out and cut the cemetery hedges. The school maintenance person is cutting their side only. The Clerk has been in conversation with the school secretary at St Annes to try to arrange a date for the maintenance team to meet to look at the hedge with a school representative. No date set yet due to workload. Clerk to copy in Maintenance Committee with any progress.

The New Projects Committee then also gave a brief report:

- Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft reported that St. Annes School are aware of the parking issues at morning and afternoon drop off and pick up times. The Head teacher is open to suggestions. They like the idea of a volunteer walking bus from the Holly Bush Car Park. The school would like to work with the council to make some changes which are effective. Air Aware Staffordshire scheme was mentioned to reduce engines on tick over.

20.59 – Cllr. Flunder left the meeting

11. Finance & Governance:

a) Finance received and Cemetery Recorder report (February) – No receipts this month.

b) Waste contract review – All in favour to continue with SMDC for the Cemetery commercial waste contract

c) Payments were authorised:

Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary & Expenses (Feb) (mileage, phone, zoom)	Chq. No.001081	£539.51
HMRC PAYE	Chq. No. 001082	£10.80
Cheque incorrectly written (Cancelled)	Chq. No. 001083	£0.00
N&J Tree Services Maintenance Visit 11 (Feb)	Chq. No.001084	£800.72
BS Shelters (High Lane Bus Shelter replacement and fitting)	Chq. No 001085	£3,308.40
Direct Debits: British Gas	Playing Field (Feb)	£19.88
	Cemetery (Feb)	£16.87
Water plus	Cemetery (Oct-Jan)	£34.01

Proposed Cllr. Turner – Seconded Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft – Motion Carried

d) Grant Application Progress:

i. The Clerk has applied to the Councillor Initiative Fund for funding towards the Community Orchard and flowers for the village

ii. Jubilee Fund – SMDC – new fund for all Moorlands Parishes £425.00 – Already discussed under item 8f.

iii. SMDC Sports Initiative grant – Item to be on the next Agenda. Councillors to contribute ideas for an application proposal.

iv. Severn Trent Community Fund – Clerk to contact the helpline to discuss potential ideas for the Brown Edge Wells, water capture and a potential Wildlife Pond.

v. Moorland Partnership Board – Heritage Grant – Cllr. Turner Holdcroft updated the Council on the Historical Markers project. 5 markers proposed for the first phase.

1. Joes Shop
2. Broad Lane Air crash site
3. The Club

4. Stonehouse Lane – Old Miners Track

5. Turners Bus Garage

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

Item for April meeting Agenda with quotations to approve the application for the grant.

12. Planning Applications and Related Issues:

- Cllr. Woodward declared an interest in item 12a. (Applicant is a neighbour)

a) SMD/2021/0842 – 145 High Lane, Brown Edge – Single Storey side extension and part loft conversion.

DECISION: No objection – All in favour

- Cllr. Owen declared an interest in the item 12b (Property is neighbour)

b) SMD/2022/0058 – The Dormers, Willfield Lane, Brown Edge – Outline application for demolition of existing garage and erection of a detached dwelling – all matters reserved - The council resolver to comment on the access to the property.

13. Correspondence:

a) Endon Parish Council – request for tree planting licence, Breach Road. Clerk has tried to contact the Highways Officer for a meeting to check the situation.

b) Enquiry regarding a Bench Plaque Memorial for Lawn Cemetery. The Clerk has sent the Bench policy and booking form to the enquirer for consideration.

c) Correspondence with SMDC regarding Marshes Hill. SMDC need to conclude the negotiations with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to manage and maintain Marshes Hill. The Parish Council resolved that they approve of the proposal.

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

14. Items for the attention of other local authorities:

a) Matters for the District Council: Cllr Porter is still organising community Litter pick events – check social media for dates.

b) Matters for the County Council: Already discussed

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

a) **Correspondence from the Carnival Committee** – Carnival plans

b) **A Social Media post was brought to the attention of the Council.** Due to the defamation of the Village and inference of defamation of a councillor, it was resolved that the Clerk should report this to the Monitoring Officer and to the Police.

c) **Review of the response to the Formal Complaint to SMDC** following the Sandy Lane Planning Committee Meeting.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.35pm

Next Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 6th April 2022 at Brown Edge Village Hall at 7pm

I hereby state this is a correct account of the monthly meeting held by Brown Edge Parish Council.

Signed: (Chair)	Councillor Date:
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