

Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.

Chairman's Report - May 2019

Thank you for attending the Annual General Meeting of Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.

I would like to report on the activities of Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council during the last 12 months.

It has been another busy time for the council with a range of activities taking place throughout the year. We began the year with a full complement of 10 Members.

I would remind you that the council meets at 7.30pm in either Harmer Hill Village Hall or Myddle Village Hall on the first Wednesday of every other month except for July when we have to meet in late June to meet audit requirements. Every meeting is open to the public when there is an opportunity to raise issues with Council Members prior to the start of the official business. The meetings are only part of the work of the Council with many activities taking place throughout the remainder of the month.

Agendas for meetings and minutes are displayed on both village hall notice boards and can also be found on the Parish Council's web site at www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk. Concerns can be expressed or details of council activity can be obtained from Mr. Jack Wilson, the Parish Clerk and he can be contacted by post at 6, Primrose Drive, Shrewsbury SY3 7TP; by telephone on 01743 236810 or by email at myddlebroughtonclerk@talktalk.net. Mr Wilson will do his best to solve your problem or put you in touch with a councillor or another organisations which may be able to help.

Major issues this year.

Planning

All planning applications for development in the parish are sent to the Parish Council by Shropshire Council for consideration and comment. There have been minimal planning applications this year apart from various extensions and an application for development on the site of the Red Castle Public House which has now been refused by the Shropshire Council's planning department. Planning has been approved for 3 free range chicken sheds at Burlton Lane Farm and several new hangers at Sleaf airfield.

All planning applications and decisions can be found here <https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Local Housing

Councillors have been actively pursuing the provision of low cost housing within the parish for local people. This will continue to be on the agenda as unfortunately no suitable land for the project has yet been identified for the new homes.

Future Housing Development:

As part of the National Plan, Shropshire has been set a housing target for the period up to 2036 and is in the process of planning where development should take place. The whole of the parish has been declared as Open Countryside which means that other than small infill projects or the provision of affordable accommodation, no large scale housing development is planned.

Myddle Play Area

Some of the play equipment in the Myddle Children's Play Area was condemned as unsafe following a safety inspection. Mr Ian Anderson offered to remove the condemned play equipment free of charge, a service for which we are very grateful. Ray Parry Playground Services Ltd., a Shrewsbury company with a national reputation, was selected to carry out the replacement work. The equipment has very recently been replaced and I can report that the playground is now fully functional.

I can also report that the play areas in both Myddle and Harmer Hill have a continuing maintenance program including an annual ROSPA inspection by a Shropshire Council qualified inspector to ensure our children can play safely on the equipment provided.

Environmental Maintenance Grant

I am very pleased to report that Shropshire Council has made available an Environmental Maintenance Grant which your council applied for and was successful with the application for £1500 per year for 3 years. This grant money has to be match funded by the Council but it has resulted in the council being able to employ Mr Marco Busi to carry out environmental maintenance work throughout our parish. Part of the grant had been used to purchase equipment for use by volunteers and Mr. Busi for litter picking throughout the area and the purchase of the dog waste bins and bag dispensers. Examples of the work already carried out by Mr Busi since the award of the grant include the replacement of old and dangerous fencing along the footpath between the school and Myddle brook and the clearing of rubbish along the same stretch of the brook; construction of run off ditches along the length of Lower Road which has improved the drainage from the road surface; clearing the footpath and cutting back the hedge along the bridleway between Hillside and Lower Road in Myddle; clearing the footpath between Harmer Hill Village

Hall and the Newton-on-the-Hill junction; the erection of three additional dog waste bins and two dog waste poly bag dispensers.

Dog Fouling

This is an ever present problem and has even been a subject on the local Facebook groups in the villages. It is an offence to allow a dog, which you are responsible for, to foul and not clear it up immediately, when in a public place. This includes footpaths, public footpaths, play areas, recreation grounds, picnic sites etc. This is a national problem, highlighted by councils up and down the country with a range of methods undertaken to try and control it and Parish Council Clerks report this as the most frequent complaint they receive.

Dog owners can be fined between £50 and £80 on the spot by an authorised officer if they fail to clear up and in many areas there is a now a penalty for failing to carry with you a poo bag or scoop when you have a dog. I can report that the parish council has recently purchased three additional dog waste bins and two dispensers for dog waste disposal bags. These will be erected at suitable sites within Myddle and Harmer Hill. Hopefully dog owners will use them to keep the waste off our streets.

Litter

Litter is another major source of concern to local people. Again legislation is difficult, however I can report that 42 local volunteers picked litter from our village roadside on 23rd March 2019. Thank you to all the volunteers. Our parish looked considerably tidier after the litter pick.

Myddle School Safer Access

I can report that this is still ongoing and WSP (previously Mouchel) have completed a preliminary design which encompassed a raised platform and other measures which would assist in slowing the traffic on approach to the school. However no further consultation had been undertaken following Shropshire Council's decision to reduce the capital funding for this type of expenditure and postpone any projects for at least two years. The earliest any progress could be expected would be in the financial year 2021-2022. Having received details of the suggested plan, an application had been sent to Shropshire Council asking for the project to be funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Local Fund. The Parish Council had offered to contribute £5,000.00 from the CIL Neighbourhood Fund, held by the council. A copy of the plan had been sent to the school to enable school staff, the Governing Body and parents to see what was being proposed. The council is pursuing Shropshire Council in order to make sure that the road crossing outside the school gates is a safer place for our children.

Proposed plans can be viewed by following this link. <https://bit.ly/2UWF9OK>

Road Safety.

Following several recent accidents near to the Ellesmere Road (A528) and the Newton-on-the-Hill junction, a site meeting was arranged by the council to express our concerns. The meeting was attended by Shropshire Councillor S. Davenport (Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport); Shropshire Councillor B. Williams; Police Sgt. C. Greenaway (West Mercia Police); Mr. D. Gradwell (Shropshire Council's Road Safety Officer); three Parish Councillors; four members of the public from Newton-on-the-Hill and the Parish Clerk. There was unanimous agreement that the lay out of the road, the junction and the footpath into Harmer Hill all contributed to the creation of a very dangerous situation. A range of suggestions for improvement were made, including introducing a 40mph buffer zone before the start of the 30mph limit; increased signage on the road and/or the verge; extended use of the Road Safety Partnership and substantial improvements to the footpath. Councillor Davenport appreciated the concerns that had been raised but pointed out the problems in securing suitable finance but asked Mr. Gradwell to discuss the suggestions with Mr. C. Fisher (Local Highways Manager) and then provide him with estimated costs for each of the various proposals. These could then be considered by Shropshire Council and the Parish Council to explore ways in which they could be funded. He suggested that it may be possible to use CIL Local or Neighbourhood Funding for some elements and finance from the Environmental Maintenance Project Fund. Sgt. Greenaway promised to discuss the issues with the Safer Road Partnership to see if they could enhance the current service they provide.

Proposed plans can be viewed by following this link. <https://bit.ly/2UWF9OK>

Community Infrastructure Levy: (CIL)

For the past few years housing development has been charged a levy which was introduced to enable infrastructure development to take place in the region where housing has taken place. There is a complex procedure for the allocation of this levy but the two main sections which affect the parish are The Neighbourhood Fund and The Local Fund. The Neighbourhood Fund is passed directly to the Parish Council to support locally identified and approved new development and this has already funded the pathway to Myddle Play Area, the VAS signals on the Wem Road in Harmer Hill, and some new equipment on the Myddle Play area. However there is still over £30,000 in this account and Members would welcome suggestions for approved

local projects. The Local Fund is held by Shropshire Council to fund major developments in the area and we have already made an application for a grant for the safer road project for Myddle School and are in the process of applying for funding for the suggested development at the junction of the Ellesmere Road and Newton Lane. Unfortunately because of the strict criteria set by the Government on how this money can be used, it tends to be a slow process.

Crime

Crime remains relatively low however we urge members of the public to be vigilant and report suspicious incidents to the police by telephoning 101.

See the Local Neighbourhood Team here <https://bit.ly/2Y73VgV>

Other points

All the street lights in the parish have to be converted to LED lights over the coming years. This is a government directive and has to be carried out. In the first instance as the lights need repair, they will be replaced with LEDs.

Both village halls requested and received grants of £1000 each during the year for the general running of each village hall.

A £500 Grant was requested and given towards the running of the Youth Club.

The Council takes the issue of drivers speeding through our villages very seriously and have this year erected two 40mph Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs at the entrance to Harmer Hill on the Wem Road.

Tree inspection and maintenance work has to be carried out every four years to ensure they meet insurance safety standards on the land which the parish council rents for the play areas in the villages.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to my fellow Councillors, our Parish Clerk Mr Jack Wilson and Shropshire Councillor Mr Brian Williams for their dedicated help and support throughout the year and I will be happy to respond to any questions you may wish to ask.

Colin Ruck

Chairman of Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.

May 2019