



MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2021
BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL – 7.00PM

Present: Councillors – Cllr. Turner (Chairman), Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft, Cllr. Sherratt, Cllr. Hargreaves, Cllr. Bedson, Cllr. Owen, Cllr. Porter (SMDC) and Cllr. Flunder (SCC).

Three members of the public were in attendance.

Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting. The Chair explained the hybrid meeting as the Clerk was attending remotely via zoom due to suspected Covid. The Chairman reported several technical issues with the Clerk's emails and some emails have been lost. The website has also been intermittent. The server has now been checked and is understood an update has occurred. Item 16 is listed as confidential, but the Council may decide to make this a public item.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Lea (SMDC) - approved leave of absence
Cllr. Felton (Vice Chairman) – family commitment
Cllr. Woodward – holiday
Cllr. Wright – holiday
Cllr. Corbett – work commitment

3. Parishioners Concerns: A member of the public asked about progress with Hough Hill traffic situation. This will be discussed during Cllr. Flunder's report.

A member of the public asked if the wildflower meadow needs to be cut? The Chairman replied that he was unsure of the method to best look after the wildflowers as there are many perennials in amongst it. The Chairman will have a look at the advice which came with the seed.

A question about the entrances to Chestnut Road. Because it is privately owned the Council do not think there is anything they can do at present unless they take ownership of it.

PCSO Report: The local PCSO gave a brief report. A discussion was had about the problems which have been reported on the playground. The PCSO's are now checking the site regularly. A discussion was then had regarding the problems on Hough Hill about it being a C class road, the Council asked if the police do have the power to do anything?

PCSO drop-in sessions have started at Keith's supermarket - Saturday 10am-12noon, at Endon Church on Monday mornings and Jacksons nurseries on Saturday afternoons (Dates to be confirmed).

The Chairman thanked the PCSO for coming to the meeting.

4. District Councillor Report: Cllr. Porter item to be scheduled for later in the agenda due to apologies for late arrival.

5. County Councillor Report: Cllr. Keith Flunder

- **Vaccination Program** – the pop-up test caravans are being converted to vaccination caravans around the district.
- **D.H.P** – A meeting with Stoke-on-Trent City Council with the working group is to be arranged to help get funding for traffic calming.
- **Community Fund applications end on 31st October** – please get community projects to apply. Ideas were discussed for the Historic Markers for the village with technology to scan. Community groups are still struggling to get back up and running. Please help them apply.
- **Afghanistan refugees** have been welcomed into Staffordshire and some families to the Moorlands.
- **Mental Health Questionnaire** – Please share and get as many people to fill in as possible.
- **Libraries** are doing lots of activities -please check their website – there could be some good opportunities for isolated people. Spread the word in the Parish News please.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Flunder for his report.

6. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Owen declared a pecuniary interest in the Maintenance Contract.

Cllr. Hargreaves also has a pecuniary interest in a payment to be authorised for play equipment repairs.

7. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st September 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman. *Proposed – Cllr. Hargreaves – Seconded – Cllr. Turner Holdcroft – Motion Carried*

8. Matters Arising from previous meetings:

a) The Holly Bush Project

SMDC have offered dates to the Council in November to discuss the project. Matter to be discussed under item 16.

b) High Lane Bus Shelter Replacement

The Council have been successful in receiving an insurance claim of £2,495.00. The damaged Shelter now needs to be removed and relocated if salvageable. The Maintenance Committee to decide on the model of new shelter to be ordered.

c) Play Equipment Repairs – Clerk reported that Cllr. Wright's husband had repaired the infant swing. All other repairs are in progress organised by the Maintenance Committee.

d) Brown Edge Bake Off Event - The weather was fine Cllr Porter reported that all went well and that it would be a good annual event. Tina reported to the Clerk that funds raised reached almost £800.00 for the football club. Thanks was given to everyone who helped put on the event. Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Tina so she can thank all involved for putting on a successful event for the Community, post Covid.

e) Christmas Lights 2021 – It was suggested to ask more business sponsors to donate prizes. Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft proposed a map and a public vote for the winners. A discussion was had about the banners to promote. The Council resolved to support the project. Item to be on the next Agenda.

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

9. Resolutions being pursued – Committee reports

A discussion was had about the Committee reports being made public and the Clerk to post these onto the website. Clerk to also update the Tracker with jobs the Committees want adding.

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

Cllr. Turner went to the SMDC Parish Assembly as the Parish representative. It was discussed at the assembly about dog walking laws in the public park. To be clear they are not allowed at all to cross the park. The signs will need changing to make this clear. Because children play in that area, cleaning up after dogs is not adequate. This is why there is a complete ban with a £1000.00 fine.

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

11. Planning Applications and Related Issues:

SMD/2021/0277 - The Cottage, St Annes Vale - 2 number windows cut in stone gable, 1 ground floor, 1 first floor
Decision: No objection - All in favour

SMD/2021/0599 - 194 High Lane, Brown Edge - Proposed conversion of former Post Office to form 2 residential dwellings. **Decision: No objection but comments were discussed to draw attention to include making sure there is adequate parking, building structure if they start to take the front out, the location for bins and public bus stop relocation.**

Cllr. Flunder re-joined the meeting.

12. Finance & Governance:

a) Banking;

- i)** Application to activate Nat West online banking has been submitted by the Clerk.
- ii)** The Council resolved for the Clerk to remove signatories from the current account. (Cllr. Basnett, Cllr. Spooner and Cllr. Shufflebotham). Cemetery Recorder John Bourne is still a signatory in Category 1 with the Clerk Denise Wheat. Councillor Signatories are in Category 2 are Cllr. Sherratt, Cllr. Lea, Cllr. Wright and Cllr Turner.
Proposed – Cllr. Bedson – Secoded – Cllr. Sherratt – All in favour

- iii)** Bank Balance. The Clerk presented the balance to the 4th October:

Nat West Current Account:	£29,819.54
Nat West Reserve Account:	£11,117.28
Leek United Account:	£74,444.73
Total:	£115,381.55

- b)** Finance received in September and the Cemetery report by Mr Bourne were presented to the Council:
Total received £2,070.00.

- c)** The Clerk asked to show a quotation from Kompan which the Maintenance Committee have asked for approval to repair the Play Equipment. The Clerk stated that there is a fund in the budget for projects to complete this work. The Council resolved to get the equipment repaired by Kompan as they were the original equipment suppliers.

Proposed Cllr. Hargreaves – Secoded Cllr. Owen – All in favour.

d) Authorisation of payments due

Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary & Expenses (Sept) (mileage, phone, zoom, stationary and printer toner)	Chq No. 001037	£767.42
Mr J Bourne Cemetery Recorder Salary & Expenses (July – September)	Chq No. 001038	£605.87
HMRC PAYE (£10.80 to be deducted from overpayment) £371.44	credit £360.64	£0.00

N&J Tree Services Maintenance Visit 6 (Sept) plus other lenthsmen tasks	Chq No. 001039	£1,496.72
Mr N. Hargreaves (Kompan Parts)	Chq No. 001040	£45.60
RJS Solicitors (Holly Bush car park deposit)	Chq No. 001041	£26,400.00
British Gas Direct Debits	Playing Field	£13.53
	Cemetery (July)	£13.12
	Playing Field	£14.13
	Cemetery (Aug)	£13.55
	Playing Field	£14.51
	Cemetery (Sept)	£13.55

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

13. Correspondence:

- a) **Hooping Wall** - Resident complaint about overgrown vegetation at the Hooping Wall. The Council discussed whose responsibility it is. It is on County Council land, the District have cleared it in the past. The Council resolved to ask the maintenance team to clear this.
Proposed – Cllr. Turner – Seconded – Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft – Motion carried
- b) **Lawn Cemetery Toilets** - Resident question about the opening hours of the Cemetery Toilets. Most of the time they are locked. Could they be opened for certain hours a day so that visitors to the Cemetery can use them? A discussion was had about the purpose of the toilets and the costs that opening them up as public toilets. The Council resolved that it is better to keep the toilets as private for during the time of funerals only. *Proposed Cllr. Turner – Seconded Cllr. Owen – Motion Carried*
- c) **Bank End** - Thank you letter from a resident of Bank End for the clearance of vegetation. The Clerk expressed thanks to the maintenance team on behalf of the Bank End residents. A discussion was had about the responsibility of the Parish Council. A long-term solution was discussed for the different areas around the Parish as there is confusion about who is responsible for doing what.

14. Items on Notice: None to discuss.

15. Items for the attention of other local authorities:

- a) Matters for the District Council: Cllr. Porter asked permission to do his report from item 4.
- PCSO, District and County Councillor Surgeries have started again. 2nd Oct, 23rd Oct, 13th Nov and 4th December 10am – 12noon at Keith’s Supermarket, Brown Edge, and 11th Oct, 1st Nov, 22nd Nov and 13th December 12noon onwards at Endon Community Café at Endon Methodist Church.
 - Recycling has increased to 57.7% in the Staffordshire Moorlands
 - The three District Councillors have agreed to jointly fund £200 towards 6 large children’s road safety signage which the schools have designed.
 - Brown Edge Bake Off was a great event for young people and Cllr. Porter encouraged more people to get involved to carry on the event for future years.
 - Cllr. Porter would like to offer hot Christmas dinners for vulnerable people if the Parish would support him with this project.
 - The Climate Change Action Plan is set to be released soon. A preview was presented to the SMDC. Parish Assembly.
- b) Matters for the County Council: Already discussed.

16. Motion to exclude the Press and Public as detailed in SCHEDULE 12A of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 to discuss the following confidential items:

Proposed – Cllr. Turner Holdcroft – Seconded – Cllr Sherratt – Motion Carried at 20.25pm

a) Legal Matters regarding purchase of Holly Bush

The Chairman pointed out that any discussions regarding the Holly Bush and car park are in confidential business as a result of a legally binding confidentiality agreement at the request of the Vendor. Discussions were held as to how this information should be made available to parishioners. The Vendor had helpfully clarified that any confidentiality was only on the pub itself but not on the car park. Therefore, the Council asked the Chairman to negotiate with that in mind, and the Chairman therefore invited any non-Councillors to attend the meeting as it was no longer required to be under “confidential business”.

b) The Council Resolved to secure the purchase of the Holly Bush car park land with a deposit. Thereafter to enter into a contract to purchase, giving time for a Community Group to be formed and other funding secured.

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

b) Financial Matters regarding purchase of the Holly Bush

The Council agreed to Vire funds currently Earmarked in the budget for the New Cemetery Project as this project is not imminent as there is still up to ten years left of space in the Lawn Cemetery. By transferring the funds in the budget to the Holly Bush project, this will secure the Holly Bush car park purchase with a deposit of £22,000 plus vat (Total £26,400) to be paid to RJS Solicitors.

Proposed – Cllr. Owen – Seconded Cllr. Hargreaves – Motion Carried

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

New items raised by Councillors will be carried forward to the agenda of the next meeting.

Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft asked for VAS signs to be added to the next Agenda.

18. Meeting was closed by the Chairman at 21.22pm

Dates: All meetings are at Brown Edge Village Hall and are open for the public to attend.

New Projects Committee Meeting	Wednesday 20 th October 2021 – 5.30pm
Neighbourhood Plan Committee Meeting	Wednesday 20 th October 2021 – 6pm
Staffordshire Safer Roads and Community Speedwatch Presentation	Wednesday 20 th October 2021 – 7pm
Full Council Meeting	Wednesday 3 rd November 2021 –7pm

I hereby state this is a correct account of the monthly meeting held by Brown Edge Parish Council.

Signed: (Chair)

Councillor

Date: