

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO.

MYDDLE AND BROUGHTON

THE AREA

Myddle and Broughton is an amalgamation of a few villages and smaller hamlets set in rural Shropshire. The main centres of population are Harmer Hill and Myddle and the Parish is mid way between Shrewsbury and Wem and Ellesmere.

The area has one retail outlet – a village shop opened recently as part of a new housing development in Myddle. There is no post office, the one in Harmer Hill being closed as part of the reorganisation of the postal service, and no library, although the County Library Service visits the villages on a regular basis. The area has three well established public houses, two in Harmer Hill and one in Yorton. The public house in Myddle is in the process of modernisation.

There are Village Halls in Harmer Hill and Myddle, offering well appointed accommodation for community use. The Council recognises the value of these halls and gives grant aid annually to help with the upkeep. Myddle also has an excellent primary school with first class facilities and a very good reputation for teaching and learning.

In the area there are two Parish Churches, one in Myddle and the other in Yorton with a Chapel located in Harmer Hill.

There is a Recreation Ground in both of the main villages with a Children's Play Area on the Myddle site. The equipment was purchased following fund raising by a dedicated local committee, who then passed the area on to the Council which maintains and insures it.

WHO ARE WE?

Myddle and Broughton Parish Council, elected by the local parishioners, is the first tier of local government and is one of 70,000 parish and town councils in England. Its role is to serve the interests of the community and improve the quality of the local environment.

The Council represents the villages of Harmer Hill, Myddle and Yorton and the smaller communities around these villages. Elections to the Council are held every four years and the Council has an allocation of ten seats divided amongst three wards representing the three main communities. At the last election there were only six nominations and as a result the Council has had to co-opt four additional Members.

Local Councils have powers granted by the Government, including the authority to raise money through taxation. This is known as the precept and in the current year it has been set at £19,773.00. The Council uses this money to provide a range of services which include street lighting, ground maintenance, the children's play area, grants to village halls and churches, etc. The precept can be supplemented by other money raised by the Council, including grant aid from a range of providers.

The administration of the Council is handled by the Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer, who is, with the exception of a small allowance paid to someone to oversee the play area, the only paid

employee of the Council. Any other service carried out by the Council is contracted to individuals or companies. Council Members do not receive payment and have voted not to claim allowances.

The Council normally meets on the first Wednesday in January, March, May, September and November and the last Wednesday in June. The meetings take place in either Myddle or Harmer Hill Village Hall. By statute the Council has to hold an annual open Parish Meeting and this is held on the third Wednesday in May. Details of the meetings and agendas are published on the village hall notice boards and on the web site. Parishioners are always welcome to attend these meetings and there is an opportunity to raise issues before the official meeting begins.

Members are always keen to receive the views of local residents and welcome suggestions about new projects that could be undertaken.

WHERE IS THE MONEY SPENT?

In a normal year the following is a list of the main areas where expense is incurred:

Street Lighting; Insurance; Grants to Village Halls and other organisations; Clerk's Salary and Expenses; Ground Maintenance and Rent; Internal and External Audits; Membership of the Local Council Association and maintaining a Web Site.

Full details of the Council's income and expenditure can be found on this web site under 'What we spend and how we spend it.'