



MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD AUGUST 2022
BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM

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

3 members of the public

Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:

Cllr. Felton opened the meeting. Thanks were given to Cllr. Bedson for chairing the meeting in July and to Cllr Turner-Holdcroft and Cllr. Wright for taking the minutes and standing in for the Clerk.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Lea – Dispensation for ill health.
Cllr. Hargreaves – family commitment
Cllr. Owen – work commitment

3. Type error – no item 3 on the agenda.

4. Parishioners Concerns: No questions were received from members of the public.

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

- Leek Show had been very enjoyable, congratulations were given to the organising committee.
- Covid is still being monitored at County for regional outbreaks.
- Social events are being held across the county to bring the Ukrainian people opportunities to socialise.
- A new Climate fund has been launched and each county councillor has £1500.00 to grant to community organisations.
- A community fund is also available for £2000.00
- DHP is has been discussed with Highways officer Dave Rushton and allocated to Brown Edge for the signage on Hill Top to deter HGV usage.
- Speed cameras are still in the progress for High Lane. More work needs to be done to complete this project.
- County have opened a high-tech business hub to help new start-up businesses and expanding businesses access the business support framework they need.

6. District Councillor Report: Cllr Porter reported the following:

- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had their first ever stand at Leek Show – They promoted recycling and SMDC job recruitment.
- The Queens Baton relay event –was successful and well supported by spectators. The Baton visited Rudyard Lake, The Roaches, Leek Town centre and Alton Towers.

- Pay by Phone App has been introduced for all the District Council car parks. People can pay by card from mobile phones.
- The Levelling Up bid is in progress for Leek and Cheadle for a large sum of funding to renovate town centre facilities.
- Liz Truss is visiting Staffordshire – date to be confirmed.
- Sports clubs – funding is available for sports coaching.
- Brown Edge and Endon Litter picking army have visited Tinster’s Wood. Some areas have been reported to the SMDC Fly Tipping team.
- Complaints have been received about the lack of progress on the Speedwatch group. More support is needed from members of the public to get the volunteer group up and running. The Parish Council can support the Community Speedwatch and be active to facilitate the group but they are not responsible to run it, this needs to be volunteer led. *Permanent speed reduction devices are one stream which is being considered through Cllr. Flunder and DHP. The Police Community Speedwatch manage the volunteers, who partake in no more than 2hr sessions at a time and not alone.* It is recommended that Volunteers don’t do the Speedwatch on their own doorstep.
- Cllr. Porter has approved a contribution for Speedwatch equipment funding of £100 from his District Community initiative grant. The council thanked Cllr. Porter for his support.

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

7. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Woodward – Item 9d. Sandy Lane Well repair

Cllr. Turner – Item 9a. Community Asset Value on the Holly Bush

8. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting: Meeting 6th July 2022

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

The Clerk thanked Cllr. Wright for standing in as Clerk and Cllr. Turner Holdcroft for taking the minutes. Cllr. Felton thanked Cllr. Bedson for leading the meeting as vice-chairman.

9. Matters Arising from previous meetings:

- Community Asset Value** – This application has been withdrawn until further advice is received from the process to form a community organisation interested in purchasing the Holly Bush Inn to preserve the village pub amenity. C.A.V. may have been counterproductive because of the legal restrictions imposed from the agreement, had it been approved by the District Council.
- Knotweed on the Car Park adjacent to the Holy Bush.** The weed is invasive and needs treating to eradicate it from the land. Cllr. Woodward moved that the Council Maintenance Contractor should be asked to treat the problem as soon as possible.
Proposed Cllr. Woodward – Seconded Cllr. Wright – motion carried
- Community Speedwatch Gun purchase** – The Clerk to order a Speed gun from Community Speedwatch for Brown Edge volunteers. The Council needs to help engage members of the public to form a group. The volunteers were congratulated who have already come forward to complete the training.
- Sandy Lane Well repair** – Cllr. Woodward reported that the job has not been completed to date but will be done in the coming month.
- Memorial Bench** – Delivery has been arranged to the Cemetery, but someone must be there to receive it. Storage was discussed until it can be fitted in position. Clerk to organise this.
- Cemetery Toilets report:** Mr Bourne (Cemetery Recorder) on finding litter n the ladies toilets following the school sports day, sent an email to the school. The Parish Council any resolved to request any correspondence is to come before the council in future, to decide on the action to

be taken. St Annes Primary have stated that they will check the toilets are left clean in the future. The Clerk and Chairman cleared up the mess on this occasion.

- g) **A map of Green Spaces in Brown Edge** accessed from the SMDC Planning Portal was circulated to the council. It is possible to add a layer onto the digital map to show SMDC maintained green spaces. Purple areas are SMDC maintained – they are not all owned by SMDC, some are common land. A discussion was had about the various green spaces like Springfield Gardens which SMDC maintain. Bank End green space was created when Leek Rural became SMDC. Bank End was a tip, so the District Council reinstated it and maintain it. The areas in yellow are ‘Your Housing’ maintained properties.

Brown Edge Parish Council would like a map which can be displayed on the website and notice boards with the various responsibilities marked. This could also be published in the Parish News to raise awareness.

Cllr. Porter will contact Nicola Kemp at the District Council to check licensing issues around publication of maps.

Clerk to undertake more research on mapping.

- h) **Orchard Maintenance** – The Queens Green Canopy sign was discussed. The Plaque is temporary on the memorial garden until a permanent site is found. An information board showing the variety of nuts and fruit in the orchard and with the sponsorship and grant information displayed is also being researched for prices by the Clerk.

Some of the orchard saplings are struggling in the hot weather. Margaret hunt has kindly volunteered to water the trees. Other volunteers would be really welcomed. Two trees are dead. There is also a dead tree on the Breach – need to speak to Steve Massey at District Council. Clerk to contact Steve Massey at SMDC for advice.

- i) **New Cemetery Field Report** – A discussion was had about the grazing agreement and who is responsible for keeping the edges of the field tidy. The farmer has said his equipment does not go that close to the edges of a field. It is too bulky. To action this, it was resolved to form a working group and to involve the tenant to help clear the problem of overgrown edges. The Clerk will check the formal lease agreement with the farmer to clarify responsibility.

- j) **Response from the Manager at NISA about the complaint regarding HGV delivery on High Lane.** It was resolved that the complaint should have been directed at the directors of the company and not the shop manager. The District Council Planning Officers need to give us advice about enforcement action. Cllr. Porter will do some research on the conditions of their Planning agreement.

- k) **Key Holders** A list is required so that the Council know who has keys, to access council assets. The Chairman offered to collate this list.

- l) **Anti-Social behaviour reported by a resident of St Annes Vale.** The Chairman gave permission for the resident to speak of her encounters and the damage done to her property. Youths have been seen and reported to the police for trespassing and damage to property. Contacting the PSCO was discussed. The Clerk will pass this information on.

- m) **Lamp on the Playing Field.** Damage has been reported to the Playing Field Lamp. This now needs servicing. It was suggested to have CCTV fitted when the repair is done.

Item to be referred to the Maintenance of Assets Committee.

Clerk to check if this is one of the lights that Brown Edge Parish Council are responsible for.

10. Co-option to fill the remaining vacancy on Brown Edge Parish Council.

Kate Oberholster gave a short presentation to the council on why she would like to become a councillor for the Parish. She grew up in the village, her family live in the village, she runs a local business and would like to contribute to village life through being a member of the council. The council voted all in favour to Co-opt Kate to fill the vacant seat for the remaining months prior to the Local Elections in May. Clerk to send out the Declaration of Interest form. The Chairman welcomed Kate, who will join officially at the September meeting.

Cllr. Flunder left the meeting 8.10pm

11. Planning Applications:

Application Number	Applicant Name	Location	Proposed Development	Decision
SMD/2022/0256	Mr C Stevens	20 Lingfield Avenue, Brown Edge	Proposed alterations and extension to existing dwelling, including increasing the dropped kerb access	No objection
SMD/2022/0313	Mr & Mrs Guest	Newfold Farm, Sytch Road, Brown Edge	Demolition of existing yard sheds and erection of one single storey dwelling.	No objection
SMD/2022/0379	Mr & Mrs Frain	St Annes Cottage Church Road, Brown Edge	Proposed New Vehicle Access and Car Parking space in Front Garden Area of the existing property	It was resolved to maintain the council's previous decision that the parking space is not in keeping with the design of the village centre where the Church, Village Hall and surrounding cottages create the character of Brown Edge. There are also concerns about the Highways issue of egress onto the busy central junction of the village at school bank. In addition to this, the parking space outlined on the plans appears insufficient, meaning the car would be parked partially on the road on the junction.
SMD/2022/0385	Mr C Condliffe	Cliff House Bank End Brown Edge	Proposed demolition of existing front Conservatory and re-build of Conservatory	No objection

10. Items on Notice: No items on notice for August.

11. Finance & Governance:

- a) Cemetery receipts in July: £ 275.00
- b) Clerk receipts in July: £ 0.00

c) **The following payments were authorised:**

Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary & Expenses (June)(mileage, phone, stamps)	Chq. 001106	£454.27
HMRC PAYE	Chq. 001107	£108.40
N&J Tree Services Maintenance Visit 4 (July)	Chq. 001108	£820.75
Mr N Hargreaves (fitting of bracket & chain at Cemetery)	Chq. 001109	£125.00
British Gas – Electricity supply Playing Field (Jul)	Direct Debit	£16.81
Cemetery (Jul)	Direct Debit	£13.55

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

12. Resolutions being pursued:

- a) **Review of the Activity Tracker** – It was resolved to remove completed items including the purchase of the Holly Bush Car Park. Clerk to update.
- b) **Legal & H.R Committee**
- The purchase of the Holly Bush car park is completed.
 - Bank mandate updates are a continuing issue.
 - A complaints policy needs to be put in place. Clerk to ask SPCA for a template.
 - Local Councils Award Scheme – to be progressed following the election in May
- c) **New Projects Committee**
- New Chair Cllr. Turner -Holdcroft has been appointed. New Councillor Oberholster is interested in joining this committee along with Cllr. Porter.
 - The Historic markers application is to be considered by the Moorlands Partnership Board in October.
 - Talking Bench, Friends of Marshes Hill are ideas in progress.
 - Allotments – New Projects will contact Allotment committee to discuss any requirements
 - Memorial Garden Bank End – stone steps and wall repair. Clerk to get a quotation for steps from stone mason in Tean.
- d) **Maintenance of Assets Committee**
- Playing Field gate restoration
 - Fitting of the Lock & Chain at the Cemetery
 - Review of the Grounds Maintenance Contract to prepare for Tender in 2023.

13. Reports and Actions of Parish Councillors undertaking business/actions on behalf of the council Cllr Turner is no longer on the Moorlands Partnership Board which he was upset about because he only missed one meeting and a new committee was formed. He did attend the SMDC Parish Assembly and a Staffordshire Parish Councils Association meeting at Stafford. This organisation is to be commended.

14. Matters for the District Council:

NISA HGV delivery issue. Cllr Porter to check the Planning stipulations agreed.
Issues in the Village with parking – to clarify Parking Enforcement from District

15. Matters for the County Council: Playing Field Public Right of Way maintenance.

16. Correspondence:

- a) **Brown Edge Bake Off** - Tina Holdcroft has notified the council that she has set a date for the annual event 'Brown Edge Bake Off' which the Council pledged to support. It will be held at Brown Edge Village Hall on Sunday 13th November 2022. The event was discussed due to being on the same day as Remembrance Sunday. It has been confirmed that half the funds raised from the bake off will be donated to the Royal British Legion. It was mentioned that a new vicar may be in place at St Anne's Church by then. The Allotment Harvest Auction was also mentioned. Date for this to be confirmed.
- b) **Playing Field Public Right of Way** - Correspondence received of damage to the path surface on the public right of way through the High Lane Playing Field and an insurance enquiry which has been referred to Staffs County Council. The HR & Legal Committee will review the Parish Councils Risk Assessment and the Play Equipment inspection report.
- c) **Anti-Social Behaviour** - A resident requested via the website to report anti-social behaviour and related trespass and theft in Top Heaths Row which was accessed from the Common Land. A discussion was had about the anti-social behaviour. Youths are entering properties from the Common Land. Shed roofs have been damaged and some garden tools have been stolen. Common Land was discussed. The Council will look into registering to be responsible for the Common Land. Cllr. Porter invited the resident to come to the councillor surgeries held on Saturdays at the Nisa shop or at Endon Methodist Church.

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

PCSO to be invited to attend the next meeting in September.



Police Safety Partnership - Surveillance Cameras

Community Speedwatch – promoting the initiative to get volunteers to train and manage the project in the area.

Footpath between Brownhills Road and Church Road – to clarify ownership for responsibility for maintenance.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.10pm

Next Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 7th September 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: 7/9/2022