

Minutes of Brown Edge Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 remotely via Zoom at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors – Cllr. Turner (Chairman), Cllr. Shufflebotham, Cllr. Corbett, Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft, Cllr. Sherratt, Cllr. Hargreaves, Cllr. Owen and Cllr. Felton

8 members of the public were also present. Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

1. Chairman’s Welcome and Announcements: The Chairman opened the meeting with Seasons Greetings and fond memories of Mrs Boon who always brought out the mince pies at the December meetings.

2. Cllr. Felton was accepted into the office of Councillor by the Full Council

3. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Wright – illness

Cllr. Woodward (Vice Chairman) – family commitment.

Cllr. Lea (SMDC) full District Council meeting

Cllr. Porter (SMDC) full District Council meeting

Cllr. Flunder (SCC) full District Council meeting

4. Public Participation: No members of the public were present.

5. District Councillors Report: None present

6. County Councillor Report: None present

7. Declaration of Interest:

Cllr. Owen – Maintenance Contract.

8. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Council then duly approved that the minutes of **4th November 2020 Full Council Meeting** could be signed as a true record. It was noted that this meeting was not well attended.

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

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:

A November Extra Ordinary Meeting was called on 25th November following a request from the Vendor of the Holly Bush Pub for the Council to sign a confidentiality agreement. The Parish Council have agreed to sign this so that further negotiations can continue. The Minutes of this meeting will be presented at the January meeting for authorisation.

9. Resolutions being pursued – Activity Tracker - The Chairman reviewed the list of tasks in progress. Cllr. Owen reported that the Hooping Wall Culvert still has not been cleared by County. Clerk has reported this. Clerk to ask Cllr. Flunder to check progress.

a) Seeds for Wildflower Meadow have not yet been purchased because the weather has not been favourable.

b) Wester Power Festive Grant Fund - The Council have been successful in the application for £500.00 for help for vulnerable residents during the festive period. The Chairman asked the Council if they agree to share the fund with Endon if the need goes over the border of the Parish. Clerk to contact the volunteers and Cllr Lea and Cllr Porter who are co-ordinating this.

All in Favour

- c) **Councillor Drop in** - Cllr. Flunder has not confirmed a date yet for a virtual Councillor drop in. It will need publicising when a date (normally on a Saturday) is set. Clerk to confirm a date with County, District and Parish for January.
- d) **Weight restriction for Hough Hill.** Cllr Corbett declared an interest with living close by. A discussion was had about HGV's and the local companies that might use that road. Cllr. Felton asked if there has been a change in network infrastructure to make more HGV's use that route. Weight restrictions would mean businesses would suffer which have operated for years. A discussion was had around this. It was decided to ask the County Council why there is so much traffic using that route and who we can talk to officially. Cllr Felton suggested signage 'Not suitable for HGV'. A Traffic Survey can be undertaken to get some data.

All in Favour

- e) **Report from Transport Sub-Committee meeting at SMDC** – Cllr. Felton reported that Jo Bagnall had presented various maps, the group decided they needed a digital mapping device to add information to. Aim to create cycle and footpath networks across the Moorlands. A discussion was had about funding available for Climate Change projects. Rail links have also been mentioned. Sustainability corridors for leisure and work travel were also discussed.
- f) **Electric Charging Facilities for Villages** – As electric cars advance there is going to be a demand for charging points. There two options for operating chargers – one to charge the public direct for charging, or one to rent out the space to other supply companies who would then charge the public. There are some grants available to supplement installation of electric charging points if the village finds some locations which would be suitable.
- g) **Christmas Activities** – Carnival committee lights and signage are in progress. Christmas trees are also in progress. Santa Sleigh was mentioned but not confirmed by the Round Table to date. Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft has been promoting the competition on Social Media. 3 categories – Winners to get £50 voucher (Success Insights, Holdcroft Heating, N&J Tree Services to sponsor and judge). A permanent tree was discussed for planting in the future. Cllr. Hargreaves mentioned looking into tree planting in other places in the village. Clerk to check for sources of funding
- h) **Footpaths in the Village** – A discussion was had about the map of Definitive Footpaths. Cllr. Corbett suggested the Council needs to meet with other members of the community who know the footpaths. Cllr. Felton has started to research the paths and make a record of all the routes. Problem areas are to be documented and photographed. Some are in poor condition. Cllr. Turner suggested there is confusion about who is responsible, as the County have withdrawn a lot of funding.

10. Financial Matters & Governance:

- a) **Authorisation of Payments** - It was moved to pay the following items:

Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary & Expenses (Nov)	Chq. No. 000979	£420.40
N&J Tree Services Ltd. 7 th Maintenance Visit	Chq. No. 000980	£781.20
Mrs L. D Lea – Expenses – Poppy Wreath and Pansies and Shrubs	Chq. No. 000981	£155.69
Water Plus Ltd – Cemetery Water Rates	Chq. No. 000982	£56.56
NSALG – National Allotment Society – Membership fee	Chq. No. 000983	£66.00
Mr P. Woodward – Bouquet and card for 101 yr old resident	Chq. No. 000984	£9.39
HMRC – Clerk Paye and NI	Chq. No. 000985	£127.53

Proposed – Cllr. Turner Holdcroft – Seconded –Cllr. Shufflebotham – All in favour

- b) **Cemetery Recorders Report** – The Clerk read out the report prepared by Mr Bourne of transactions received during November. A tree has fallen into the Cemetery. The Maintenance team have removed

it. Due to current lockdown a meeting has not been possible with the neighbour whose trees they are, but this needs to be organised in the new year.

8.30pm – Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft left the meeting

- c) **Review of Cemetery Fees** – A discussion was had about the charges for Cemetery fees compared with other places in the County. It was decided to do some research into other local Parish charges so Brown Edge can be compared. It was discussed to increase fees over a five-year period. The land of the Cemetery has already been purchased by the residents through the precept, so prices were kept low for local parishioners. Cllr. Hargreaves stated that this is a fair price locally for all involved. Cllr. Owen commented on the large difference between the City and the Staffordshire Moorlands on fees. Running costs were discussed and an increase necessary to cover this. Maintenance also needs to be accounted for. Changing times were discussed – woodland burials, the whole look of a burial ground needs to be looked at for the future. The wall at the front needs repairing. The Chairman mentioned looking ahead to start preparing the new cemetery and applying for outline planning permission. The Chairman suggested because of the Budget in January the Council needs to decide now what increase for next year, followed by the working group research after that.

Cllr. Owen Proposed 20% increase – Cllr Corbett Seconded

Cllr. Hargreaves proposed an amendment that if this is agreed it should then be frozen for at least 2 years. There was no seconder so the decision went back to the original proposal

4 votes for – 1 against – increase by 20% - Motion carried

Clerk to put on the Agenda for January to form a Cemetery working group.

- d) **Financial Statement** - Clerk presented a statement of all bank accounts to date.

NatWest Current A/c - 16528514	£29,525.66
NatWest Business Reserve - 16528522	£11,118.22
Leek United Building Society	£74,338.40
Total in Banks	£114,982.28
Cash	£0.00

Draft Budget Report - The Clerk gave a summary of the Budget planning working group meeting. A discussion was had about the Council needing to agree that they are going to fund certain projects. Clerk asked to make sure all the jobs to do on the Tracker are in the Budget. The Council need to put down ideas for the things they want to achieve in 2021. Clerk to work on a copy of the old style budget but to also work on Scribe to see if a comparison can be achieved to present to the Council in January. Cllr. Corbett proposed to have an Extra Ordinary Meeting in January to discuss the budget.

11. Correspondence:

- a) **Letter from Cllr. Sybil Ralphs to support the Rail feasibility study.** Cllr Turner replied himself because he could not speak on behalf of the Council. The short notice was unusual from SMDC and it was discussed that it may have been because of a Grant application deadline for funding. The Cheddleton to Leek line is under discussion and if this is successful Stoke to Leek line may follow.
- b) **E-mail via website to Cllr. Lea from a resident** regarding making a footpath into an area with planters to stop vehicles reversing and churning up the ground.
- c) **Resident request to purchase a Memorial bench** – on hold from June, a decision was postponed until December because of various problems which had arose surrounding benches in the past. The Council decided that they will purchase a good quality bench which residents can then purchase a plaque. The Council would then be responsible for siting the bench appropriately and maintenance. Costs need to be researched for the bench and plaques plus installation costs and divided between the three memorials.

This will give more people the opportunity for a memorial as not everyone can have a bench. Item to be added to the Cemetery working group agenda. Clerk to write to the resident.

Cllr Corbett Proposed – Cllr. Owen -Seconded – Motion Carried

12. Items on Notice

- a) **Cllr Turner moved that the Cemetery notice board is replaced and the wall is repaired** -A discussion was had about the notice board and the cracked wall. Cllr. Hargreaves to have a look at the problem with the wall. It was agreed to go ahead and purchase a notice board.

Proposed- Cllr. Owen - Seconded – Cllr. Corbett – Motion Carried

13. Items for the attention of other local authorities:

- a) Matters for the District Council: already discussed
b) Matters for the County Council: already discussed

14. Planning Applications and Related Issues:

SMD/2020/0637 – 197 High Lane, Brown Edge – Clerk to write to the Planning department to express the Councils concern about the zebra crossing. The Council would like a Pelican Crossing as it needs to be better lit to make it more visible.

SMD/2020/0651 – Copes Cottage, Broad Lane, Brown Edge – No objection

15. Matters Pertaining to Issues in the Parish for the Next Agenda

- a) **Appraisal of the Clerk – 12-month review.** A discussion was had about the HR working group becoming a formal Committee, so the outcomes are accountable. All employees should be treated the same. Training was discussed. One to one regular meetings were suggested. ***All in Favour***
- b) **Local Council Award Scheme** – Clerk to find out more information about joining and the cost. Item for the next Agenda. Councillor training was discussed to be added to the next agenda.

The Chairman closed the meeting and wished everyone Seasons Greetings.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council will continue to hold remote meetings unless otherwise advised. In line with Standing Orders these meetings will be the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Meeting was closed 22.06

I hereby state this is a correct account of the monthly meeting held by Brown Edge Parish Council.		
Signed: (Chair)	Councillor	Date: