

**MYDDLE, BROUGHTON & HARMER HILL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Myddle Village Hall at 7.30pm on**  
**Wednesday May 21<sup>st</sup>. 2025**

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**Present:**

Councillor Mr. A. Harris (Parish Council Vice Chairman) who chaired the meeting.

Councillors: Mr. G. Miller, Mr. R. Jones.

The Parish Clerk.

Ten members of the public.

**1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mr. C. Ruck and Mrs. J. Jackson.

**2. Welcome by the Chairman.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on May 8<sup>th</sup>. 2024.**

It was reported that the minutes had already been approved at the Council meeting held on June 21<sup>st</sup>. 2024 and copies were given to those in attendance.

**4. Matters Arising from that meeting.**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Council Chairman's Report.**

The Council Chairman Mr. C. Ruck had compiled an interesting and informative report which in his absence was presented by the Vice Chairman. The report highlighted the range of activities undertaken by the Council in the past year in an effort to meet the needs of the community. By careful budgeting and the monitoring of expenditure it had not been necessary to seek an increase in the precept, which meant that the local element of the Council Tax had not increased.

However a good deal of activity had taken place and the major issues included:

road safety measures, litter and dog fouling control, taking responsibility for the Parish defibrillators, the erection of 'Welcome to' signs and giving financial support for the repair of the Church Clock, the re-surfacing of Myddle Village Hall car park and the new Youth Club.

During the year two Councillors had resigned because of work commitments and three other Members had decided not to stand for re-election to the new Council.

A full copy of the report was made available to all those attending and one is attached to these minutes.

**6. Police Report.**

Duty demands meant that no officer was able to attend.

## **7. Open Forum**

### **1. Affordable Housing:**

A request was made on behalf of a number of those attending for details of the proposed housing development in Godings Lane, Harmer Hill. The Chairman stated that currently there was nothing to report. For several years, in response to issues raised in the Parish Plan, the Parish Council had attempted to secure land for the development of some affordable accommodation for local residents to rent. Eventually a small area of land in Godings Lane had been offered for sale to Shropshire Council and Star Housing had agreed to undertake the project. However Shropshire Council have not agreed to purchase the land and until they did no development will take place.

The newly elected administration at Shropshire Council will need to consider the proposal and if they agree to the purchase any suggested development would be published, overseen by a local committee and would be subject to the legal planning process.

### **2. Drainage/Flooding:**

A resident questioned what action was being taken regarding possible drainage or flooding problems likely to be caused by climate change. Responding the Chairman advised that if any problems became apparent they should be brought to the attention of the Council or if they had computer access it could be reported on 'Fix My Street' which was a quick and easy way to get responses and action from Shropshire Council.

## **8. Chairman's Closing Remarks.**

Thanks were extended to those in attendance and reminded of the ways in which they could continue to raise issues with the Council.

**Minutes approved as a true copy:**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Chairman.***      **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.**  
**Chairman's Report - 2024-25**

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

I would like to report on the activities of Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council during the last 12 months up to May 2025.

I would remind you that the council meets at 7.30 pm alternatively 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 before the start of the official business. The meetings are only part of the work of the Council/ and many activities take place throughout the remainder of the year.

Agendas for meetings and minutes are displayed on both village hall notice boards and can also be found on the Parish Council's website at <https://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](mailto:myddlebroughtonclerk@talktalk.net) Mr Wilson will do his best to solve your problem or put you in touch with a councillor or other organisations which may be able to help.

**Major Issues This Year.**

**Councillors**

Two Councillors resigned during the year - Karen Rowe and Andrew Jones - both for work-related reasons, and I would like to thank them for their help and support during their time as Councillors. Roger Jones (a previously long-time serving Councillor) was co-opted to fill one vacancy. Three existing Councillors have decided against standing for re-election in 2025, and I would like to thank Jad Bienek, Geoff Harding and Ian Anderson for their help and support during their time as Councillors.

**Highways Maintenance.**

Several projects have been identified, including road safety at Myddle School, speeding traffic controls, etc. All have been discussed in detail with Shropshire Council, which has been unable to finance them in the short term or even long term!

**St Peter's Church Clock.**

It was decided to give a substantial grant towards the restoration of the Myddle Church Clock.

**Myddle Village Hall Car Park**

According to the Village Hall Deeds, the Parish Council is ultimately responsible for the Village Hall and it was agreed to use the Community Infrastructure Levy grant to cover part of the cost of resurfacing the car park. The car park is used extensively by people dropping off and picking up children from school.

**Environmental Maintenance Grant.**

Environmental Maintenance is seen as an important element of Council responsibility and the grant is used for such activities as gully and pavement clearance and dealing with dog fouling problems, etc. The Council has to match fund a grant from Shropshire Council to carry out general Highways Maintenance projects. This grant has been £1,500 per annum but has been reduced this year to £750. Money has been transferred from other Council activities to enable £3,000 to be spent.

**Defibrillators.**

The Council decided to cover future maintenance costs of these two important assets for our community, although oversight is still carried out by dedicated volunteers.

### **Myddle Play Area Woodland.**

Following concerns raised by residents about the safety aspects of several self-sown sycamore trees, advice was obtained from a qualified arborist who recommended the removal of the trees. This was supported by Shropshire Council, who own the land and the Forestry Commission. A full review of the woodland is planned with more appropriate new trees being planted.

### **Welcome to Signs.**

These have been erected at various sites on the main roads entering Harmer Hill and Myddle and the cost was partly funded by a Community Infrastructure Grant.

### **Youth Club**

A grant has been awarded after the formation of a new youth club.

### **Litter**

Litter is another major source of concern to local people. The Annual Parish Litter Pick was held on the 22nd of March 2025, with 27 volunteers thanked for their help and support. I can report that several members of the community have borrowed our litter-picking equipment on a semi-permanent basis and keep their local area free of litter. I would like to thank all those residents who are making an effort to keep our villages tidy by picking up and disposing of litter.

### **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. Regular visits from the Local Speed Enforcement team help to remind drivers to drive through our Parish at a safe speed.

### **Footpaths**

#### **a) Sale of Woods in Harmer Hill.**

Sections of the woods have been purchased by a number of residents and concerns have been raised regarding the footpaths within the woods, some of which are permissive paths. Positive discussions have been held with the new owners.

#### **b) Footpath from Bridgewater Arms, Harmer Hill to Pimhill alongside the A528.**

Following a request from some residents, this was discussed with representatives of Shropshire Council Highways Department, who, because it is alongside a main A road, will only allow it to be constructed if it is a full-scale path accessible for everyone. The cost of doing that is prohibitive.

#### **c) Public Rights of Way**

Considerable use is made of local footpaths. 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 cutting back overgrown vegetation and renewing the yellow and blue footpath and bridleway signs. If you would like to help, please contact Colin Ruck 07906622133.

### **Social Housing Project**

A committee will be formed to oversee any development and it will be chaired by Russell Purslow.

### **Other Major Headaches.**

There are several issues which continue to frustrate the Council - mainly the Harmer Hill Reservoir planning enforcement and Safer Access to Myddle School.

### **Other points**

Despite anticipated inflationary increases, your Parish Council unanimously agreed not to seek an increase in the precept for 2024-25 and again for 2025-26, which could have increased the Community Tax. Full details of our budget can be found on the Council's site.

<https://www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk/>

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, our Parish Clerk, Mr Jack Wilson and Shropshire Councillor, Mr Brian Williams (who retires this year) for their dedicated help and support throughout the year.

**Colin Ruck**

Chairman of Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.  
May 2025

**Parish Council Councillors until April 25**

Colin Ruck (Chairman)  
Marshall Andrew (Vice Chairman)  
Geoff Harding  
Alex Harris  
Jadwiga Bienek  
Roger Jones  
Jeanette Jackson  
Greg Miller  
Ian Anderson

Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams

**Parish Councillors from May 2025**

Colin Ruck (Chairman)  
Alex Harris (Vice Chairman)  
Marshall Andrew  
Roger Jones  
Jeanette Jackson  
Greg Miller  
David Evans  
Henry Rook  
Sylvia Hammond

Shropshire Councillor Sarah Marston