

## **BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>. November 2019 at Brown Edge Village Hall, School Bank, Brown Edge, Stoke on Trent.

Present: Councillor L. Lea (Chair), also District Councillor.

Councillors N. Hargreaves, J. Sherratt, D. Spooner, P. Turner & P. Woodward.

County Councillor K. Flunder.

Nine Members of the Public.

### 119:19. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Owen (Work), J. Shufflebotham (Holiday) & S. Turner (Holiday).

### 120:19. Adjournment of Meeting for Public Participation.

A member of the public gave a report on the work that Severn Trent had done during recent flooding the Breach Road area and thanked them for their attention.

County Councillor Flunder reported that many Committee meetings and decisions had been postponed due to the imminent national election.

### 121:19. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Lea declared an interest in matters pertaining to planning and the Luncheon Club. Councillor Spooner declared an interest in matters pertaining to the Holly Bush.

### 122:19. Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup>. October 2019 had been circulated and they were duly approved and signed as a true record.

Minutes of the Confidential Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup>. August 2019 were still awaited.

### 123:19. Matters Arising.

The necessary notices of the co-option of a Councillor had been published on the Council's web site and notice board. One letter of application had been received but a verbal application had been received at the start of the meeting. It was agreed that this verbal notice should be ignored as it had not arrived within the stated time scale. It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously that Karen Wright should be co-opted onto the Council. She then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Electoral Office would be informed.

Chair Lea had contacted Karen Bradley M.P. asking for her to take up the matter of flooding in Sandy Lane and Breach Road. She would be looking into the matter with Severn Trent. As reported earlier in the meeting the organisation had responded to some emergency flooding last month.

Councillor Woodward and Councillor Corbett had met with some of the complainants and the owner of the land in Willfield Lane on the problem with the unregistered footpath over his land. Residents of Fairfield Avenue wished for access on the land to be able to maintain their fences while others wished to exercise their dogs on the land as they had done for a number of years. The owner refused these requests but offered to sell a strip of land adjacent to the Parish Council. Thanks were expressed to the owner and the residents for attending the meeting. The matter would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

As previously mentioned the damage to a manhole cover in Sytch Road had been reported to Staffs. County Council and acknowledged. A later report had now been received stating that the issue did not require immediate attention.

One quotation for the painting of all of the seats in the cemetery had been received. This matter was left in abeyance as another quotation was expected.

Various ideas for future Climate Change projects were again mentioned. Wild flower meadows were to be further investigated with possible help from Staffs. Wildlife Trust and a local enthusiast from Biddulph. The Bank End area could be one of the areas and it was agreed to obtain some ideas of the cost of the preparation and the purchase of seeds.

The issues with giving reasons such as "holiday" etc for Councillors apologies for absence was left in abeyance while the Working Group were studying possible changes to the Council's Standing Orders.

#### 124:19. Other Matters for Discussion.

A quotation of £250 – 00 plus mileage allowance had been received for Councillors on site training had been received from Staffs. Parish Councils' Association It was agreed to accept this amount and to configure dates for the session in January 2020.

Questions had been asked about the future of the defibrillator sited on Keith's News which was scheduled for demolition. The Clerk had consulted with the Chair and had approached a local contractor and given him instructions to re-site the equipment. This action was sanctioned.

Mention was made of a forthcoming 100<sup>th</sup>. birthday of a resident. In line with past experiences it was agreed to purchase a bouquet to present to the resident on her birthday on 28<sup>th</sup>. November.

#### 125:19. Reports & Actions.

The Cemetery Recorder reported that there had been one headstone fee received.

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee gave an update on recent activities of the Committee. There had been some confusion with AECOM on the map of sites etc. A meeting of the Committee had been arranged for Monday 11<sup>th</sup>. November 2019 at 7-30p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Working Group studying the Standing Orders had met several times. Laws governing these had been changed since the Council's current orders were set several years ago. With these in mind a new set of Standing Orders have been formulated and will now be typed up and then be presented to the January 2020 meeting of the Council. There is quite possibly a need to have a session with all Councillors to explain the impact these new Orders will have.

#### 126:19. Planning.

The following planning application was discussed and it was agreed to forward no comments to:

SMD/2019/0520 Revised Description / Amended Plans for Two Storey Side Extension, Single Storey Rear Extension & Adding a Porch to the Front at 25 Lea Vista, High Lane, Brown Edge.

#### 127:19. Finance.

The necessary forms to update the banking mandate with the Council's bank would be completed now that there was a full Council in office.

128:19 Orders for Payment.

It was agreed that the following items be paid:

Adrian J. Mason.	£ 80 – 00.	Litter Picking Fee.
Waterplus.	£ 21 – 13.	Lawn Cemetery Supply.
N & J Tree Services Ltd.	£ 755 – 60.	Maintenance Contract – 8 <sup>th</sup> . Cut.
E-on.	£ 468 – 64.	Street Lighting Charges.
British Gas.	£ 8 – 69.	Lawn Cemetery Electricity Supply.

129:19. Correspondence.

Information had been received from Karen Bradley M.P. regarding Loneliness & Isolation Directory which she had put together. Further copies would be obtained for Councillors.

Other information received included:

Notice of SPCA Annual General Meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>. December 2019 together with its Annual Report & Accounts.  
Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2019 issue.

130:19. Matters to be Discussed on Notice.

Councillor Woodward proposed that the Council becomes formally involved with WhatsApp Social Media.

It was agreed that before a decision could be made on this legal advice should be obtained from Staffs. Parish Councils' Association.

131:19. Matters for the District Council.

There were no items for the District Council.

132:19. Matters for the County Council.

There were no items for the County Council.

133:19. Items to be raised at the Next Meeting.

Mention was made of some Councillors recent visit to a meeting at Staffs. Moorlands District Council on Dementia. This matter to be discussed at the next meeting on what can be done as a village.

134:19. Items for the Website.

The Neighbourhood Plan meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup>. November 2019.

135:19. Confidential Items.

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

A review of the Clerk's and Cemetery Recorder's salaries was again deferred until the next meeting after the Contracts of Employment had been perused.