



MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021
BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL – 7.00PM

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

One member of the public was in attendance.

Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Lea (SMDC) - approved leave of absence

3. Parishioners Concerns: A parishioner has asked the Council to repair the problems with the wall at Sunnyside.

4. PCSO Report: Unfortunately, the PCSO was unable to attend this evening due to other work commitments.

5. District Councillor Report: Cllr Porter item to be later on the agenda due to clash of meetings and apologies for late arrival.

6. County Councillor Report: Cllr. Keith Flunder

- **Vaccination Program** – Pop up testing will now slow down. The County are now concentrating on getting Young People vaccinated. It is predicted that there could be a surge of positive Covid results when children go back to school. Phase 3 Booster vaccinations are now being discussed.
- **D.H.P** – A paper and online survey is being developed for the Highways working group so that they can gather evidence to support the project ideas for Highway improvements in the Village. An onsite meeting on High Lane is required with the Highways Officer to decide on the Speed Indication Device (SID) location. The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee at Staffordshire County Council are looking for new ideas for road safety initiatives and welcome ideas from the Parish Council and Members of the Public.
- **Newcastle Quarry** – Reports of the smell from the problematic quarry have been reported 6-7 miles away.
- **Access to Primary Care is to be improved.**
- **Corporate Help and Advice** is available to businesses to aid recovery from the Pandemic.
- **Libraries** are doing lots of reading initiatives including the Tolkein walk at Cannock Chase.
- **Family Hubs** – move by Cllr Flunder to re-brand into Community Hubs.
- **Staffordshire County Council Members Community Fund** – now open for applications from Community Groups. Please contact Cllr. Flunder about your project before you apply. (Christmas Lights/ Luncheon Club were mentioned).

The Chairman thanked Cllr Flunder for his report.

7. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Owen declared a pecuniary interest in the Maintenance Contract

8. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th August 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed – Cllr. Sherratt – Seconded – Cllr. Wright – Motion Carried

9. Co-option to fill the Vacancy on the Council: Item moved to later on the agenda so that Cllr. Porter can be present.

10. Matters Arising from previous meetings:

a) Social Media Policy review – Item moved to the Legal and HR Committee

b) Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership and Community Speedwatch

Date booked for Wednesday 20th October at 7pm at Brown Edge Village Hall. All members of the Community are welcome to attend.

c) Council/ Community Archive Documentation

The Clerk has collected the documents from Mr Bourne. A discussion was had about storage. New Projects Committee to research a safe for the important documents and a display cabinet suitable for the Best Kept Village memorabilia.

d) The Holly Bush Project

SMDC have now received the necessary documents to move forward with the valuation for due diligence. The Legal and HR Committee need to look at the different types of Community Organisations, one of which needs to be formed to progress the project. Research was suggested with the Auctioneers Arms in Caverswall who have undertaken a similar project successfully. The Council decided to advertise in The Parish News for interested members of the public to come forward to form a Steering Group.

Clerk was asked to find the plans which the Council had drawn up by architects previously.

All in favour

e) High Lane Bus Shelter Replacement. It was resolved that the Maintenance of Assets Committee shall decide which Shelter and negotiate through the Clerk for the best insurance offer.

Return to Item 9. - Co-option to fill the Vacancy on the Council:

Two nominations had been received to apply for the Vacancy to be filled by Co-option on Brown Edge Parish Council. The candidates both gave excellent presentations to the Council.

A vote was then cast by paper ballot. The votes were counted by the Clerk and the result announced: The Council welcomed Mr Anthony Bedson of Hill Top, who will join Brown Edge Parish Council when he signs his acceptance of office at the next meeting of the Council.

11. Resolutions being pursued – Committee reports

a) Legal & H.R. Committee - Chairman Cllr. Corbett, Cllr Turner and Cllr Owen.

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 7pm.

b) Maintenance Committee – Chairman Cllr. Wright, Cllr. Woodward and Cllr. Hargreaves.

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7pm

c) New Projects Committee – Chairman Cllr. Felton, Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft and Cllr. Sherratt.

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 4pm

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

None to report this month.

Cllr. Flunder left the meeting due to being on the District Planning Committee.

13. Planning Applications and Related Issues:

SMD/2021/0511 – Heakley, 68 High Lane, Brown Edge –Demolition of existing single storey double garage and detached stone store and construction of new dormer triple garage with office and playroom- **Decision: No objection All in favour**

Cllr. Flunder re-joined the meeting.

14. Finance & Governance:

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

Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary & Expenses (August) (mileage)	Chq No. 001032	£511.96
HMRC PAYE (£10.60 to be deducted from overpayment) £384.04	credit £373.44	£0.00
N&J Tree Services Maintenance Visit 5 (August)	Chq No. 001033	£800.72
Cheque incorrectly written out (cancelled)	Chq No. 001034	£0.00
Seiretto Ltd. Website SSL Cloudflare and additional email storage	Chq No. 001035	£70.79
Mazars LLP – External Audit	Chq No. 001036	£240.00

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

b) Finance Received - NatWest Current Account - Cemetery receipts (August) £85.00

c) Cemetery Recorder Report by Mr Bourne – No burials in August

15. Correspondence:

a) A Letter of congratulations has been sent to Anna Hopkin for her Olympic Success.

b) Resident complaint about overgrown vegetation and overhanging trees in the Bank End area.

The Clerk has reported the problem to Staffordshire County Council and also written to a resident on Thelma Avenue whose tree is overgrown. It was discussed about the reduction of vegetation being cut back by the County Highways team in a bid to improve areas for wildlife and wildflower. A discussion was had about a balanced approach – some left wild some cut back to keep the village tidy. Cllr. Woodward suggested having a clear map to refer to and to publish for the public to view with the responsibilities listed for the County and the District Councils. Clerk to research for more information about responsibilities. Cllr. Hargreaves suggested having a vision of how the paths and green areas should look and having a plan for the year which the public are involved/aware of so that they understand the reasoning behind either cutting back or not cutting for wildlife. To resolve the current problem, it was decided to ask the Parish Maintenance team to cut back the vegetation.

Proposed – Cllr Corbett – Seconded – Cllr Sherratt – Motion carried

c) Resident complaint about further disruption on the roads at Hill Top.

A discussion was had regarding the ongoing issues at Hill Top with HGV's using the lane. The Highways working group need to talk to the experts on road management. Cllr Flunder said that changes to roads like this need to come from County or National Level. It is not something a Parish Council can change. It is a country wide

problem across Great Britain. Signs were discussed. Cllr Flunder stressed that evidence would be needed to support the request for signage.

d) Staffordshire Crime Commissioner

Ben Adams has asked Parish Councillors to tell him what is affecting their villages. An email address has been dedicated to Parish Issues for Council use. A discussion was had about having the PCSO/ 101 contact information on the Notice boards.

Cllr. Porter reported that the PCSO's are opening their monthly drop-in surgeries to the public soon.

Cllr. Woodward left the meeting 8.45pm

e) Manchester Airport Consultation

A link to the Manchester Airport Consultation progress has been provided if anyone would like to read up on the progress so far.

f) Notice of Road Diversion

Clerk notified the Council of roadworks scheduled for New Lane on 23rd September 9.30am – 3pm for BT works.

16. Items on Notice:

a) Cllr Woodward to move to authorise works on play equipment – Clerk apologised as Cllr. Woodward had not asked for this item to be on this agenda.

b) Cllr. Woodward to move to erect a new decorative signpost on the junction of High Lane/ Sytch Road. Item to be put on the activity tracker to be considered by the New Projects Committee. A discussion was had about a previous sign in that location which has no longer there.

Return to Item 5. District Councillor Report: Cllr. Joe Porter

- 21st August saw another successful Litter pick in the Village, some new volunteers attended and some fly tipping was discovered on Tongue Lane. Cllr. Porter invited more Councillors to get involved. Fly tipping costs SMDC £38,000 a year to clear. There is a big campaign on social media. Household appliances can be collected for a small fee which is then donated to charity. There is no need to dump rubbish.
- Road Safety Signs designed by school children in the Village. Another 8 signs to be funded by Cllr. Porters Councillor Initiative fund for High Lane.
- Hedgehog awareness signs – locations of Hedgehogs in the village can be reported to District to be considered for warning signs to slow traffic and create awareness of wildlife protection in those zones. 9.30am-1pm from 8th September onwards. Biddulph Town Hall is also open and Cheadle Councils Connect on Mondays only.
- S.M.D.C Moorlands House is re-opening
- Leek Market is moving to the Market Square.
- Village Sports Grant – now open for applications.
- Food Collections were gathered from residents by Cllr. Porter and delivered to the Food Bank on 17th August
- Afghanistan resettlement program has started with two properties being made available in the Moorlands so far.

17. Items for the attention of other local authorities:

a) Matters for the District Council:

Shelter on Playing Field – young people reported on the roof. Police presence to be requested on Friday evenings.

b) Matters for the County Council: To look at Highways Maintenance programme for grass cutting.

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

- Cllr Wright reported a broken seat on the baby swings in the Play area. The maintenance committee have removed the broken swing seat.
- Cllr Turner-Holdcroft requested Christmas Lights to be on the Next Agenda

19. Meeting was closed by the Chairman

Meeting Ended at 21.15

Next meeting of Brown Edge Parish Council – Wednesday 6th October 2021 at Brown Edge Village Hall – 7.00pm

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

DRAFT