

BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th. January 2019 at Brown Edge Village Hall, School Bank, Brown Edge, Stoke on Trent.

Present: Councillor L. Lea (Chair).

Councillors G. Cooper, N. Owen, J. Shufflebotham, D. Spooner, P. Turner & S. Turner.
County Councillor K. Flunder.
District Councillor C. Jebb.
Six Members of the Public.

154:18. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Basnett (Ill), J. Sherratt (Family), D. Spooner (Family) & P. Woodward (Holiday).

155:18. Adjournment of Meeting for Public Participation.

A member of the public raised the issue of the state of the road at Fiddlers Bank where a resident had broken his ankle in a pothole. The potholes etc had already been reported to the County Council but the Chair offered to report the matter again.

A member of the public again mentioned the issue with concerns about the safety of schoolchildren crossing the road at Clay Lake when on their way to Endon High School. It was reported that no further information on the matter had been received.

County Councillor Flunder reported on a meeting at Endon to discuss the funding of crossing patrols which the County Council was proposing that local organisations / businesses should pay the cost of £4,000.00 for each patrol.

He also reported that a meeting with David Greatbatch on the crossing issue at Clay Lake was being arranged.

The government was providing more funding for road maintenance and for mental health issues for schools and others to look after those affected.

District Councillor Jebb reported that comments had been received on the Local Plan from the Government Inspector and were being discussed by District Councillors.

District Councillor Lea reported that she had also attended the meeting at Endon on crossing patrols.

156:18. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Lea declared an interest in matters pertaining to planning.

Councillor S. Turner declared an interest in a planning application for the Old Vicarage.

Councillor Owen declared an interest in matters pertaining to maintenance.

157:18. Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd. December 2018 had been circulated and they were duly approved and signed as a true record.

158:18. Matters Arising.

It was agreed to purchase two large concrete flower tubs @ £40.00 each and four tubs @ £25.00 each for the Bank End Common.

A report was given on the site meeting with Staffs. County Council's Liaison Officer at the junction of Sandy Lane and Hough Hill. The meeting had been positive with various suggestions being discussed including a traffic census, changing priority at the junction and additional signage. Costs could be involved and it was suggested that funding could possibly be arranged from County Councillor Flunder's allowances.

The request for a site for Scope Clothing Donation Bank had been passed to the management of Keith's Supermarket who would pass the matter onto the owners. The Clerk was assured that there was no problem with the defibrillator being sited on the disused Keith's News building. It was agreed, however that written reports on the state of the three defibrillators be obtained from a suitable maintenance company.

Letter of support had been sent to Leek Town Council regarding the closure of beds and re-location of some services from Leek Moorlands Hospital. A letter of protest had also been sent to the North Staffs. Clinical Commissioning Group which had replied stating that all the points raised were still under review.

The Town Council had arranged a Special Meeting on Thursday 16th. January 2019.

It was reported that:

the donation for the British Legion had been forwarded to the Leek branch of the organisation.
the promised donation for the new memorial seat had been received.
notice had been received of a road closure of Hough Hill on 9th. January 2019.
a blocked culvert at Hill Top had been reported to Staffs. County Council.

159:18. Reports & Actions.

The Cemetery Recorder reported that there had been two interments, at double fees, of cremated remains in full sized existing graves and one headstone fee.

It was reported that the damaged seat near to the site of the removed conifers had been sited in approx 2003 just before the rule was introduced that all seats would be purchased by the Parish Council. It was agreed to contact the owner to give details of a possible replacement seat.

The current grave digger had been contacted about opening the toilets at funerals. He was quite prepared to take on the task but said that as there were two gangs and two seats of keys would be needed. It was agreed that these be provided.

The Additional Amenities Committee had been met, in full, to discuss the future of the new cemetery site. After studying the facts, at length, the Committee UNANIMOUSLY agreed to RECOMMEND that the land remains as its current use for agricultural purposes and that as a planned burial ground in the near future. This recommendation was accepted.

A revised quotation, with some different species, had been received from Ash Tree Farm Growers Ltd in the sum of £1,049.50 (excl. V.A.T.) for the replanting of the screen hedging in the cemetery. It was agreed that this be accepted and that a contingency sum of £150.00 be set aside for any change in the species to be planted.

Councillor P. Turner, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee reported that a further grant had been obtained from Locality for AECOM to oversee the site assessments which the Committee will oversee. The Committee will be meeting later this month to organise this activity.

A meeting with AECOM is being sought to ensure that the data we are working with is accurate and unchallengeable.

He was pleased to announce that Malcolm Dawson has agreed to assist him with the Neighbourhood Plan. He has already been briefed and has met Hannah from Urban Vision who he has worked with before,

160:18. Planning.

The following planning applications were discussed and it was agreed to forward no objections, subject to normal planning guidelines, to:

*SMD/2018/0752 Proposed Conversion & Extension of Coach House to Form Independent Dwelling & Improvements to Site Access at The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Brown Edge.

SMD/2018/0778 Single Storey Rear Extension & New Vehicle Access with Landscaping Works & Boundary Hedge at 1 Woodside Avenue, Brown Edge.

*Councillor S. Turner declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussion.

161:18. Finance.

Further details were received the renewal of the Council's Fixed Term Bond which had matured. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

A request for next year's Precept had been received. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk put forward recommended figures for the next meeting.

The maintenance contracts were due for renewal on 1st. April 2019. These to be discussed in time for the next meeting.

It was reported that:

a refund of £397.00 had been received from Brown Edge Action Group.
a cheque for £175.00 had been received for the rent of grazing on the new cemetery land.
information had been received from the Pensions Regulator – not applicable at the moment.

162:18. Orders for Payment.

It was agreed that the following items be paid:

Adrian J. Mason.	£	100 – 00. Litter Picking Fee.
British Gas.	£	25 – 51. Cemetery Electricity Supply.
British Gas.	£	65 – 40. Play Field Electricity Charge. (Two a/cs).
John Bourne.	£	Clerk's & Cemetery Recorder's Salaries.
John Bourne.	£	123 – 87. Clerk's Expenses.
H.M. Revenue & Customs.	£	78 – 60. P. A. Y. E.

163:18. Correspondence.

A request for a dog waste bin had been received from a resident of Fiddlers Bank to be sited near to Hill Top Chapel. This to be forwarded to Staffs. Moorlands Council's Street Scene Manager.

164:18. Matters to be Discussed on Notice.

There were no Notices of Motion received.

165:18. Matters for the District Council.

There were no items for the District Council.

166:18. Matters for the County Council.

There were no items for the County Council.

167:18. Items to be raised at the Next Meeting.

Building Society Bond & Precept for 2019 /2020.

168:18. Items for the Website.

There were no items for the web site.

169:18. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS.

Further information from Staffs. Moorlands District Council regarding plans for the Holly Bush car park was awaited.

A complaint had been received about a member of staff.
It was agreed to forward a suitable reply to the complainant.