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## MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022 BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL

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**Present:** Councillors – Cllr. Felton (Chairman), Cllr. Bedson (Vice Chairman) Cllr. Turner, Cllr. Woodward, Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft, Cllr. Wright, Cllr. Hargreaves and Cllr. Owen, Cllr. Porter (SMDC)

15 members of the public were in attendance plus PCSO Sara Staples & Stoke-on-Trent City Cllr. Evans  
Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

**Anesco Presentation** - At 6.30pm Mr. Antony Prewer from Anesco gave a presentation on the proposed Battery Storage Facility on land in Brown Edge Parish off Bemmersley Road Norton Green to Brown Edge Parish Council and members of the public.

The Chairman thanked Mr Prewer for attending. Mr Prewer left the meeting at 7.00pm.

### Ordinary Meeting began at 7.00pm

#### **1. Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:**

Chairman Felton opened the meeting

#### **2. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr. Lea – Dispensation while recovering from illness

Cllr. Flunder – Other Council engagement for County

#### **3. Parishioners Concerns:**

- a) **Hough Hill/ Hill Top** - An update was requested on HGV issues following further congestion this month. Item on the Agenda 10b.
- b) **Brown Edge Carnival** - A member of the Brown Edge Carnival Committee asked if the council could support the Carnival this year? Item on Agenda 11c.
- c) **Bemmersley Road Battery Storage Facility** – Several members of the public expressed that the public consultation for the application had been poor, and that public engagement needs to be done in a more positive way to make sure the public are fully informed. Land off Bemmersley Road is in the Green Belt and farming land will be lost. There is a Brownfield site at Chatterley Whitfield nearby which is three times bigger.

#### **4. District Cllr. Porter had not arrived, so PCSO Staples gave a report:**

From a Police perspective all is well in Brown Edge.

Vape gas cylinder litter issues were mentioned, signs have been put up ahead of the Easter holiday period to prevent unnecessary littering where possible.

A report about young people congregating in the cemetery playing music was mentioned. The PCSO's will regularly patrol the area to check.

**5. County Councillors report:** *Cllr. Flunder in anticipation of his absence had sent the report below:*

- a) Covid up-date.** Infection rates are very high and have gone up over recent weeks. This was partly to blame for the 2-week closure of the Minor Injuries unit at Leek Hospital, which reopened on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>. Children between the ages of 4 and 15 can now be vaccinated.

People will now have to pay for lateral flow tests, also PCR testing is no longer required unless you are asked to have one as part of your employment etc.

**b) County Committee Reports.**

- i. **Health Committee:** Investigating what services can/will be supplied at the Leek and Cheadle hospitals during the current transitions that are taking part across the NHS services.
- ii. **Prosperous Committee:** Waiting on the Bus inquiry day to be rescheduled and the Rural Bus strategy. The main area that the committee is working on is the Highways Infrastructure Transformation.
- iii. **Corporate Parenting Panel:** This panel has been split into groups to look at specific subjects with some of the older children and those who are care leavers taking part in evening sessions at the Voice project centre.
- iv. **Family Improvement Board and visits;** Quarterly meeting – main topic is the Children's Services transformation process, the 'starting' date of which was April 1st. Cllr Flunder will continue to send information from the various services and groups providing support services for families and children across the Moorlands area.

The County Committees are planning what they will be doing and scrutinising over the coming year.

- **Economic;** In recent months the numbers claiming universal credit has gone up, but there are still many job vacancies. There are also many projects and support grants etc. for business's and those looking for apprenticeships and training.
- **Libraries:** There are many services being delivered though both the County run and Community Libraries throughout Staffordshire and most are now providing similar or even more services than they provided before the pandemic.
- **Funding Opportunities:** There are 2 'new' grants - The first is the Western Power Distribution grant up to £10,000 per application concerning social isolation and aloneness. The second is the early re-opening of the County Councillors community

fund that I hope will re-open around April 19<sup>th</sup>. This was to provide some support to the Jubilee celebrations in early June.

- **Highways and DHP;** We are still looking to promote and find local support for a Speed Watch group to be established across Endon, Brown Edge and Norton Green. Can we please ask the PC if they will pay for half the cost of the 'Speed Gun' That has enabled the training days to be booked with up to 30 places over 3 sessions on May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup>. Venue to be confirmed, they take about 3 hours for each session and include a roadside practical. Please promote and advertise the Speed Watch training sessions. I did talk to 2 residents about the speed of traffic at the last Councillors / PCSO surgery at Keith's supermarket on March 19<sup>th</sup>, I hope they and others will come forward and put their names down. The more people who take part the less each person will need to do.
- **HGV Signage Hill Top:** I have sent through some information to Cllr. Bedson with regard to the process that is undertaken regarding any weight (and I think width) restrictions to be looked into by the County Council. Please note I have requested that £1,000 from my DHP fund is allocated to get the process started as soon as possible. I was hoping for a letter or email of support from the Parish Council could be discussed at the meeting under 10. B) i)

#### **County Council Actions and on-going issues.**

- **Climate Change Fund** - The application to the County Fund for Climate Change for £400 has been approved for Brown Edge by Cllr. Flunder and thanks were given for the invite to the Orchard Tree Planting on Bank End, 'I hope this will be looked after and grow into a great community asset'.
  - **Jubilee services** - Cllr. Flunder can provide some effects / services if the community would like support for the jubilee weekend, please do get in touch.
6. **District Councillors report:** *Cllr. Porter had sent apologies for expected late arrival due to train times. Item to be moved to later in the meeting.*
7. **Declarations of Interest:**  
Cllr. Owen declared a pecuniary interest in Maintenance Contract (Item 11c and 15c)  
Cllr. Hargreaves declared an interest in Finance item (Item 15c)  
Cllr. Bedson declared an interest in the Carnival Committee and Jubilee working group (Item 12d and 15c)
8. **The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022** and the Extraordinary Minutes from the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March were approved and signed by the Chairman.  
[Approved Minutes – Brown Edge Parish Council \(browndge-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.browndge-pc.gov.uk)

***Cllr. Porter arrived 7.35pm***

**Cllr Porter then gave his District Report to the Council (Item 6)**

- Regular Police/Councillor surgeries are going well at the local supermarket.
- Litter picking network now has 50 volunteers. Thank you to the Co-op who recently supported a Raffle for litter picking equipment, and they raised over £100.
- Cllr Porter is now on the independent scrutiny panel for Fire and Police and has met with the chief inspectors of both services.
- 1 million pounds had been earmarked for 'The Arts' in the Moorlands
- Leek Market Hall - ideas are forming to encourage sustainability and to buy local.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – working with them on more projects for nature restoration and tackling Climate Change.
- Ukraine – Donations have been sent to refugees from the Moorlands. Residents are preparing to take refugee families into their homes.
- Through Support Staffordshire, Alliance Environmental Services are investing in community projects
- Endon Stormtroopers have a project in memory of 'Matthew'. They have offered some native trees to plant if Brown Edge Parish Council would like some for any locations in the village.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Porter for his report.

**9. Co-option to fill vacancies on the Council:**

Cllr. Joe Porter gave a short presentation to the council to say why he would like to represent Brown Edge as a Parish Councillor in addition to his District role.

He has over 8 years working in local government and has been a member of the District Council for Endon and Brown Edge Ward since 2019. Working hard equally in both villages, he is a voice for youth in the area. He is visible and accessible to talk to and will work hard to play an active role on the council team including continuing his work with the volunteer litter pickers.

A secret ballot vote was then held; the Clerk counted the votes and announced the result.

Cllr. Porter was then congratulated on being Co-opted and subject to declaration of interest being completed, will join the Parish Council at the next meeting.

It was discussed that candidates presentation to the council for Co-option had put potential applicants off. This will be re-considered at the Annual meeting for future Co-option vacancies. One vacancy remained unfilled at present.

**10. Matters Arising from the previous meeting:**

- a) A report was given by the Chairman of cars being parked on verges around the Church Road area. The PSCO has put parking warning tickets on the cars. SMDC have the

power to enforce parking fines by a Traffic Warden Officer. Cllr. Porter was asked to find out more from District about this for the next meeting.

- b) i. The Clerk wrote to Cllr. Flunder and asked for help through the DHP. Cllr. Flunder has requested County Highways to clarify what the weight restrictions should be. He will also enquire with SMDC who grant the commercial licenses what the conditions state in the operator's license. The DHP can fund £1000 to do a feasibility study to determine what needs to be done.
- ii. Clarification was requested regarding the enforcement of fines for the HGV problems on Hill Top. PCSO Staples replied that the police cannot enforce fines where there is no signage to state restrictions.
- If damage is done to people's properties because of the narrow lanes, each incident needs to be logged with Staffordshire Police by the resident, registration numbers taken and company name if possible. The police can then follow this up as an incident.
- A discussion was then had regarding placing signage off the Highway in adjacent fields. Face to face engagement was discussed. The Chairman offered to visit the depots with PCSO Staples to speak to the management.

***Proposed – Cllr. Wright – Seconded – Cllr. Woodward – All in favour***

**c) Rural Sports Village Initiative Fund**

The Clerk presented an idea for adult outdoor gym equipment. A quote was presented from Broxap for £8000.00. An idea for improving the football pitch was discussed. Clerk to gather a quotation for Astroturf for the goals. Clerk to enquire about the gym idea to see if it would be eligible for the grant.

***Proposed – Cllr. Owen – Seconded – Cllr. Turner – All in favour***

**d) Response to the formal complaint from SMDC Planning Committee.**

The Clerk will circulate the email. Item for May Agenda.

**11. Items on Notice:**

**a) Village Floral Display funding.** Cllr. Woodward moved to fund the plants for the village volunteers to refresh the displays around the village. He requested £100.00 to allow sufficient funding to make the flower displays extra special this year for the Jubilee. The Council resolved for the volunteers to purchase plants and ask the supplier to invoice Brown Edge Parish Council. Cllr. Wright also maintains the display on Sandy Lane Well.

***Proposed - Cllr. Woodward – Seconded – Cllr. Turner – All in favour***

**b) Land Registry**

The Clerk has received some information from Mr Bourne that the Playing Field can this year be applied to Land Registry for the Parish Council to hold the full Possessory Title. It was resolved for the Clerk to go ahead and do this.

***Proposed – Cllr. Hargreaves – Seconded – Cllr Wright – All in Favour.***

**c) Annual Brown Edge Carnival**

- i. **Holly Bush Car Park** permission cannot be granted at this time by the Parish Council as they do not own the land until the PWLB loan application is complete and the funds released. The land is owned by Brown Edge Holly Bush Ltd. The Council will contact the Carnival Committee when the situation changes.

The Clerk to check into the legalities of having a fairground with the events department at SMDC.

***Proposed - Cllr Felton – Seconded - Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft – All in favour***

- ii. **Playing Field** – request for use on Carnival Saturday for one day only.  
The council resolved for the Carnival Committee to use the field.

***Proposed - Cllr. Felton – Seconded – Cllr Wright – All in favour***

- iii. The Council resolve to support the Carnival with funding of £600.00

***Proposed 0 Cllr Turner – Seconded – Cllr. Wright – All in favour***

**d) Her Majesty the Queens Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr. Bedson moved to for the Jubilee working group to continue to progress ideas for the Jubilee and to use the funding budgeted £3000 (Jubilee Garden) and the grant (£425 if application is successful from SMDC – not received approval to date) to make the village events a success.

***Proposed – Cllr. Felton – Seconded – Cllr. Owen – All in favour***

**12. Resolutions being pursued:**

**a) Legal & H.R. Committee update:**

- i. **Holly Bush Car Park** – The loan of £175,000.00 has been approved by the Secretary of State and the Clerk has applied to draw down the funding from the Public Works Loan Board.
- ii. **Community Asset Value** –It was RESOLVED by Brown Edge Parish Council to apply to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to register the Holly Bush Project for Community Asset Value.

***Proposed – Cllr. Felton – Seconded – Cllr. Wright – All in Favour***

**b) New Projects Committee update:**

- i. **Community Orchard** – This is the 21<sup>st</sup> Community Orchard to be planted in the Staffordshire Moorlands. Thanks were given to the Councillors, Clerk, Volunteers from the village, Greenway Environmental representatives, County Cllr. Flunder and Cllr. Porter for helping to plant the Community Orchard.  
25 fruit and Nut trees have been planted as part of the Queens Green Canopy pledge. Appreciation was also given to N&J Tree Services for clearing the scrub back in the area on the lower part of Bank End towards the Sytch Well.

Greenway Environmental have sponsored the orchard and also £400 has been received

from the County Climate Grant. The Clerk has ordered a Queens Green Canopy plaque from the Royal British Legion and Greenway Environmental would also be interested in an information board to describe the project and the trees planted. Clerk to look into a design for this.

- ii. **Historic Markers** – Cllr Turner-Holdcroft has researched plaques which can be printed with QR codes. The steel labels are approximately £50 each. For phase A there will need to be 5 purchased. The Council resolved for Cllr. Turner-Holdcroft to apply for the Moorlands Partnership Grant Fund.

***Proposed – Cllr. Owen – Seconded – Cllr. Hargreaves – All in favour***

**c) Maintenance of Assets Committee Report:**

- i. **Repairs to Cemetery Post and Chain** are awaited by the engineer who has said he could do this at no cost.
- ii. **Re-use of the Old High Lane bus shelter** was also discussed if salvageable, but if not it was resolved to scrap the parts.

***Proposed Cllr. Turner – Seconded Cllr. Felton – All in favour***

**d) Lengthsman's Report:**

A meeting will be arranged with St Annes School, but the bird nesting season has now started so it will be September before any work can be done on the overgrown Cemetery hedges.

**e) Cemetery Report:**

- i. The Clerk has received a request and payment from a resident of the village for a memorial for a Bench in the Lawn Cemetery. The Council approved the request. Chairman, Clerk and Cemetery recorder to meet to agree a location.
- ii. Resident request for help repositioning a Gravestone following an impact by a vehicle in the cemetery. The Council resolved that it is responsibility of the Grave plot owner to repair damage to a gravestone.

It was added that on the May Agenda a new Chairman needs to be elected for the New Projects Committee.

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

- Cllr. Turner has attended the SPCA executive meeting.
- Cllr Turner is also on the committee for the Moorlands Partnership Board. They have recently had 20 applications. 2 were not approved.
- Cllr. Felton attended a 20 is Plenty remote meeting but the meeting was cancelled unexpectedly. The 20 is plenty team have apologised for any inconvenience and will let the Clerk know when a new meeting can be arranged.

**21.12 – Cllr. Flunder left the meeting**

**14. Planning Applications and Related Issues:**

**a) SMD/2022/0102 –8 Back Lane, Brown Edge** – Single Storey side extension to create bedroom and improved family bathroom. **DECISION: No objection – All in favour**

**b) SMD/2022/0165 –12 Thelma Avenue, Brown Edge** – Proposed front oak porch and study extension to the side of the property. **DECISION: No objection – All in favour**

**c) SMD/2022/0165 – Anesco – Land off Bemmersley Road, Brown Edge, Battery Storage facility.**

Land in the Green Belt, other Brownfield sites in close proximity. It would constitute as Urban Sprawl as it would fill the valley in-between Stoke-on-Trent and the Staffordshire Moorlands. Impact on ecology and river landscape should pollution leak from the batteries into the river Trent. The low elevation will be seen by many residents both of Norton Green and Brown Edge as it will take years for the landscape to grow to cover up the site from view. **DECISION: Objection – All in favour**

**The meeting was suspended for members of the public to speak.**

**The meeting resumed and it was RESOLVED to ask District Cllr. Lea if she could ‘Call in’ the Application to the Planning Committee.**

## 15. Finance & Governance:

### a) Bank Balance 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Nat West Current Account:	£13,051.06
Nat West Reserve Account:	£11,117.93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£24,168.99</b>

### b) Finance received

#### Cemetery Recorder and Clerk Report (March):

3rd. March 2022. J. B. M. Memorials Ltd.	£120.00
3rd. March 2022. Tudor-Davies Funeral Services Ltd. (Hart Memorials Ltd.)	£120.00
25th. March 2022. S. Sigley & Sons Ltd.	£250.00
25th. March 2022. Nettlebank Ltd.	£120.00
Paid to Bank - 29th. March 2022.	£610.00

31st	January 2022	Nat West Interest Received	£0.09
28th	February 2022	Nat West Interest Received	£0.09
18th	March 2022	Staffordshire County Council Sustainability Grant	£400.00

### c) Payments were authorised:

Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary & Expenses (Mar) (mileage, phone, stamps)	Cheque as below	
Royal British Legion Queens Green Canopy Plaque £154.99	Chq. No.001071	£613.19
Mr J Bourne Cen rec Salary & Expenses (Jan-Mar) as above	Chq. No. 001072	£557.12
HMRC PAYE	Chq. No. 001073	£103.40



N&J Tree Services Maintenance Visit 12 (Mar)	Chq. No.001074	£800.72
Shaw & Son Ltd – Cemetery Record Books	Chq. No 001075	£49.67
Mr. N Hargreaves (Plants and Plant Barrel)	Chq. No 001076	£50.00
SMDC – Annual Charge for Cemetery waste disposal	Chq. No 001077	£460.91
Seiretto Website domain registration for 2 years	Chq. No. 001078	£226.80
Starboard Systems Ltd. Scribe Accounting Software	Chq. No 001079	£345.60
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association Membership fee	Chq. No. 001080	£330.35
Direct Debits: British Gas	Playing Field (Mar)	£16.40
	Cemetery (Mar)	£12.24

***Proposed Cllr. Turner – Seconded Cllr. Wright – Motion Carried***

## **16. Correspondence:**

**a) Litter on Breach Road** in the hedgerow, in adjacent fields and along footpaths. A resident sent images and a letter of complaint.

It was resolved for the Clerk to write to the headteacher of Endon High to raise awareness of litter prevention and to copy in the resident.

**b) Complaint regarding the Social Media post** referencing Brown Edge and Brown Edge Parish Councillors. The Police have responded to say the situation is a civil matter, so needs to be reported to the monitoring officer. Clerk has now received the official form to use from the Monitoring Officer at SMDC.

**c) AGAR** - The Clerk has received notice to submit the Annual Governance and Audit Report. The Accounts will be presented to the Council at the Annual meeting before going for Internal Audit.

**d) Community Speedwatch Training Events to be held in May in the area.** The Clerk circulated the posters to promote the events. Please encourage more volunteers to sign up to be trained as the more there are in the team the less everyone will need to do.

## **17. Items for the attention of other local authorities:**

**a) Matters for the District Council:** Cllr Porter will enquire about the common land adjacent to Bank End and will look at the powers of SMDC Parking enforcement.

**b) Matters for the County Council:** Cllr Flunder will progress the DHP for HGV signage.

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

a) Annual Meeting – Chairman will not be present due to work commitment.

b) Jubilee progress

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.50pm

**Next Full Council Meeting – Annual Meeting - Wednesday 4th May 2022 at Brown Edge Village Hall.**

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

DRAFT