

Minutes of the Brown Edge Parish Council ordinary meeting held on 06.07.22 7pm at Brown Edge Village Hall

Attendees: Councillors – Cllr Bedson (Vice-Chair), Cllr Owen, Cllr P Turner, Cllr Hargreaves (arrived at 19:23, during Item 6G), Cllr Woodward, Cllr Wright, Cllr S Turner, District and Parish Cllr Porter, County Cllr Flunder and 4 members of the public. Meeting Minutes taken by Cllr S Turner.

1. Vice-Chairman's Welcome & Announcements:

- a) Cllr P Turner raised a point of order that the agenda for the meeting was published on the website, but not in the 'usual place'.
- b) Cllr P Turner moved that Cllr Wright takes minutes of the meeting in the absence of the Clerk. Cllr Woodward counter-proposed that Cllr S Turner took minutes, Cllr Owen seconded that proposal. All Cllrs in favour.
- c) Cllr P Turner clarified that in Item 10A on the agenda, he will not be 'moving' this item.

2. Apologies Received from:

- a) Chairman Cllr Felton - Holiday.

4. Parishioners Concerns:

- a) A member of the public made a comment on item 10F of the agenda asking the council to consider the Wildlife Trust's guidelines on nettles and weeds and the impact on wildlife, particularly butterflies in nettles. The member of the public suggested that perhaps the village should take an approach to not mowing some areas of the village at all, encouraging more wildlife.

5. County Councillor's Report:

- a) County Cllr Flunder gave a Covid update for Staffordshire including advising that masks are to be worn on transport and that there are no walk in clinics in the Moorlands currently.
- b) County Cllr Flunder gave an update on the Ukraine Sponsorship Schemes in our area.
- c) County Cllr Flunder gave a Health Services update including that from 1st July 2022, there are no longer 6 CCG's, but 1.
- d) County Cllr Flunder gave an update on signage at Hill Top. He advised that the most appropriate route forward would be some sort of warning on routes into Brown Edge that the roads are inappropriate for HGV access. He is not entirely sure of the mechanics yet, but will continue his investigations. If funding is needed, there is an option to put this onto the next DHP. This item appears in the agenda (item 9A), so this will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.
- e) County Cllr Flunder gave some generic updates including that the results of the 2021 census are in and there are some improvements that need to be made in the Staffordshire Moorlands. The population is decreasing and the age profile is going up. Local Councils need to work hard to make sure people are happy to work and live in Brown Edge. County Cllr Flunder updated the Parish Council on the speed sign along High Lane, Brown Edge and that communication had been received from Staffs Police about working more closely as a partner. There were updates on road closures, that the virtual school and libraries are working very well together and updates on surface dressings to roads.

6. District Councillor's Report:

- a) District Councillor Porter remarked on the great success of the Brown Edge Carnival held 2nd July 2022. Cllr Porter noted how the day reflected "what a warm and beautiful community we have in Brown Edge" and how nice it was to see lots of new faces, too. He wished to minute his congratulations to the Carnival Committee.
- b) Cllr Porter updated the Parish Council that the District Council have cut the grass on Bank End and after surveying maps with colleagues, it has been resolved that the District Council are responsible for maintaining this land.

- c) Cllr Porter noted that the community orchard on Bank End is developing well. A couple of the trees haven't made it and so need replacing. Cllr Porter has received lots of positive feedback from parishioners.
- d) Cllr Porter reported on the new local policing model from Staffordshire police which will greatly benefit the community, as well as there being more support for front line officers and PCSOs and more accountability taken for local policing.
- e) The joint councillor and policing surgeries continue to go well and are being held frequently in the village.
- f) Cllr Porter is currently investigating who is responsible for maintaining the grass verge at the top of Woodhouse Lane following on from concerns from residents.
- g) Cllr Porter is assisting residents who wish to take advantage of the Governments 'Right to buy' scheme by helping with the process. Cllr Porter would like to encourage any members of the community who wish to explore this to get in contact with him for his assistance on the matter.
- h) Cllr Porter encouraged parishioners to report any litter hotspots to the Brown Edge and Endon Litter picking army via him.
- i) Cllr Porter reported that on the 19th July, the Commonwealth Games baton relay would be passing through the Staffordshire Moorlands via Leek, Rudyard and The Roaches.
- j) Cllr Porter commented on Item 5E of the County Councillor's report. Councils have much work to do to keep young families in the area following on from the census results.
- k) During Armed Forces week, the flag was raised at the District Council.
- l) Cllr for Baddeley Green, Milton and Norton, Dave Evans is looking for comments on the public consultation regarding traffic calming measures on Endon Road. Since this will affect residents of Brown Edge travelling to and from home, Cllr Porter wanted to bring residents' attention to this.

7. Declaration of Interests:

- a) Cllr Owen has a disclosable pecuniary interest in anything related to the maintenance contract and in Item 10a of the agenda.
- b) Cllr P Turner declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 10a of the agenda.
- c) Cllr Woodward declared an interest in the repairing of the well.
- d) Cllr S Turner declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10A of the agenda due to a family member having a pecuniary interest and an interest in item 10D due to her role as a Governor for St. Annes Primary School.

8. Approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 1st June 2022 to be an accurate record:

- a) Cllr Porter moved that the minutes be approved as an accurate record, seconded by Cllr P Turner. All Cllrs in favour.

9. Matters Arising from previous meeting

- a) Hill Top – HGV issues – Cllr Bedson reported that a meeting had occurred between him, Dave Rushton and BEPC Chair Cllr Felton. The suggestion was that signs for 'Not suitable for HGVs' be placed in entrance points of the village. There was a need to be careful that the signs did not cause a distraction to drivers. Suitable locations for the signs needed to be discussed. Cllr P Turner advised that he thought the weight restrictions were never removed from the road and recently found a prosecution from the 1960s relating to this. Cllr Flunder agreed to enquire about whether the weight restrictions were ever removed. Cllr Flunder advised that weight restrictions moving forward would be very complicated because if it's not on the whole road, there would be nowhere suitable for HGVs to turn around, and that could cause more problems. It would be very unusual to have weight restrictions on a large area of a road. It would also be quite a large project to have weight restrictions applied since it would need to go out to consultation and then the Highways Team would judge the application against National Standards. It was suggested that the Chairman contact PCSO Laura Peacock to organise dates to visit HGV companies to have a discussion around their use of Hill Top and Hough Hill. Cllr P Turner commented that if the speed restrictions on Endon Road are implemented, then this may ease the HGV

access on at Hill Top anyway since it will impact their chosen route.

- b) Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – June 2nd and 5th. Cllr Bedson reported that the 'Lighting of the Beacon', the 'Raising of the Flag' and the 'Party in The Park' events all went very well and were well populated by the parishioners. Cllr S Turner reported that some roads had street parties, including St. Annes Vale which was organised by neighbours. It was lovely to see older residents getting involved in the celebrations.
- c) Cemetery Bench – delivery and fitting. Cllr Woodward reported that the bench is on order, but he was not sure when it would be delivered.
- d) Nomination for Cllr S Turner to become Chairman of the New Projects Committee. Cllr S Turner accepted and commented that she would like to be referenced as just 'Chair'.

10. Items on Notice:

- a) *Cllrs P Turner and Owen left the meeting.* Cllr Bedson read out a letter received from the Secretary of the 'Buy the Bush Steering Group'. Cllr Bedson moved that the Asset of Community Value Order be suspended for 9 months effective immediately. If the application cannot be suspended as it is too far along, an extraordinary meeting should be called to discuss next options. The Clerk should communicate with the relevant parties to start the suspension ASAP. Cllr Porter will investigate where in the application process the order is. Motion seconded by Cllr Hargreaves. All Cllrs in favour.
- b) Cllr P Turner reminded the Council that the tendering process is not a requirement when the cost is under £500. Cllr Woodward provided a quotation for the repair of Sandy Lane Well. Cllr Hargreaves moved to accept the quotation. Seconded by Cllr Owen. All Cllrs in favour.
- c) Cllr Wright reported that a request had been received from a member of the public to purchase a memorial bench for the far-right area of the Cemetery. Cllr P Turner advised that the bench policy is in operation, which states that people cannot purchase a memorial bench, but can purchase a plaque to go onto the benches. Cllr P Turner moved that the bench policy be applied to this request and the Clerk replies to the request, communicating the bench policy and explaining that they can purchase a plaque to be included on a bench. Seconded by Cllr Wright. All Cllrs in favour.
- d) Cllrs updated the Parish Council on the Cemetery Toilets. Cllr Wright moved that we add this as an agenda item for the next ordinary meeting and the Clerk and the Chairman prepare their observations for the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Porter. All Cllrs in favour.
- e) Cllr Woodward moved that the Parish Council write to residents with unsightly, overgrown vegetation in the village, requesting their attention to the issues. The letter would encourage them to let the Parish Council know if they are struggling to tend to the vegetation so that the Parish Council can attempt to help. The Parish Council should also publish a map of the village with notes on who is responsible for the maintenance of these areas. This map would be hosted on the Brown Edge Parish Council website, so that the Council can direct people to this map when they enquire who they should write to about it. Motion seconded by Cllr Bedson. All Cllrs in favour. Cllr Porter to ask the District Council if the Parish Council can use their map as a template.
- f) Cllr Woodward moved to ask the tenant to tidy up the perimeter of the New Cemetery field, including removal of nettles and weeds. A conversation occurred between councillors regarding the need to strike a balance between protecting nature/wildlife habitats and ensuring visibility and accessibility as mentioned by the member of public during Parishioners Concerns. Cllr P Turner proposed a site visit between the Chairman, Cllr Porter, Cllr Woodward and the current tenant to assess the requirements further. Seconded by Cllr Porter. All Cllrs in favour.
- g) Cllr Woodward moved to create a storage area in the Cemetery with fastening, lock and chain so that benches could be delivered there whilst awaiting fitting. Cllr Woodward had received a quotation of £125 for the installation of the bracket, chain and lock and repair to the gate and moved that this was approved. Seconded by Cllr S Turner. All Cllrs in favour.

11. Finance & Governance:

- a) Cllr Hargreaves proposed that payments were authorised. Seconded by Cllr P Turner. All Cllrs in favour.

- b) Cllr P Turner proposed that the fee for the allotment be refunded. Seconded by Cllr S Turner. All Cllrs in favour.

Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary & Expenses (June)(mileage, phone, stamps)	Chq. 001099	£462.07	
Cheque incorrectly written (cancelled)	Chq. 001100	£0.00	
Mr J Bourne Salary & Expenses	Chq. 001101	£582.80	
HMRC PAYE	Chq. 001102	£114.00	
N&J Tree Services Maintenance Visit 3 (June)	Chq. 001103	£820.75	
SPCA Councillor Training	Chq. 001104	£90.00	
Seiretto (Website Hosting)	Chq. 001106	£178.80	
S Newman Allotment tenancy refund	Chq. 001105	£100.00	
British Gas – Electricity supply	Playing Field (Jun)	Direct Debit	£16.81
	Cemetery (Jun)	Direct Debit	£13.55
Water Plus	Cemetery (Jan-April)	Direct Debit	£29.43

12. Resolutions Being Pursued:

- Legal & H.R Committee. No updates. Cllr P Turner advised that the Committee needed to review the activity tracker
- New Projects Committee. Cllr S Turner updated the Parish Council on the Historic Markers Project. A printed presentation was shared with Councillors including purpose, outcomes, timeline, suggested phase 1 and estimated cost. This presentation has been shared with the Moorlands Partnership Board to hopefully access grant funding. Request from the Parish Council for the New Projects Committee to meet with the Allotment Society to discuss vision and goals for the future. Cllrs S Turner and Porter agreed to arrange a meeting date to go through the tracker.
- Maintenance of Assets Committee – No updates. Cllrs advised that the committee needed to review the activity tracker.

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

- Cllr P Turner attended the Stoke-on-Trent Road Improvement Consultation.

14. Matters for the District Council:

- Grant application form given to Cllr Porter.

15. Matters for the County Council

16. Correspondence:

- Request received from a parent to use the Car Park on High Lane for Prom and parents' vehicles on 19th July. Cllr Owen proposed that the Parish Council respond and say 'Yes' and that the Parish Council would be pleased to see members of the Community using it, however advise that they may find it difficult to park due to cars being parked there currently. Suggest that due to this, Marshes Hill may be a better place to pursue. The Clerk should write to the Hollybush as a matter of courtesy to let them know that the Parish Council have received the request and have authorised it. Seconded by Cllr Bedson. All Cllrs in favour.

- b) The Parish Council have received a request from Endon Parish Council for Brown Edge Parish Council to take over the battery replacement for the VAS sign that is located in Endon Parish as you approach Brown Edge. The reason for this request is that the sign is useful to Brown Edge and not to Endon. Cllr Flunder reported that he is working with the speed watch team and attempting to get the signs on to a solar panel. The batteries are draining at a much faster rate, because the sign is constantly activated due to speeding. Cllr Flunder advised that the battery can be charged at home and is currently being replaced every 2 weeks. A laptop is required to download the data from the sign before the battery is drained. Councillors commented on the irony of the situation and that it was clearly very important that the VAS sign was working if it is being activated so much that the batteries need changing very frequently. Cllr Turner proposed that the current maintenance contractor takes responsibility for charging, changing the battery and downloading the data and that the Clerk writes to Endon Parish Council to let them know of the decision. Seconded by Cllr Bedson. All Cllrs in favour.
- c) Cllr P Turner moved that a letter from the Parish Council be sent to the family of Cllr Hilda Sheldon MBE, many of whom are Brown Edge residents with sympathies for their loss. The flag at Bank End should be set to half mast provided that the key can be located. If they key cannot be found, then some flowers should be laid as a mark of respect. Seconded by Cllr Bedson. All Cllrs in favour.

17. Matters Pertaining To Issues In The Parish For The Next Meeting

- a) Knotweed on the Car Park on High Lane
- b) Cllr Hargreaves payment authorisation
- c) Dead tree on The Breach

- d) Key tracker
- e) Anti-social behaviour reported on Brown Edge
- f) Lamp in The Playing Fields
- g) Community speed gun
- h) Cemetery Toilets (carried over from this meeting)

Meeting closed by the Vice-Chairman at 21:15. Next meeting to take place on 3.8.22 at Brown Edge Village Hall. 7pm.

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

Signed: Vice-Chair

Date: