

Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.

Chairman's Report - June 2020

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 including the unprecedented period of lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. However due to COVID-19 we have been using ZOOM to hold virtual meetings. Every meeting, including a ZOOM 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 several planning applications this year for various extensions and an application for an Agricultural development on the site of the Harmer Hill Reservoir. 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

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. However the play equipment has been closed during the COVID-19 crisis, although the playing fields are open for use.

Environmental Maintenance Grant

Mr Marco Busi continues to be contracted during the year and has continued his sterling work helping to keep our parish looking presentable.

Dog Fouling

Even after the erection of additional bins and bag dispensers we are still receiving complaints of thoughtless dog owners allowing their dogs to foul footpaths and not clearing up after them. We will be installing additional bins and bag dispensers during the next year. 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.

Litter

Litter is another major source of concern to local people. Unfortunately the COVID-19 lockdown stopped our annual litter pick in March 2020. Hopefully we will be able to carry out our litter pick in 2021. In the meantime I would urge residents to try to keep areas near their own homes clear of litter. I would like to thank all those residents who are already making an effort to keep our

villages tidy by picking up and disposing of litter.

Myddle School Safer Access

Unfortunately Shropshire Council cut the funding for this project for the foreseeable future.

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

Road Safety.

A speed watch team has been set up in the parish with some success resulting in speeding drivers being contacted by police officers. Two more Vehicle Activated Speed Signs have been purchased for the parish and are currently in Myddle recording vehicle speed. Reports indicate that they are reducing the number of speeding vehicles.

At the Newton-on-the-Hill junction with A528 the promised alterations to road signs also has not been carried out.

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>

Footpaths

Considerable use has been made of local footpaths especially since the lockdown in March 2020. All residents of the parish are urged to keep to the marked paths, control dogs and follow the country code. Work has been carried out by our Parish Paths Partnership group during the year including, maintaining stiles, cutting back over grown vegetation, renewing the yellow and blue footpath and bridleway signs, resigning the Gough walks, installing two bridleway gates in Hollins Lane and various other maintenance work.

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 and additional VAS signs now in Myddle.

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. June 2020