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BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 3rd August 2026

Brown Edge Village Hall at 7:00PM

MINUTES

D Wheat Parish Clerk

Present:	Chair Cllr. Anthony Bedson	Cllr. Phil Berrisford
Cllr. Kate Oberholster	Cllr. Margaret Hunt	Cllr. Dave Gerrard
Cllr. Bob Egginton (County and Parish)	Cllr. Marylin Marathe	
Cllr. Christina Jebb (District)	Cllr. Keith Flunder (District)	
1 member of the public		

1. Welcome:

Cllr Bedson opened the meeting and welcomed councillors and member of the public.

2. Apologies: Cllr. Adrian Felton, Cllr. Phil Woodward, Cllr. Jane Shufflebotham and Cllr Joe Porter (Parish and District).

3. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Hunt – Carnival and Lunch Club

Cllr Berrisford – The Bush

4. Public Participation: No questions were raised.

5. PCSO Report: A report about changes to PCSO working hours restricting attendance was noted. Clerk to contact PCSO Josh Hargreaves to ask for a report for September.

6. County Council Report: Cllr. Egginton

- **Community Fund:** A donation from The County Community Fund has been approved for the Brown Edge Well Dressing Committee - it was noted that over 2000 people attended the Carnival. Funding has also been approved for the Children's Lunch at Brown Edge Lunch Club.
- **Grit Bins:** A Grit Bin statement is being produced – all bins need to be logged as some are not on the system. Areas where there is no bin need to be noted and applied for. The piles of grit are not working and wasting grit. The circular pipes with grit in do work as they are larger. Empty grit bins have been stolen.
- **Highways Inspections:** The Highways department are experimenting with AI for inspections of Highways. A camera is fastened to a vehicle can identify potholes and other problems. it is only an experiment and will not be launched until it is tested.
- **Public Rights of Way (PROW):** A question was asked by Cllr. Jebb about registration of informal paths through Tinster's Wood. Cllr. Egginton reported that there are 260 cases of PROW issues backlogged. More funding and more officers are required in that department.

7. District Councillors Report:

a. Cllr. Christina Jebb: report attached (appendix 1).

- **Local Improvement Framework (LIF)** A new grant opportunity is available for Health, Wellbeing and Community focused projects.

b. Cllr. Keith Flunder: report attached (appendix 2)

- **My Active Leek** – The refurbished Leisure Centre at Brough Park will open on 15th August to existing members, then will open to the public on 18th
- **Brown Bins:** A meeting has been held with officers to solve initial problems reported with the new food waste collections and brown bin garden waste collections.
- **Planning:** A question was asked to Cllr. Flunder to clarify the special measures in force with Planning at SMDC. The main change is that members cannot request for applications to go to Planning Committee. The Planning Committee date is set for 10th September for the Land off Breach Road application.

c. Cllr. Porter: report attached (appendix 3)

8. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th July 2026 were approved. It was noted that District Council written reports are to be attached as appendixes.

Proposed Cllr. Gerrard – Seconded Cllr. Berrisford – All in favour

9. Items on Notice:

- a) Allotments:** Pest control quotations were received but not actioned. Correspondence from the Brown Edge Allotment Association was read out. They prefer to work with nature and not have the moles removed. Mole hills and grass cutting issues were discussed.

The Council decided that Cllr. Berrisford would liaise between the Lengthsman and the Allotment Association to come to an agreement on communication to move the mole hill soil before mowing commences.

- b) Local Government Reorganisation:** Cllr Bedson and Oberholster attended a workshop about the Mutual Ventures consultation. Cllr. Flunder in the role of Community Champion has supported Cllr. Oberholster to complete the survey. Cllr Oberholster was thanked for writing the report on behalf of Brown Edge Parish Council.

Cllr. Egginton had proposed a poll to gauge public opinion on LGR as he felt a strategic review of the process could go to judicial review if there was enough objection.

The Clerk advised that it was not lawful for a Parish to organise a poll on social media.

- c) Parish Council meeting length:** Cllr. Bedson moved to cut down the time of meetings to a maximum of 9:30pm.

It was agreed that District reports are to be written and included in the minutes but Councillors can ask questions in the meeting on District items from the reports.

Proposed Cllr. Bedson – Seconded Cllr. Gerrard – All in favour

10. Finance Reports:

- a.** Payments were Approved by the Council for August as listed overleaf:
Spreading the By-Election charge was discussed but it was agreed that it should be paid in full as there will be another Parish election in May 2027.

Proposed Cllr. Oberholster – Seconded Cllr. Egginton – All in favour

- b.** Cemetery Recorders Report was received. There were no Cemetery transactions in July.

	<u>Net</u>	<u>Tax</u>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>
HMRC PAYE HMRC PAYE has now settled after staff changes 2026-2027 Year so far to clarify:				
Month 1 £142.00 tax/ £44.02 NIC				
Month 2 £142.00 tax/ £44.02 NIC				
Month 3 £224.40 tax/ £44.02 NIC				
Month 4 £142.00 tax/ £44.02 NIC			Adjusted as HMRC in Credit	
i. <u>£142.00</u>			<u>£33.67</u>	<u>1496</u>
ii. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council				
By-Election Charge 15 th March 2026			<u>£8,272.83</u>	<u>1506</u>
iii. Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary				
Month 4 (July)	£568.45	£142.00	£710.45	
			<u>568.45</u>	<u>1507</u>
iv. Mrs D Wheat Clerk Expenses				
Travel Allowance (July)			<u>£13.50</u>	<u>1508</u>
v. B & W Simcock & Son	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>	
Maintenance Month 4	£967.50	£193.50	<u>£1,161.00</u>	<u>1509</u>
vi. Cancelled Cheque (incorrectly written)				<u>1510</u>
vii. Brown Edge Lunch Club (15 th anniversary donation)			<u>£150.00</u>	<u>1511</u>
viii. Starboard Systems	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>	
Scribe Cemetery monthly	£20.00	£4.00	<u>£24.00</u>	<u>1512</u>
DIRECT DEBITS				
Water Plus June (Lawn Cemetery)	£17.19			
Water Plus July	£16.61		<u>£33.80</u>	
British Gas (Playing Field Electricity)				
British Gas July	£17.64			
British Gas Aug	£18.57		<u>£36.21</u>	
British Gas (Lawn Cemetery)				
British Gas July	£13.70			
British Gas Aug	£13.26		<u>£26.96</u>	
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£10,320.42</u>	

c. Bank Reconciliation for 31st July was received:

Cash in Hand 01/04/2026	44,679.21
ADD	
Receipts 01/04/2026 - 31/07/2026	25,079.32
	69,758.53
SUBTRACT	
Payments 01/04/2026 - 31/07/2026	30,513.06
A	
Cash in Hand 31/07/2026	39,245.47
Cash in hand per Bank Statements	
Petty Cash	0.00
Natwest Current A/c -	29,726.97
Natwest Business Reserve -	19,152.33
	48,879.30
B	
Less unrepresented payments	9,633.83
Plus unrepresented receipts	0.00
Adjusted Bank Balance	39,245.47

A = B Checks out OK

11. Project Reports:

- a) **New Cemetery Field: An Ecology report has now been received.** Clerk to file all the reports and to circulate the maps and deeds for discussion at the September meeting. Cllr. Berrisford reported that the Planning application will now be drafted by the Architects.
- b) **Restoration of Community Phone Box:** The application to the Moorlands Partnership Board was successful. The MPB awarded 75% of the cost (capped at £3,218.00) to be claimed after project completion. Clerk to meet with volunteers to discuss requirements before placing the order.
- The Council approved to contribute 25% (approximately) to the project to be vied from the Staff budget.**
- Proposed Cllr. Berrisford – Seconded Cllr. Gerrard – All in favour***
- The Chairman signed the Grant Agreement.
- Cllr. Eggerton suggested to apply to his Community Fund for the Groundwork costs.
- Cllr. Jebb offered £100 from her Community Initiative Fund
- Clerk to apply for both funds.***
- Council to consider other projects Heritage or Environment related to apply for the next Moorlands Partnership Board meeting.
- c) **Sandy Lane Centre:** An application to have the Sandy Lane Centre registered as an Asset of Community Value has been submitted to SMDC.
- d) **Playground Maintenance:** The Rospa inspection will be done in August. Item to be on the September agenda for any maintenance to be actioned.
- The Clerk presented a quotation from Broxap for Playing Field Bins from the County Council earmarked grants.
- All in favour to proceed with the order***
- e) **New Street Lamp for Thelma Avenue:** The Severn Trent funding has not yet been received.
- Cllr. Porter to be asked to follow this up.***
- f) **Nature in Your Neighbourhood:** Proof of the land being registered by Brown Edge Parish Council was circulated and has been submitted to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust so that the project can proceed. ***Awaiting approval*** from SWT.
- Clerk to make the other title deed documents digital.
- g) **SMDC Rural Fund:**
- The Council approved to apply for a plinth to be built to surround the flagpole.***
- h) **Brown Edge Action Group:**
- It was agreed to ask Support Staffordshire to help the Council set up a constituted group so that the Pump track idea can be progressed and grants can be applied for.
- i) **Burnt Tree in the Playing Field:** Cllr. Bedson has negotiated with the Insurance company to get the full cost of the tree removal covered. N & J Tree Services will be completing the work on 21st September.

- j) **Adverse Possession** Cllr Berrisford moved to apply for the verge adjacent to Sytch Well.
Clerk to pursue with Cllr Egginton and County Officers to progress this claim.

12. Correspondence Received:

- a) **New Lane parking obstructions:** A resident complaint about parked vehicles causing danger to pedestrians:
Cllr. Egginton is looking at this to get some DHP assistance. A site visit is to be arranged when the school re-opens.
- b) **Woodhouse Lane Railings:**
The residents of Woodhouse Lane were thanked for cutting the overgrowth around the white railings. The Highways officer has reported to the Clerk that the painting is unlikely to be actioned in the near future due to County staffing levels.
Cllr. Egginton will take this up at County and visit the site.
Item for the September agenda.
- c) **The Bush** requested permission to have a parking restriction on the Car Park over the weekend of the Bushtonbury music festival 31st – 2nd August. This was a successful event for the village.
- d) **Lawn Cemetery:** A complaint has been received from residents visiting the Cemetery to find inconsiderate parents parked all over the site attending a school sports day event. Marshalled parking was suggested. Item to be on the September agenda.
- e) **Marshes Hill:** A report from a resident about trespassing on Marshes Hill by Motorcycles, Mountain Bikes, Horses and people with BBQ's. A resident had to put a fire out on the land recently. The problems have been reported to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.
Prevention of Wildfire signage to be put up at the site.

Cllr. Flunder left the meeting 8.20pm

13. Planning Application:

SMD/2026/0201	Land off Breach Road, Brown Edge	Outline planning application, with all matters reserved except for access, for the erection of up to 55 dwellings
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Cllr. Bedson offered to speak as the Parish Council representative at the Planning Committee, scheduled for 26th September.

Clerk to ask for an extension to the Planning Applications identified which were not on the Agenda:

14. Exclusion of the Public:

The Chairman moved: "That in accordance with section 19 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business next to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the Meeting"

Members of the public left the meeting at 8.24pm

15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

- a) **Brown Edge Community Inn CIC regarding the Car park**

Three quotations to be gathered for preparation of a commercial lease agreement based on Cllr. Shufflebotham's research on draft terms.

Proposed Cllr. Oberholster – Seconded Cllr. Bedson – All in favour

- k) **Appointment of a new Parish Clerk:** Council considered the feedback received from the applicant. Cllr. Oberholster offered to meet to re negotiate and will report back to the Council.

17. Meeting ended at 8.53pm

Next Meeting:

Ordinary Meeting - Monday 7th September 2026 at 7pm at Brown Edge Village Hall.

	ACTIONS
PCSO	Clerk to contact PCSO Josh Hargreaves for a report for September
Allotments	Cllr Berrisford to liaise regarding mole hill management
District Councillor reports	To be circulated in advance of the meetings and included in the minutes
New Cemetery Field	Documents to be circulated in advance of September meeting
County Community Fund	Clerk to apply for funding for Phone Box renovation
District Initiative fund	Clerk to apply to Cllr Jebb for £100 towards Phone Box renovation
Moorlands Partnership Board	Councillors to think of a heritage or environment project to apply for
Adverse Possession	Seek advice on claiming land
Playground Maintenance	RosPa report to be on September agenda
Severn Trent	Cllr. Porter to follow up the grant offer
SMDC Rural Fund	Clerk to apply for plinth at flagpole
Road dangers in New Lane/ St Annes school area	Cllr. Egginton to arrange a site visit with resident to discuss concerns with resident. Clerk to arrange when schools reconvene
Car park	Clerk to get three quotes for Lease agreement as drafted by Cllr. Shufflebotham
Woodhouse Railings	Cllr. Egginton to research the facts on this from County
Lawn Cemetery parking	Item to be on September agenda for discussion with School
Wildfire signage	Cllr. Bedson to put up signs up on Marshes Hill

Appendix 1: REPORT: District Councillor Christina Jebb

Local Improvement Framework grants are now available offering up to £1,500 to support community led projects that make a positive difference to health and wellbeing in Staffordshire Moorlands. The deadline is 9am Tuesday 1st September

MyActive Leek preview event for members on 15th August to thank them for their patience during the renovations and to give them an opportunity to try out some of the facilities, ahead of the public opening on the 18th. The aim of this part of the day is to reward loyal members for their patience during the redevelopment and enable the team to test the operation of the centre.

The centre has undergone a £17 million redevelopment project to modernise and expand the building and install an outdoor Active Zone to create a health and wellbeing centre, that will support the physical and mental health of residents across the Staffordshire Moorlands for many years to come.

Protecting public spaces from dog fouling

With dog fouling in public spaces continuing to be an issue across the Moorlands, the District Council is considering introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and is now inviting residents, businesses and stakeholders to share their views.

Dog fouling can spoil the enjoyment and appearance of public places including footpaths, parks, recreational areas and other open spaces. The proposed PSPO would help promote responsible dog ownership and provide enforcement powers where dog owners fail to remove dog mess from public areas. Most dog owners do behave responsibly. The consultation is now open and there are full details, including how to respond, on the SMDC website. The closing date is 23 August. Anyone unable to complete the online response form can request a paper copy from Customer Services staff on Council receptions.

SMDC Licensing Policy

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council are also consulting upon their Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. This happens every 5 years and anyone can respond if they feel that it is relevant. The consultation period ends on 30 September 2026. Comments should be e-mailed to:- licensing-1@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Appendix 2. REPORT - District Councillor Keith Flunder:

1.LGR Update and summary: -

a)The Government have announced that the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Area will be part of the new North Staffordshire Unitary Council area including Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area and Stoke City Council Unitary area. This will only give 9 months to arrange the election of the new authorities roughly based on the old County Council divisions.

b)The next stage in the SMDC district Locality Plan preparation is the closing of the initial consultation period (this has been extended to Wed. August 5th at my request. This will allow Endon, Brown Edge and Bagnall parish councils to submit their responses to Mutual Venture. There is still quite a lot of work to do including the arranging of three themed face to face meetings.

c) Another champions meeting will be held before the final three separate subject lead meetings, to ensure that Health and wellbeing is included for public sector organisations, tourism & culture and re-generation / infrastructure (transport) will also be included.

d) Parish and Town councils then need to log both their physical assets and community groups and activities. These will include public areas and street furniture etc. It is hoped that this process will help them look at their own assets and support their own local strategic plans, which can be completed in detail before March 2027.

e) Future meetings and possible visits to parishes are also available. Although it might be best to get a report on the agenda from the planned locality meetings..

f) I'm still hopeful that there will be some assistance from SMDC, as to the best way to transfer any community assets in the remaining time period.

2. The Parish Assembly and the SPCA will support Parish and Town councils over the coming years to produce their own plans. This was agreed at the recent SPCA executive meetings in Stafford. The SPCA executive meeting was held on Monday 15th of June.

3. I was asked to report back to the Parish Council about the UKSPF projects that the District Council are currently completing. I will be receiving more information through the Services Delivery committee by the autumn and attending an opening day event.

4. MyActive Leek Leisure Centre is opening in August and The Nicholson Institute project (£3.2 Million) is now on-going with the library now operating on the ground floor of Moorlands House, until the building is ready to be moved back into. This is due for completion later in the year (possibly early 2027?). There has also been more UKSPF funding made available (just under £1 million) for other projects around the Staffordshire Moorlands partly related to Arts and Culture.

5. Brown Bin charges started from June 29th 2026, for residents in the SMDC district. Residents need to register as soon as possible if they want their bin to still be collected. The food bin service has received complaints, and the services team are contacting the local residents who have had issues. A meeting with the officers and cabinet members concerned has resulted in more awareness of the issues across Brown Edge and Endon.

6. The Green Space maps have been delivered to Brown Edge councillors.

7. Other local projects I'm currently looking into, include playgrounds / cycle/skate parks and parking areas to support local activities and community projects.

8. Planning: The District Council has been placed in 'special measures', meaning applicants for larger applications can now go directly to the national Planning Inspectorate if they wish. SMDC officers are looking at how these measures can be lifted as soon as possible. The next Planning Committee meeting is on August 13th. I have been lobbied about the application for development along Breech Lane, and an enforcement notice is currently being appealed.

9.The CIF (Councillor Initiative Fund) has now been reopened for 2026/27.

10.Other future and recent meetings attended include a street furniture working group meeting, a film about climate emergency at Endon Village Hall and local LGR meetings.

11.Councillor Surgeries planned in Aug. and Sept, dates to be promoted. The surgery meeting on Sat. 31st had residents raising concerns about the planning issues along Breech Road and road side clearance.

12.Questions? Please call me on 07836 526834 or send me an email at keith.flunder@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Appendix 3. REPORT - District Councillor Joe Porter:

CANAL SAFETY UPDATE

As a daily runner and regular user of our local canal towpath, I stand in solidarity with all the women and girls—and everyone in our community—who are concerned about safety along the canal. Following the shocking incident last week, I've continued to run solo on the towpath every day, at different times, to help keep an eye on things. I would encourage people to continue enjoying our canal, because everyone should be able to use and enjoy our beautiful canal network without fear. At the same time, please stay aware of your surroundings and look out for one another. Thank you to the local Staffordshire Moorlands Police team and the Canal & River Trust for their ongoing efforts to make our Endon section of Caldon Canal safer for everyone. If anyone needs my support, then please don't hesitate to get in touch. I'm always happy to listen, offer support where I can, or help point you in the right direction if needed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION UPDATE

A sad day for local democracy.
The outrageous decision to merge the Staffordshire Moorlands with Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme goes against the clear wishes of local residents.
Over the last 18 months, our 'No to Stoke' campaign demonstrated the strength of local feeling. More than 18,000 people signed our petition – the largest in the history of the Staffordshire Moorlands.
A huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported the campaign. Your backing, passion and commitment have been incredible.
Despite this overwhelming public support, the Labour Government, together with the backing of local Labour and Independent councillors, has chosen to press ahead with their unnecessary Local Government Reorganisation.
This is not the end. Staffordshire Moorlands Conservatives will continue fighting to protect our communities, our identity and our future.

MISSED BIN COLLECTIONS

Following the many complaints from local residents regarding waste collection in the Staffordshire Moorlands, I joined my colleagues Cllr Deaville, Cllr Herdman, Cllr Flunder, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Moulton and Cllr Malyon to meet with Cabinet Member Cllr Atkins, Leader of the Council Cllr Gledhill, and Senior Officers of the service.
We discussed the unacceptable issues faced by local residents in detail. We're determined to work constructively with the Council and officers to help resolve these ongoing issues.
The officers and Cllr Atkins are now working on an urgent improvement plan to resolve these matters. Our Conservative Group will post further information when we receive it.
In the meantime, there is a specific phone number to call if you do have waste collection issues on 0345 6053014.
Thank you to local residents for your patience and understanding during this period.

FEAST OF SAINT ANNE

I was delighted to attend a glorious service celebrating the Feast of Saint Anne, the patron saint of grandparents and miners, at St Anne's Church, Brown Edge.
A beautiful gathering in a packed church, followed by a bring and share community lunch!

HEDGES AROUND THE COMMUNITY

A big thank you to everyone in our community who has recently cut back hedges overhanging our pavements, roads and footpaths.
Keeping these areas clear is so important to ensure that local residents and visitors can use our walkways safely and easily.
As always, please be mindful of bird nesting season before carrying out any hedge cutting.
Maintaining hedges each year is a shared responsibility, with work carried out by private landowners, Staffordshire County Council Highways, and other partners. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe and accessible.

PRESERVING A BROWN EDGE VILLAGE LANDMARK

The Brown Edge Village Telephone Box is an iconic part of our community, standing proudly opposite St Anne's Church, Brown Edge and Brown Edge Village Halls.
I'm delighted that our Brown Edge Parish Council team is working to secure funding to repair and restore this much-loved landmark, ensuring it can be enjoyed by future generations.
The telephone box is more than just a historic feature — it is a symbol of the civic pride that makes Brown Edge such a special place.
A huge thank you to the dedicated local residents who quietly maintain the community library inside the telephone box throughout the year. Their ongoing efforts help keep this special community asset alive and thriving for everyone to enjoy.

PROTECTING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND PEAK DISTRICT LANDSCAPE

I was pleased to recently attend an excellent public meeting and drop-in event organised by Action Against CCS and NO to Peak Cluster CO₂ Pipeline Staffordshire Moorlands & Leek, where I had the opportunity to hear directly from local residents, local farmers and campaigners about their concerns regarding the proposed Peak Cluster project.
Following productive discussions with the campaign and members of the local community, I remain deeply concerned about the potential impact this scheme could have on the Staffordshire Moorlands, the Peak District, our local villages, prime agricultural land and valuable wildlife habitats.
The Peak Cluster proposal would involve a major CO₂ pipeline network running across large areas of countryside, farmland and rural communities, together with associated above-ground infrastructure. Campaigners have raised serious concerns about the potential impact on protected landscapes, wildlife corridors, farmland and the character of our local villages.
The Peak District is one of our nation's most treasured landscapes. As someone with a deep passion for the Peak District and a long-standing commitment to protecting nature and our environment, I believe we have a duty to safeguard this unique landscape for future generations, not risk further industrialisation of our countryside.
I am also concerned by the track record of large-scale national infrastructure projects. Too often they end up over budget, years behind schedule and leave local communities dealing with the consequences. Questions have also been raised about the scale of public funding and subsidy associated with the project, with many residents asking whether there are better ways to invest in environmental improvements and emissions reduction.
While I support sensible action to tackle climate change and reduce emissions, that should not come at the expense of our landscapes, farming communities, local nature and rural way of life.
I will continue standing up for our villages, our farmers, our countryside and our local environment.
To support the campaign and sign the petition, please visit:

<https://url41.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1wqtM4-00000009aRp-35xS&d=4%7Cmail%2F90%2F1785765600%2F1wqtM4-00000009aRp-35xS%7Cin41b%7C57e1b682%7C10609168%7C13286642%7C6A70A1149AC77D1F4D6D05476DD67773&o=%2Fphtw%3A%2Fwtsehw.ong.caoprg-stp%2F%2Fk-thcea-epctu2r-oseenilepip-&s=fxy8AMINS0BUMwTkoxvMaKDBXSA>

LATEST COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

We were a bit crazy for doing a community litter pick in this heatwave, but we've just one on Brown Edge Playing Field in advance of Brown Edge Carnival & Well Dressing. Thank you to members of Brown Edge Parish Council for helping make parts our community clean and tidy!

PUBLIC MEETING ON PROPOSED 55 HOMES

A really well-attended public meeting, hosted by Brown Edge Parish Council, discussed planning application SMD/2026/0201 for up to 55 homes off Breach Road, Brown Edge. Local residents asked plenty of thoughtful and important questions of the developers, particularly about the Green Belt, road safety, flooding and drainage concerns, and the potential impact on our village. Thank you to the developers for attending and taking questions from local residents. However, many people left disappointed that the serious concerns raised about road safety were not addressed at all. It was clear that those attending were overwhelmingly opposed to the application, with many expressing significant concerns about the proposal and its impact on Brown Edge. Thank you to everyone who attended. The passion and commitment to our community was clear to see.

TONGUE LANE FLY-TIPPING REMOVED

The fly-tipping on Tongue Lane, Brown Edge has been removed by the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council environmental crime team within a few days of it being reported. Thank you to all those who reported to me. I will be asking for our rural country lanes to be regularly monitored for fly-tipping.

LATEST COUNCILLORS' SURGERY

One of our busiest councillors' and police surgeries took place in Brown Edge during #NeighbourhoodPolicingWeek. Thank you to everyone who came along to discuss the issues that matter most to our community. Topics raised included planning matters, overgrown trees and hedges, dangerous fly-tipping, damaged pavements, community bins, drainage concerns, Remembrance poppy displays, speeding concerns, grass verge maintenance, and much more. We appreciate everyone taking the time to share their views, concerns, and ideas. Listening to residents and acting on local priorities remains at the heart of what we do.

LATEST COUNCILLORS' SURGERY

Thank you to everyone who popped by our early evening councillors' surgery today in Brown Edge that focused mainly on community safety issues, bus stops and bus services. Lots of useful ideas on how to make our community safer in light of recent incidents. We appreciate everyone taking the time to share their views, concerns, and ideas. Listening to residents and acting on local priorities remains at the heart of what we do.

CLIMATE BRIEFING EVENT

Cllr Keith Flunder and I attended a packed People's Emergency Briefing at Endon Village Hall, organised by Moorlands Climate Action. It was an informative and thought-provoking evening, highlighting the realities of climate change and the far-reaching impacts it is having on every aspect of our lives. Our environment is our life support system, and we all have a responsibility to protect it for future generations.

The effects of climate change are already being felt here in the Staffordshire Moorlands, with repeated flooding in Endon and wildfires at The Roaches, Marshes Hill and other cherished local beauty spots. These events are a reminder that climate change is not a distant problem—it is happening here and now.

Whatever our political views, protecting our environment and building resilience to climate change should be something that brings us together. It is an issue that affects every community and every generation, and one that deserves action beyond party politics.

ST ANNE'S CHURCH QUEEN

Brown Edge is extremely lucky to have such dedicated and wonderful young people like our new St Anne's Church Queen Theadora and Retiring Queen Evie. Both of them have shown an incredible commitment to our village.

Over the last year, on behalf of Brown Edge Carnival & Well Dressing, Evie has raised an incredible £1436 for our community:

£600 to St Anne's Church, Brown Edge

£75 to Brown Edge Brownies & Rainbows

£250 to the Sharlotte Sky Naglis Library in memory of Sharlotte-Sky at St Anne's CE Primary School, Brown Edge

£236 to Brown Edge Lunch Club

£200 to Brown Edge Allotment Association

A great example to lots of local young people.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Lots happening on the community speed watch front with our Community Speed Watch volunteers. Please contact us at csw@staffordshire.police.uk and joe.porter@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk to get involved and support our work.

- A53 Leek Road, Endon – 1 drivers speeding out of 1,142
- A53 Leek Road, Endon – 0 drivers speeding out of 1,112
- High Lane, Brown Edge – 5 drivers speeding out of 358
- Breach Road, Brown Edge – 15 drivers speeding out of 515
- High Lane, Brown Edge – 12 drivers speeding out of 681

SURGERIES

We run surgeries all year round to assist local residents with local issues, not just at election time:

- Saturday 1st August at 9am-11am at The Plough, Endon