



BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Meeting Minutes Monday 1st December 2025 19:30pm at Brown Edge Village Hall

Cllr. Anthony Bedson (Vice-Chair)	Clerk. H Harrison	RFO. D Wheat	Members of public: 1
Cllr. Phil Woodward	Cllr. Phil Berrisford	Cllr. Margaret Hunt	Cllr. Dave Gerrard
Cllr. Jane Shufflebotham	Cllr. Maralyn Marathe	Cllr. Joe Porter	Cllr. Christina Jebb
Cllr. Bob Egginton			

- 1) **Vice Chairmans Welcome:** Cllr. Bedson welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was highlighted that correspondence of byelection had been received. The notice will be published on 5th December 2025. If only one person votes, they will be automatically elected. Although, more than one vote will result in Brown Edge Parish Council paying between £6 & £8k, which will be added to the precept next year. Cllr Bedson noted that rumors are spreading about the BEPC being bankrupt, this is not the case. Cllr Pprter raised a point, that the accounts can be viewed by Parishioners and are also available on the website.
- 2) **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Felton, Cllr. Oberholster, Cllr. Flunder
- 3) **Parishioners Concerns:** A parishioner raised a concern over the playing fields being changed into a children's only area. As a dog owner, this is causing a problem as not being able to walk through the park with the dogs with a no fouling area. Did not feel this was fair, not being able to let the dogs off the lead on the field. Cllr Porter explained the Public Space protection order that's in place. Dog walking is allowed on the footpath owned by Staffordshire County Council, but dog fouling is not.
- 4) **PCSO Report:** None present
- 5) **County Councillor Report:** Cllr Eggington
 - Gully and grid cleaning is underway with Highways
 - Litter bins for the park will hopefully be replaced in the near future
 - Attended a meeting regarding a potential pump track. Vice Chairman, Cllr Bedson commented this can only move forward if 100% of funding is provided. A map of the area was presented to all Cllrs. Cllr Egginton to organise a meeting with RFO and Clerk to discuss the playing field idea's an equipment.
- 6) **District Councillors Reports:** Cllr Jebb
 - LGR – No merger with Stoke, 2/3 unitary authorities, parish councils to continue. SMDC website has the geographical information.

- April 2026, food waste will be separated from brown bins and food waste containers will be provided and no extra cost. Brown bins will be chargeable at £48 per year.
- Apprenticeship post available for bin collections and a part time HR post is also available.
- Sandy Lane Centre Christmas fayre will be held on 6th & 7th December 2025.

Cllr Porter:

- Letter sent to the chief executive of Severn Trent Water regarding the water issues that have been affecting local residents and businesses. Update to be provided at the next meeting.
- Street cleaning and moss removal work carried out by street cleansing team
- Christmas lights and market was a great success
- Grit bins are be refilled by the County Council
- Over 30 Community Speedwatch sessions to date
- £100 donation to Luncheon club
- St Annes Primary school held a great Remembrance Service
- Staffordshire Moorlands student climate conference was carried out at SMDC
- Christmas food bags will be delivered to local residents on 23rd & 24th December, free of charge.
- Councillor's surgery on 20th December 2025 with Cllr Flunder
- LGR – discussed by Cllr Jebb. Cllr Eggington commented it was agreed at the LGR meeting that all Cllrs will write to the prime minister to vote against all LGR options.

Cllr Flunders report was circulated to all Cllrs. See report below.

- LGR - On Nov. 20th Option D was passed by a special District Assembly to be put forward as the SMDC preferred option. Included in the submission was an analysis of option E, which was the East / West option put forward by the County Council. Overall there is no option (5 in all) that doesn't include the SMDC District area not being included in a new Unitary Council with the Stoke-on-Trent City area.
- The conservative group voted against the plans for the submission because we believe that the majority of residents and workers in the district do not wish to be included in a new Unitary Council including Stoke.
- As a group, we did try and get an alternative option to be included in a submission that did keep the SMDC district area out of a unitary council with the Stoke City area. We also wrote to the prime minister and home secretary asking them to stop LGR until there is a clear democratic decision by those who live in the districts that are being restructured.
- Myself, and the other Champions and SMDC officers etc. are looking at providing spread sheets to help Parish and Town councils to log their assets with public areas and street furniture being listed as well. It is hoped that this process will help them look at their own and locality strategic plans.
- Future meetings and possible visits to parishes are now available.
- The Parish Assembly and the SPCA will support Parish and Town councils over the coming years. I did attend the SPCA AGM last week and the recent Parish Assembly meeting. There is quite a lot of work for those Parish Councils who do wish to produce a future strategic plan and to work with other councils to work of locality combined plans. This should include accurate lists of assets, which will be passed onto any new Unitary Councils starting on April 1st 2028.
- The new Culture Strategy was passed by the community scrutiny committee, with slight alterations. The 'officer' responsible from Outside Arts is now leaving the district
- Brown Bin charges will start from April 1st 2026 along with a new food pick up services for the remaining 2 years while SMDC is planned to continue.

- We are **still** waiting for a format sheet(s) to be available to Parish Councils to list all the Street furniture in each Town and Parish.
- Another Audit and Accounts committee was held on November 28th and the Planning committee meeting on December 11th.
- There are a couple of surgeries planned during December and I will be attending quite a few Christmas events over the coming weeks.

7) Declaration of interests on the forthcoming agenda:

- The Bush – Cllr Berrisford, Cllr Shufflebotham, Cllr Hunt
- Carnival – Cllr Hunt, Cllr Porter
- Luncheon club – Cllr Hunt
- NHS/Police – Cllr Porter

8) To the meeting minutes of 3rd November 2025:

- Proposed – Cllr Porter – Seconded – Cllr Gerrard

9) To approve the extra ordinary meeting minutes of 17th November 2025:

- Proposed – Cllr Gerrard – Seconded – Cllr Shufflebotham

10) Matters arising from previous meetings:

- RFO circulated Land Registry documents to all Cllrs
- LGR Update – To be added to the next agenda for Cllr Oberholster to provide
- Street signs to be cleaned – Cllr Porter to arrange. Replacements are provided by District Council
- Methods of communication – All meetings to be minuted going forward
- New bin – Cllr Berrisford will install the bin
- Bus shelter – In progress with the insurance

11) Correspondence: Vice Chair, Cllr Bedson read out an email received from St Annes Primary school thanking the Council for their attendance at the Remembrance service.

12) Items on Notice:

- The Bush - A draft letter was circulated to the Cllrs prior to the meeting for approval. It was agreed to add 'The Bush's proposal' into the letter and send recorded delivery to The Directors of The Bush. Proposed – Cllr Woodward – Seconded – Cllr Berrisford
- First Responders – no current update. Add to next agenda.
- Assets of Community value – RFO and Clerk to complete the documents
- Play equipment – RFO and Clerk to speak to the children of St Annes Primary school regarding what play equipment they would like at the park. Cllr Bedson read out an email from Staffordshire Police regarding the fire damaged equipment.

13) Finance and Governance:

- Authorisation of payments for November 2025 – All in favour

1. <u>Mrs H Harrison</u> Clerk Salary	Net	Tax	Gross	Chg.
Month 8 (Oct)	£515.80	£128.80	£644.68	
			£515.88	1436
2. <u>Mrs D Wheat</u> RFO Salary	Net	Tax	Gross	
Month 8 (Oct)	£330.37	£82.60	£412.97	
			£330.37	1437
3. HMRC PAYE (all Staff see above)				
DW £82.60 HH £128.80			£211.40	

HMRC Class 2 NI Contributions		£ 85.87	
		<u>£297.27</u>	1438

4. <u>Mrs D Wheat</u> RFO Expenses			
Travel Allowance (Oct)		£13.50	
Zip ties (Four Fasteners)		£ 6.67	
		<u>£20.17</u>	1439
5. <u>Mrs H Harrison</u> Clerk Expenses			
Paper		<u>£5.00</u>	1440
6. <u>N&J Tree Services Ltd.</u>		<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>
Invoice for Tree removal	£195.00	£39.00	£ 234.00
Maintenance Visit 8	£848.92	£169.78	£1018.70
		<u>£1252.70</u>	1441
7. <u>CPRE – Countryside Charity</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
membership	£85.00	£0.00	<u>£85.00</u>
			1442
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£2506.39</u>

- b) Cemetery Recorders report for November 2025 – All in favour
- c) Any other banking related issues – None
- d) NALC recommended pay increase – Clerk to send document to all Cllrs and add to next agenda.
- e) Budget – RFO to provide an estimate of costings for the next budget.

14) Reports and Actions:

- a) Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Berrisford, Cllr Bedson and RFO had a meeting with Hannah. Screening for the plan has been sent to all Cllrs. Local energy schemes policy was read out. Screening to go ahead. Proposed – Cllr Shufflebotham – Seconded – Cllr Gerrard.
- b) Grounds Maintenance – Cllr Woodward has noted amendments to the contract. Up to date maps are needed and to be added to the contract.
- c) Pump Track – Cllr Eggington discussed earlier in the meeting.

15) Planning Applications and Related issues:

Cllr Porter to provide an update on animals at Breach road – add to next agenda.

16) Items for the attention of other local authorities:

- a) Matters for the District Council;
 - Cllr Berrisford raised the mess around Nursery Close needs to be looked at.
 - Cllr Woodward raised the issue of parking at Sandy Lane Centre. It was suggested that Cllr Eggington contact Highways mark out appropriate parking spaces
 - Trucks parking on High Lane when delivering to Morrison's daily – add to next agenda
- b) Matters for the County Council;
 - Gullies at Hill Top
 - Woodhouse Lane & Willfield Lane ditches need clearing

17) Matters pertaining to issues in the Parish for the next agenda:

- Cllr Porter to look into the style at the Kings Coronation field as its currently broken.

Meeting ended at 21:22pm.

Parish Clerk: Mrs Hayley Harrison 07519 240598 clerk@browndge-pc.gov.uk
Responsible Financial Officer: Mrs Denise Wheat 07812 056085
Cemetery Recorder Mr John Bourne 01782 502940 cemrec@browndge-pc.gov.uk
Brown Edge Parish Council: Postal address: c/o D Wheat, 3 The Island, Tean, Stoke-on-Trent, ST10 4JE