

BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Re-convened Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th. October 2019 at Brown Edge Village Hall, School Bank, Brown Edge, Stoke on Trent.

Present: Councillor L. Lea (Chair).

Councillors N. Owen, J. Sherratt, J. Shufflebotham, S. Turner, P. Turner & P. Woodward.

County Councillor K. Flunder.

District Councillor J. Porter.

Six Members of the Public.

101:19. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Corbett (Work), N. Hargreaves (Holiday) & D. Spooner (Work).

102:19. Adjournment of Meeting for Public Participation.

A member of the public thanked the Council for the attention to the overgrown public footpath below the allotment area in Tongue Lane.

District Councillor Joe Porter reminded the Council of the need for Climate Change projects but noted it was an item on the agenda.

He also reported that he had some funds left in his District Council allowance.

County Councillor Flunder reported that the project for the children crossing at Clay Lake was going ahead and also an investigation regarding the yellow lines outside St. Anne's School.

He reported that Community Funding was available for small projects but these needed to be identified before December. He suggested a discussion at the next meeting.

103:19. Declarations of Interest.

Councillors S. Turner & P. Turner declared an interest in matters pertaining to the future venue of meetings and Councillor Owen declared an interest in matters pertaining to maintenance matters.

104:19. Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 2nd. September 2019 and 7th. October 2019 had been circulated and they were duly approved and signed as a true record.

Minutes of the Confidential Meeting held on 19th. August 2019 were still awaited.

105:19. Matters Arising.

Staffs. Moorlands District Council had informed the Council that, as no request for an election had been received, the Council could now co-opt someone to fill the vacancy. It was agreed that the necessary notices of the co-option should be published on the Council's web site and notice board with the matter being discussed again at the next meeting.

An email had been sent to Severn Trent asking for detailed information about the problem with flooding in Sandy Lane but no reply had been received. After some discussion Chair Lea offered to contact Karen Bradley M.P. asking for her to take up the matter. This was agreed.

A meeting was arranged between the complainants and the owner of the land in Willfield Lane on the problem with the unregistered footpath over his land but had had to be cancelled. Councillor Woodward offered to arrange a site meeting with Councillor Corbett and the parties involved. This was agreed.

Chair Lea gave details of a letter sent to the residents involved with the street nameplate for Church Road. There would be no name change and a new sign had now been ordered.

The large tree at The Spout House, Sandy Lane which appeared to be showing signs of infection had been reported to Staffs. Moorlands District Council's Tree Officer but no reply had been received. However Councillor Owen reported that the matter was being investigated.

The Clerk reported that the damage to a manhole cover in Sytch Road and the collapsing stone wall adjacent to the pavement in Church Road had been reported to Staffs. County Council.

As reported earlier in the meeting the footpath below the allotments had been cleared by the Council's contractor.

106:19. Other Matters for Discussion.

It was agreed that the usual arrangements would be made for the Remembrance Sunday Service with refreshments afterwards being provided by the Holly Bush Inn.

The inspection report on the Play Equipment had been received and would be perused by the Amenities Committee.

Arrangements for the painting of all of the seats in the cemetery was discussed. It was agreed that quotes for the work would be obtained with the project mentioned in the Parish News.

Various projects, such as: a tidy up on Marshes Hill, getting school children involved in projects, tree planting etc., a wild flower garden, more recycling bins and an emphasis on dog fouling issues could be part of future Climate Change projects.

It was suggested that giving apologies with reasons such as "holiday" could have security issues with Councillor's places of residence. It was agreed that this matter be looked into.

107:19. Reports & Actions.

The Cemetery Recorder reported that there had been one purchase of grave and interment at double fees, one purchase of cremated remains grave and interment at double fees, one interment fee and two headstones fees.

Information had been received on how the inspection of sites procedure under the Neighbourhood Plan would take place. Further information was awaited by the Committee Chairman.

A report was given on the presumed irregularities which had taken place during Staffs. Moorlands District Council's Planning Committee procedure in the deliberations on the granting of planning permission on land at Sytch Road. Important items had been disregarded. The Leader of the Council had been contacted but nothing had been received back. At this point District Councillor Porter offered to chase the matter up. This was gratefully accepted.

108:19. Planning.

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

SMD/2019/0349 Proposed Cubicle Shed for the Housing of the Dairy Herd – Phase 1. Re-submission of SMD/2018/0028 at Ball Green Farm. Brown Edge.

SMD/2019/0605 Erection of Car Port at Hodgefields Farm, Ladymoor Lane, Brown Edge.

SMD/2019/0610 First Floor Side Extension at 3 Hill Top Close, Brown Edge.

HNT/2019/0020 Rear Orangery at Hildene, Hough Hill, Brown Edge.

Thanks were expressed to County Councillor Flunder for his efforts in putting forward objects to a planning application for housing at Keith's Newsagents site

109:19. Finance.

The V.A.T. refund from 2018/2019 had been received.

The External Auditor's Report had been received with no observations to be made.

The Pensions Regulator requires the Council's Re-enrolment and Re-declaration before 1st. June 20.

The necessary forms to update the banking mandate with the Council's bank had been obtained. It was agreed that all remaining Councillors should be on the mandate.

A suggested Risk Assessment Policy was issued and would be studied in due course.

110:19 Orders for Payment.

It was agreed that the following items be paid:

Adrian J. Mason.	£ 100 – 00.	Litter Picking Fee.
British Gas.	£ 17 – 10.	Lawn Cemetery Electricity Supply.
British Gas.	£ 22 – 67.	Playing Field Electricity Supply.
D. Ingman.	£ 140 – 00.	Internal Audit Fee.
Mazars LLP.	£ 240 – 00.	External Audit Fee.
N & J Tree Services Ltd.	£ 743 – 60.	Maintenance Contract – 6 th . Cut.
RoSPA Play Safety Ltd.	£ 124 – 20.	Play Equipment Inspection Fee.
John Bourne.	£	Clerk's & Cemetery Recorder's Salaries.
John Bourne.	£ 140 – 00.	Clerk's Expenses.
Urban Vision.	£ 4,505 – 58.	Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Work.
National Allotment Association.	£ 66 – 00.	Subscription.
Seirretto Ltd.	£ 80 – 00.	SSL for Website.

112:19. Correspondence.

Invitation to Private Tour of Westminster from Karen Bradley M. P.

Information on Affordable Housing from Peak Park Housing.

Proposals for Manchester Air Space.

Clerk & Councils Direct – September 2019 Issue.

113:19. Matters to be Discussed on Notice.

Councillor Woodward proposed that, due to problems hearing proceedings due to background noise, meetings of the Council should revert to being held in the Church House.

A lengthy discussion took place on whether audio assistance could be introduced.

It was reported that the Church House was only available on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

However if the day of the meeting was changed to Wednesday the Village Hall was free of other parties and the meeting room would be quieter.

An amendment was proposed, seconded and agreed that the next two Council meetings be held on the first Wednesday of the month in the present meeting room as an experiment.

At this point a discussion took place on a possible new regime for the Council being devoid of Committees. It was agreed that, rather than having fixed Committees, Working Groups would be formed with one person being responsible for arranging the meetings with any Councillor available to attend. These Working Groups to report back to the full Council.

An initial meeting would be arranged to peruse the Standing Orders.

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee would need to remain in office.

A passing mention was made of a possible training session for Councillors. This to be investigated.

114:19. Matters for the District Council.

There were no items for the District Council.

115:19. Matters for the County Council.

There were no items for the County Council.

116:19. Items to be raised at the Next Meeting.

Vacancy on the Council.

Projects for Community Funding.

Reasons for Apologies.

Risk Assessment.

Confidential items – Land at Sytch Road.

Holly Bush car park.

Clerk's & Cemetery Recorder's Salaries.

117:19. Items for the Website.

Notice of Co-option of Councillor.

118:19. Confidential Items.

Councillor P. Turner gave a report on the ongoing procedure for the proper assessment of the Holly Bush car park project.

A review of the Clerk's and Cemetery Recorder's salaries was deferred until the next meeting.