

BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th. August 2017 at The Church House, School Bank, Brown Edge, Stoke on Trent.

Present: Councillor A. Basnett (Chair).

Councillors G. Cooper, C. Holdcroft, L. Lea (also District Councillor), J. Sherratt, P. Turner & S. Turner.

County Councillor K. Flunder.

Eight Members of the Public.

67:17. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Owen (Work Commitments), J. Shufflebotham (Holiday), D. Spooner (Holiday), P. Woodward (Held up in Traffic) and District Councillor C. Jebb.

68:17. Adjournment of Meeting for Public Participation.

A question was asked regarding the designation of a plot of land at Bank End on the Local Plan. This matter to be discussed later in the agenda.

Mention was made of a possible bus service to Norton Post Office in the event of the closure of Brown Edge Post Office.

County Councillor's Report.

County Councillor Flunder reported that there were consultations taking place on subsidised bus services and governance of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services. These matters would be discussed later in the meeting. He also offered to meet with members of the Parish Council to discuss problems with highway issues.

District Councillors' Reports.

District Councillor Lea reported that SMDC is working with Churnet Valley Railway to bring a scheme to connect the present railway to the Cornhill area of Leek. That Council has also finalised its strategy regarding Physical Activity and Sport and has decided to adopt the Government's proposals. This could lead to future funding applications for the village. Proposals to secure future management arrangements for the Moorlands countryside sites by Staffs. Wildlife Trust.

District Councillors Bond, Jebb and herself have all contributed money from their Councillors Fund towards the repair of the floor in the main hall of the Sandy Lane Centre. She also gave details of the venues for the Luncheon Club visits.

At this point a question was asked about repairs to the front wall of the Sandy Lane Centre which was damaged by accident.

69:17. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Basnett declared an interest in matters pertaining to the Holly Bush Inn car park.

Councillor Lea declared an interest in the Sandy Lane Centre and also planning matters.

70:17. Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd. July 2017 had been circulated. They were duly approved and signed as a true record.

71:17. Matters Arising.

A reply had been received from the Chief Executive of the West Midlands Ambulance Service giving details of the ambulance service in the Moorlands area. It was agreed to thank him for his comments but to lobby Karen Bradley M.P., pointing out the Council's concerns about ambulance cover in the Moorlands area.

The third defibrillator machine and cabinet had been fixed outside the Top Pub at Hill Top. It was agreed that the final account for the provision and fixing of the defibrillators and cabinets should be tabulated and forwarded to Keith's Supermarket for possible grant aid from the NISA organisation. More training in the use of the defibrillators would be arranged for September.

Councillor Holdcroft presented the meeting with three posters relating to dog fouling together with an estimate for the production. One leaflet was chosen to be produced at a cost of £100 – 00 and it was also agreed that Councillors themselves should undertake delivery to dwellings in the village. A copy of the poster would be published on the Council's Facebook site with further information of the Council's website.

A report was given of an accident which had taken place near the pedestrian crossing in High Lane partly due to the white road markings being obliterated during recent road work. The Chairman had contacted the County Council and these lines had now been re-painted although some potholes at the site had had to be reported.

Complaints had been received about the overgrown footpath No 5 at Cross Edge and the Clerk reported that this had been reported to the County Council.

The parking of vehicles on Bank End was again mentioned. The flower tub put in place to prevent this had been moved. It was agreed to replace the tub in the correct position.

72:17. Other Matters Reported for Discussion.

The closure of Brown Edge Post Office which had been intimated was mentioned but as this was a private matter for the owners no discussion took place,

Quotations had been obtained for the new light in the playing field but after some discussion it was felt that the quoted five metre standards were too high and a four metre high standard should be investigated.

73:17. Reports & Actions.

The Cemetery Recorder reported that there had been one purchase of grave and interment at double fees, one purchase of grave and interment, one interment fee for cremated remains and two headstone fees received.

The Cemetery Committee had met in the cemetery and agreed to recommend that a price should be obtained for raising an inspection chamber which had become buried and also for the removal of the spoil heap which had been saved for use in levelling the lower portion of the cemetery. It was reported that the spoil was not a suitable material for the operation.

It was agreed to accept a quotation of £280 – 00 for raising the inspection chamber and also a quotation of £140 – 00 for removing the spoil heap, both received from Paul Gowans.

It was also agreed to meet again in the cemetery to determine whether it was feasible for a small turning space to be formed on the site of the spoil heap.

Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee gave a report on a meeting with officers of Staffs. Moorlands District Council to clarify confusion over Open Space.

The latest version of the Local Plan was now available for consultation. Councillor Turner reported that it proposed no site allocations in the green belt and no sites were shown for the suggested housing requirement of 25 houses.

The land at Bank End was no longer listed as open space etc even though a consultancy had listed the land as such in 2008 but its recent report had been changed. Also the footpath across the site was no longer mentioned in the latest report.

There appeared to be many errors noted on the Local Plan but the Moorlands Council appeared to be preserving the green belt.

The Chairman of the Council thanked the Chairman for his report.

74:17. Planning,

With regard to the Local Plan consultation it was agreed that a working party be set up to formulate the Council's responses. The Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor P. Turner volunteered to meet and then the working parties ideas would be sent out to all Councillors for a full discussion at the September meeting with the final document sent in to the Moorlands Council by the due date.

The following planning application was considered and it was agreed to forward no objections, subject to normal planning guidelines, to:

HNT/2017/0017 Rear Single Storey Lounge / Kitchen Extension. Proposed Extension to extend 3.10 metres. Maximum height of the Proposed Extension to be 3.90 metres and height at eaves of the Proposed Extension to be 2.70 metres at Ringinglow, Sytch Road, Brown Edge.

Application No. SMD/2017/0465 Two Storey Side Extension at 6 Sunnyside Cottage, St. Anne's Vale, Brown Edge was considered and it was agreed to object to this application on the grounds that the new materials, especially windows, were not in keeping with the existing stone cottage visual aspect.

75:17. Finance.

A quarterly Account update was issued to all Councillors present.

Notification had been received of a change of Insurance Broker for future renewals.

Nat West Bank had requested confirmation of details of the Parish Council held on file – sent in.

Leek United Building Society had requested information on the Council's budget not exceeding €500,000 or £439,367 under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme – sent in.

A letter requesting financial assistance had been received from Brown Edge Football Club. This, together with the request from the Holly Bush Football Club were discussed. It was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance until the October meeting. Both clubs would be informed.

A request for grant aid had been received from the Douglas Macmillan Hospice. This matter was also left in abeyance until the October meeting. The Hospice would be informed.

Staffs. County Council had sent further information that any invoice issued to the Council should now be forwarded by email.

76:17. Orders for Payment.

It was agreed that the following items be paid:-

Adrian J. Mason.	£ 100 – 00.	Litter Picking Fee.
N. & J. Tree Services Ltd.	£ 644 – 40.	June Invoice for Maintenance Work.
N. & J. Tree Services Ltd.	£ 644 – 40.	June / July Invoice for Maintenance Work.
N. & J. Tree Services Ltd.	£ 816 – 00.	Contract for Removing Conifer Trees & Shrubs.
Meadowcroft & Davies Ltd.	£ 114 – 48.	Fixing Defibrillator Cabinet.

77:17. Correspondence.

A consultation on Staffordshire Subsidised Bus Review had been received. After studying the document it was agreed to support Option 1 which maintained priority routes etc with the Dial-a-Bus services not maintained.

A consultation on a Business Case for the Future Joint Governance of the Police and the Fire and Rescue Services in Staffordshire had been received. It was agreed to support the first rated PCC Governance option from the case.

Other information received under this item was:

Invitation to Best Kept Village Results Event – 7th. August 2017.
Newcastle under Lyme & Stoke on Trent Joint Local Plan – Strategic Options Consultation.
Staffordshire Road Safety Grant Fund – Initial Round Open.
Clerks & Councils Direct – July issue.

78:17. Matters to be Discussed on Notice.

There were no items to be discussed on notice.

79:17. Matters for the District Council.

There were no items for the District Council.

80:17. Matters for the County Council.

There were no items for the County Council.

81:17. Items to be raised at the Next Meeting.

There were no items for the next meeting.

82:17. Items for the Website.

The dog fouling literature would be published on the website and the Facebook page.