

MYDDLE, BROUGHTON & HARMER HILL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Myddle Village Hall at 7.00pm on
Wednesday May 2nd. 2018

Present:

Councillor C. Ruck (Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs. E. Hodge; Ms. J. Bienek; Mr. G. Harding; Mr I. Anderson

The Parish Clerk

Community Support Officer E. Walmsley (West Mercia Police).

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Shropshire Councillor B. Williams and Councillor R. Tiernan.

2. Welcome by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting but expressed disappointment at the low turnout.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on May 17th. 2018.

It was reported that the minutes had already been approved at the Council meeting held on June 28th. 2017 and copies were available for those in attendance.

4. Matters Arising.

The Chairman stated that he had covered most of the issues in his detailed report and there were no other issues raised.

5. Police Report.

The Chairman welcomed Community Support Officer Liz Walmsley to the meeting, who confirmed that crime figures across the whole Parish were very low and agreed that the main concern related to speeding traffic. She confirmed that the police worked closely with the Safer Road Partnership to carry out checks on the most affected roads and was pleased to note that this seemed to be achieving some success. The Chairman thanked her for attending and agreed that action taken by the Safer Road Partnership appeared to have had some success in reducing vehicle speed.

6. Parish Council Report from Mr. C. Ruck (Council Chairman).

The Chairman reminded all those in attendance that he had issued a written report of the Council activity throughout the past year and went on to highlight a range of important developments that had taken place. He commented on the success in recruiting two additional co-opted Members who had played a full part in the Council's work and stressed his desire to thank his fellow Councillors, Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams and the Parish Clerk for their support and commitment throughout the year.

A full copy of the report is attached.

7. Forum

There were no questions raised.

8. Chairman's Closing Remarks

Thanks were extended to those in attendance and for their active participation.

Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.
2nd May 2018
Chairman's Report

Welcome to all.

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 the 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 only eight Members but were soon able to get the additional two needed to make the Council full strength and Jad Bienek and Ian Anderson have played a full and active role since their co-option.

I would remind you that the Council meets at 7.30pm in the either Harmer Hill Village Hall or Myddle Village Hall on the first Wednesday of every other month and 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 the Village Hall notice boards and can also be found on the Council's web site at www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk. Concerns or details of Council activity can also be obtained from 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. Jack 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 the development of the old garage at the top of Myddle Hill which is going to be a development of 2 bungalows, 2 houses and offices for a local building firm. A big improvement on the old garage which was falling into disrepair.

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 been identified for the new homes.

Harmer Hill Play Area

A Children's Play Area has been constructed in Harmer Hill, following a request received by the Parish Council from several local residents who have young children.

The play area has been developed on a small area of land, which has been leased to the Council for many years for use as a recreation ground and it was officially opened at 10.30am on Saturday April 21st. by Ginny Mayall, who owns the land.

Ginny readily agreed to extend the lease on the land to twenty years to enable the Council to seek grant aid for the purchase of appropriate play equipment, which was not possible using the limited budget held by the Council.

Within a relatively short time a grant of £10,000 was offered by the National Lottery Fund and a further sum of £5,000 from a Shropshire based charity - the Hilton-Jones Trust. An additional grant has been promised by Tesco and with a little top-up from the Community Infrastructure Levy, it has been possible to construct this state of the art play area at no cost to the local community rate payers.

Advice and quotations were sought from various sources and Ray Parry Playground Services Ltd., a Shrewsbury Company with a national reputation, was selected to carry out the work.

Our thanks to our parish clerk Mr. Jack Wilson for obtaining all the money for the playground equipment and to the land owner, Ginny Mayall for the extension of the lease.

Myddle Play Area

I can report that the play area in Myddle has a continuing maintenance program including annual inspections by a ROSPA representative to ensure our children can play safely on the equipment provided.

Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VAS Signs)

Two VAS signs will be erected on either end of the Shrewsbury to Wem road going through Harmer Hill. These are 40 mile an hour flashing signs to remind people to keep to the speed limit along the road. We are grateful to the West Mercia police for their regular speed trap opposite the village hall in Harmer Hill. Members have reported a reduction in speeding through the 30 mile an hour part of the village. I will also add here our general disappointment in the lack of upkeep of the minor roads in the parish with the pot holes that are appearing and not being filled even though they are reported to the council. Please report any pot holes directly onto the Shropshire Council web site or via Mr Jack Wilson.

Dog Fouling

This is an ever present problem and has been a subject on the local Facebook groups in the village. 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.

Unfortunately in rural areas there is unlikely to be an authorised person available to issue fines.

Litter

Litter is another major source of concern to local people. Again legislation is difficult, however I can report that 28 local volunteers picked up 82 bags of litter from our village roadside on 24th March 2018. Thank you to all the volunteers. Our parish looks considerably more cared for after the litter pick.

Myddle School Safer Access

I can report that this is still ongoing although there does not appear to be any material progress. 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.

Myddle Sewerage System

After leaks and breakdowns of the sewerage system, Severn Trent has informed the council that a plan of action to replace old piping in the village is now in progress. Repairs have been made to the pumps in the village. We await the next breakdown!

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.

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.

I wish to congratulate the War memorial Committee for their work on the repair of the war memorial in St Peter's churchyard and the publication of a very informative book on the soldiers from our parish.

Harmer Hill bus shelter has had repair work carried out on it during the year.

Both village halls received grants specifically for the purchase of sound systems.

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