



MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2022
BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL – 7.00PM

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

Two members of the public were in attendance and the PCSO from Biddulph.

Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

1. **Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Felton opened the meeting and wished Councillors and members of the public a Happy New Year.**
2. **Letter of resignation from the position of Chairman.** Cllr. Felton read a letter of resignation from Cllr. Turner, who wishes to step down from the role of Chairman. The Council wished Cllr. Turner a speedy recovery and understand that health must come first. Cllr. Turner will stay on as Councillor.
Proposed Cllr. Woodward – Seconded Cllr. Felton – Resignation accepted
3. **Appointment of new Chairman:**
Cllr. Hargreaves nominated Cllr. Felton – Cllr. Woodward seconded – All in Favour – Motion carried
4. **Appointment of Vice Chairman:**
Move to next meeting of the full council in February.
5. **Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:**
Cllr. Turner (Chairman) - illness
Cllr. Owen – Work commitment
Cllr. Lea – dispensation while recovering from illness
Cllr. Wright - illness
6. **Parishioners Concerns:**
Cllr. Hargreaves asked to speak as a resident:
 - a) **Pavement surface deterioration** reported on High Lane, below the bus stop.
 - b) **PCSO** – attending on behalf of local PCSO Laura Peacock. Reported that during lockdown crime rates had decreased in the area, but 40 incidents have been reported in 12 months – 31 of these were caused by rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour. Resulting in a 48% increase.
There has been a 64% increase in crimes from 151 to 247 crimes reported.
PCSO's are now patrolling the park at regular intervals as often as possible following reports from the council and members of the public
Youths hanging around the local supermarket have been reported.

Fly tipping of vape canisters on Marshes Hill car park was also discussed.

The Police Crime Commissioner currently has a survey available for members of the public and businesses to complete to 'help the force achieve its vision of a safer Staffordshire.

(The survey launches on 22nd January until 8th February)

['Your police. Your voice.' - Have your say on local policing matters | Staffordshire Police](#)

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

- Congratulation was given to the Carnival for the Christmas Lights switch on event in November.
- Covid update – More walk-in vaccination centres are planned for the Staffordshire Moorlands.
- Highways are busy working with Western Power Distribution in the Bagnall area. Delays are expected. A consultation is planned for 20th January from 2.30pm – 7pm – location to be confirmed. Work should be completed by 2nd May.
- Blocked Gullies should be reported to the Staffordshire County Council report it app. Additional funding has been allocated to gully jetter clearance during the winter period.
- Repairs have been made to the road surface towards Lask Edge.
- Fiddlers Bank pothole repairs have been fixed. Drainage causing ice was then discussed. Cllr. Flunder will ask Highways Officer to check.
- Treecycle – tree recycling scheme [People urged to treecycle after the festive season - Staffordshire County Council Newsroom](#)
- Donate IT – IT equipment recycling scheme [Donate I.T. scheme - #DoingOurBit \(staffordshire.gov.uk\)](#)
- Weight management - advice helpline and drop in clinics [Weight Management - Everyone Health Staffordshire](#)
- Starting or Growing your business advice [Business support - Staffordshire County Council](#)
- Refresh Skills for mature drivers [New Campaign to keep Mature Drivers Safer - Staffordshire County Council Newsroom](#)
- Climate Change Action Fund is now open for applications. [Funding Available for Communities to Tackle Climate Change - Staffordshire County Council Newsroom](#)
- Funding for Community Volunteers who are helping people in their Community [COVID-19 Self isolators Grants Scheme - #DoingOurBit \(staffordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

A discussion was had regarding small local contractors doing some Highways work to speed up the repair process. Cllr. Flunder confirmed that potholes can not be repaired by external contractors unless approved by the County Council. Item to be on the next Agenda.

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

- The Covid the business support grant from SMDC has been extended. [Business Financial Support - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council \(staffsmoorlands.gov.uk\)](#)
- High Street – Vacant shop grant of up to £5000 is available.
- Market Trader grants of up to £3000 are available
- Homelessness in the Staffordshire Moorlands has almost been eliminated due to the work of staff helping find accommodation. £150,000 has been budgeted to continue this good work.
- Cllr. Porter has allocated £200 to the Carnival Committee towards the Christmas Lights event from his Councillor Initiative Fund. Each District Councillor has £500 to give to Community initiatives in their Ward. Applications close at the end of January. Please contact Cllr. Porter, Cllr. Lea or Cllr. Bond to discuss your community project. [Councillors' Community Initiative Fund - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council \(staffsmoorlands.gov.uk\)](#)

- Haregate Christmas Food Bags continued this year
- Christmas Cards from the Primary School children to vulnerable people in the community was again a success.
- Due to increase in SMDC staff absence due to Covid isolation it is possible that Bin collection could be delayed. If bins are not collected please check the website for updated collection dates [Bins and recycling - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council \(staffsmoorlands.gov.uk\)](https://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk)
- Brown Edge volunteer Litterpick scheduled for Saturday 15th January. Some equipment has not been returned. Please ask people to bring it back if no longer volunteering.
- Councillor and PCSO drop in Surgeries – scheduled for the next few months, please see Cllr. Porter facebook page. [Cllr Joe Porter - District Councillor for Brown Edge & Endon - Posts | Facebook](#)
- A New initiative for County and District Councils to work together to improve Public Services has just been launched.
- Community Orchards – Plan needed. Clerk to speak to Highways Officer to arrange potential location on site meeting.

9. Declaration of Interest on forthcoming agenda items:

Cllr. Turner Holdcroft declared a pecuniary interest in (Item 17d)

Cllr. Sherratt declared an interest in the Allotments (Item 12a)

10. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meetings: (Appendix 1 & 2)

1st December 2021 Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

9th December 2021 Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman

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

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

11. Vacancy on the Council:

It was resolved to advertise the Vacancy on the Parish Council following the resignation of Cllr. Corbett.

Clerk to produce a poster to advertise to post. ***All in favour***

12. Items on Notice

a) Notice to be served to Allotment Tennants. It was resolved to serve 3 months notice to Tennant's who have not been keeping their Allotment Plots to the standard required as per the Allotment Association Tenancy Agreement. Due to the waiting list of local residents wanting to try having an allotment it is only fair to give more opportunities to the wider community.

b) Access for dogs across the Playing Field grounds - A letter from the David Smith from the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had been received requesting the Parish Council to decide from four options regarding the SMDC Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Fouling and Nuisance) which came into force on 19th October 2020: [Public Spaces Protection Orders - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council \(staffsmoorlands.gov.uk\)](https://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk)

A debate was had about access for dogs to the Playing Field and dog fouling on grass.

The Council resolved to exclude dogs from the High Lane Playing Field and Children's Play areas but to continue to allow access along the footpath on condition that dogs are kept on a lead to eliminate dog fouling in play and sport areas.

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

Signage on the Playing Field was suggested for the next Agenda.

13. Matters Arising from the previous meeting:

- a) **Climate Change Committee** – Cllr. Bedson and Cllr. Felton agreed to represent Brown Edge at quarterly meetings of a Climate Committee at SMDC.
- b) **Public Toilet facilities for High Lane Playing Field were discussed.** The council debated whether having a toilet would solve the antisocial behaviour or whether it would create other antisocial behaviours including vandalism of facilities. Maintenance of a public toilet block was also discussed. Thanks were given to Mr Bourne for organising the key cutting for a spare set of Cemetery and Notice Board Keys. Clerk to create a Key Holder log.
- c) **School Parking** – Issues of congestion and speeding were discussed. Clerk to create a notice to be put on cars asking politely if they could find alternative parking.

Proposed Cllr. Woodward – Seconded Cllr Turner-Holdcroft

8.15pm –Standing orders were suspended temporarily so that a member of the public could comment.

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

A resident suggested the Holly Bush Car Park could be used as a parent drop off/ Minibus pick up point or walking bus through the park, reducing pollution and encouraging parents to socialise in the Village centre. Cllr. Flunder mentioned the Air Aware Staffordshire Education programme. [Air Aware Staffordshire - do one more thing to help your family breathe easier - #DoingOurBit](#)

PCSO's to try to have a presence at School times to police offensive parking. A walking bus idea was discussed, volunteers would be needed and the school would need to be consulted. Cllr. Turner Holdcroft will speak to School Governors.

8.20pm Standing Orders were reintroduced.

- d) **Litter** – Incentives are happening in the Village with the Community Litterpick volunteers. Encourage more people to get involved.
- e) **Dog Fouling increasing on the streets of Brown Edge** – The Council discussed more signage and posters. If members of the public could report hot spots, the Council could use pavement stencils to remind people to clean up after their dog.
- f) **Youth Club** – Ideas to create a space for Young People to socialise was discussed. The New Projects Committee will look at the current provision in the village and consider options.
- g) **Supporting the Village Churches** – The Clerk presented a document with the powers that a Parish Council have regarding funding Religious activities. A discussion was had about how the Council

could help support the Church in the Community. The Clerk was asked to write to the Churches in the Village to make contact.

14. Resolutions being pursued

The Clerk has updated the Activity Tracker to reflect the projects being progressed by the Committees:

a) Legal & H.R Committee

Appointment of a New Committee Chairman – item moved to the next meeting.

b) New Projects Committee:

Projects are all still in progress

c) Maintenance of Assets Committee:

Cllr. Hargreaves gave a report on the Cemetery Noticeboard fitting and also the Play Equipment Repairs which are now complete.

15. Reports and Actions of Parish Councillors undertaking business/actions on behalf of the council.

– The Clerk read a letter from Cllr. Turner about the meetings he had attended recently:

- the annual general meeting of the Staffordshire Parish Council Association
- the executive committee meeting. Where the issue of lack of ambulance cover for the Moorlands was raised and also raised the issue of lack of support for the first responders by WMA. This will be on the next executive meeting.
- a meeting regarding the flooding in Sandy Lane and the Breach which Severn Trent are attempting to resolve this issue in the long term. This is caused by some kind of blockage on the water going down the Sytch Brook and also because when the Miners houses were built there was not enough fall on the sewer and a brook in line with the breach was built over and piped but cannot cope with the volume of water coming from Hill Top. A scheme to divert water behind the miners houses to come down to Breach Café would solve the issue. Severn Trent are to discuss this with the landowners.
- I will be presenting “Procedures to take regarding the death of a senior figure” at the next Staffordshire Moorlands Assembly.

a) Village Festive Activities – Christmas Lights Competition - Cllr. Turner Holdcroft announced the winners of the Competition. 1. The Most Beautiful, 2. The Meaning of Christmas and 3. The most Entertaining. Photographs were shared of the winning entries. Three local businesses – Holdcroft Heating and Gas Fitting Ltd, N&J Tree Services Ltd. and TTI Success Insights UK that donated the prizes were thanked by the Council. Clerk to write to the businesses.

b) SMDC Planning Committee - 16th December.

Cllr. Felton and Cllr. Bedson gave reports of their experience speaking at a Planning Committee for application SMD/2021/0649 Oak Lodge Sandy Lane – Lawful development certificate for change of use from dwelling house (Class 3) to a residential institution (Class 2).

They expressed that for future representations focus needs to be on the technical and not on emotions as this is not taken into account. The change of use was approved by a narrow margin vote.

It was resolved to put a formal complaint into SMDC with the Parish Councils concerns:

- Not given enough time to speak
- Planning Officers being rude and intimidating to residents and Parish Councillors
- Only applicants can appeal
- Clearly it is a business not a domestic home
- The Planning Officers were guided that if they did not vote the application would go to appeal as the Planning Officer had recommended approval.
- Pre-Judgement of Brown Edge people should not be allowed.
- Planning Process needs to be reviewed

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

16. Planning Applications and Related Issues:

Application Number	Applicant Name	Location	Proposed Development	Decision
SMD/2021/0782 (Appendix 5)	Mr Mountford	Clay Lake Farm, Breach Road, Brown Edge	Proposed storage building for the housing of Farm Implements	The Council voted to Object (four votes in favour of objection and 3 votes against) Aesthetics of building close to the road, Overdevelopment of Green Belt land on the edge of a Village boundary.

17. Finance & Governance:

a) Bank Balance 1st January 2021

Nat West Current Account:	£20,864.79
Nat West Reserve Account:	£11,117.66
TOTAL	£31,982.45

b) Cemetery Recorder report (December) – Cemetery Recorder £1,305.00 received.

Finance Received (December) – Clerk - HMRC VAT Refund £2,625.72 received
Interest £0.10 received

c) Royal British Legion Cheque to be cancelled – incorrect payee. Mrs Turner had already purchased the Wreath and refreshments on behalf of the Council. Mrs Turner to be reimbursed, please see payments to be authorised below.

d) Authorisation of payments:

SMDC Election Expenses (3 rd Installment)	Chq. No.001059	£818.70
Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary & Expenses (Dec) (mileage, phone, zoom)	Chq No. 001060	£562.90
Mr J Bourne Cem Rec Salary & Expenses (Paint, Keys, phone, mileage)	Chq No. 001061	£591.40
HMRC PAYE	Chq No. 001062	£32.00
N&J Tree Services Maintenance Visit 9 (Dec)	Chq No. 001063	£800.72
Mrs J Turner (Remebrance Wreath RBL & Refreshments & Zoom)	Chq No. 001064	£275.85
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Ltd. (Mapping for Neighbourhood Plan)	Chq, No 001065	£420.00
Direct Debits: British Gas	Playing Field (Dec)	£17.18
	Cemetery (Dec)	£16.25

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

e) Precept requirement for 2022/ 2023 – Clerk report for the Councils consideration:

2022/2023 PRECEPT REQUIREMENT REPORT

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	2021/22	2022/23								
% Increase	+3%	2022/23 -1.08%	2022/23 0%	2022/23 1%	2022/23 2%	2022/23 3%	2022/23 4%	2022/23 5%	2022/23 7.5%	2022/23 10%
Precept Required	£23,595	£23,595 <small>Precept request stays same as current year</small>	£23,853	£24,092	£24,331	£24,569	£24,807	£25,046	£25,642	£26,239
Tax Base	823	832	832	832	832	832	832	832	832	832
Equivalent band D precept	£28.67 +84p from previous year	£28.36 -31p	£28.67 Household pays no more than last year	£28.96 +29p	£29.24 +57p	£29.53 +86p	£29.82 +£1.15	£30.10 +£1.43	£30.82 +£2.15	£31.54 +£2.87

The tax base is the number of equivalent band D properties in the Parish.

Column A are the figures that are used in 2021/2022. The Precept was increased by 3% for the current year.

The Band D Precept charge on the Council Tax for Brown Edge Parish is £ 28.67 in this year. An increase of 84p from 2019/20

B – 1.08% decrease - For 2022/2023 the Tax Base has increased from 823 to 832 equivalent band D properties in the Parish. To keep the Council Tax charge to Household Band D the same as this year at £28.67 the precept requirement will decrease by 1.08%

C -0% - Cost of Council Tax stays the same for residents but because the Tax base number of properties has increased the Precept request would be £23,853 (an increase of £258 to the Parish Council)

D – 1% increase – Household (Band D) pays 29p more/ Council Precept received would be £478 more

E – 2% increase – Household pays 57p more/ Council Precept received would be £736 more

F – 3% increase – Household pays 86p more/ Council Precept received would be £974 more

G – 4% increase – Household pays £1.15 more/ Council Precept received would be £1,212 more

H – 5% increase – Household pays £1.43 more/ Council Precept received would be £1,193 more

I – 7.5% increase – Household pays £2.15 more/ Council Precept received would be £2,047 more

J – 10% increase – Household pays £2.87 more/ Council Precept received would be £2,644 more

Report prepared by Denise Wheat Parish Clerk 30/12/2021

f) Budget draft report:

The Clerk presented a draft budget for consideration by the Council. The Council resolved to hold a working group meeting. The 2nd February Meeting will be when the budget will be approved and a resolution will be passed to set the Precept request.

18. Correspondence:

- a) **Reminder Notice of Severn Trent Road Works at The Rocks from 25th – 27th January 2022.**
<https://one.network/?tm=124104489herself>
- b) Letter from resident of correspondence regarding a planning proposal for land in Brown Edge. The Chairman requested that the Clerk circulate the letter to the council as the meeting needed to be closed.

19. Items for the attention of other local authorities:


- a) Matters for the District Council: None
- b) Matters for the County Council: None

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

- a) Side Walks on High Lane – Pavement surface
- b) Holly Bush Car Park – Progress of the Application to the Secretary of State for permission to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board
- c) Battery Charge Site – Ball Green
- d) Dangerous Parking obstructing footways

Meeting was closed by the Chairman at 21.38

Next Full Council Meeting Wednesday 2nd February 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) 	Councillor Adrian Felton.	Date: 02/02/2022.