

MYDDLE, BROUGHTON & HARMER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Harmer Hill Village Hall at 7.00pm on
Wednesday 6th. May 2026

Present:

Councillor C. Ruck (Council Chairman) who chaired the meeting.

Councillors: Mr. T. M. Andrew; Mr. D. Evans; Mrs. S. Hammond; Mr. R. Jones;
Mrs. J. Jackson; Mr. G. Miller; Mr. H. Rook; Mr. D. Smith and Mr. M. Smith.

The Parish Clerk

Thirty four members of the public.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Shropshire Councillor S. Marston who was on annual leave.

2. Welcome by the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, stating how pleased he was to see so many attending and reminding everyone that it was an open meeting so they could participate in any discussions or raise issues of concern.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st. May 2025:

It was reported that the minutes had already been approved at the Council meeting held on the 25th. June 2025 and copies were given to all those in attendance.

4. Matters Arising from that meeting:

The Chairman reported that the plans to build some affordable housing on land adjacent to Godings Lane, Harmer Hill had not been supported by Shropshire Council because of access to the site and drainage problems. As a result the plan had to be withdrawn.

5. Council Chairman's Report:

The Council Chairman Mr. C. Ruck gave an informative and interesting report, outlining the range of activities undertaken by the Council and the many issues it had to face in an effort to meet the needs of the Community. At a time of high inflation everyone on the Council was aware of the need to keep a tight control on expenditure and he was pleased to report that for the fourth year the Council was not seeking an increase in its precept, which meant that element of the Council Tax should be relatively stable.

He was pleased to report that the Council now had full membership with the co-option of two new Councillors at the March meeting.

Highlighting other issues, he outlined the reasons for increased planning applications and pointed out that although the Council had identified a range of highways problems Shropshire Council had been unable to finance them.

He pointed out that keeping the Parish neat and tidy is high in the list of priorities for the Council and it has been possible to employ two excellent part time workers who deal with litter and dog fouling problems, cut back hedges and clean gullies and pavements and once a year a full litter pick is carried out, when volunteers come together to undertake the task.

In conclusion he thanked his fellow Councillors, the Parish Clerk and Shropshire Councillor Sarah Marston for their dedicated help and support throughout the year.

A full copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

6. Shropshire Councillors Report:

Sarah Marston had sent an apology for not attending the meeting as she was on annual leave. She had however sent in a detailed report, a copy of which has given to all those at the meeting and one is attached to these minutes.

The Chairman spoke highly of the work and support Sarah had given since her election.

7. Police Report:

A representative of the local police had been invited to the meeting but duty demands meant that no officer was able to attend.

8. Open Forum:

The Chairman pointed out that the meeting was now open for anyone present to make comment or raise issues of concern and the first person to speak was Mr. Collinson who confirmed that he was responsible for the planning application to install a 1MW Ground Mounted Solar Array on land he owned at Webscott, Myddle. He understood that there had been many objections to the plan but wished to allay many of the concerns raised by local residents and point out the benefits of the scheme. In response a resident from the Webscott area stated that she had been asked to represent the local community in objecting to the plans and seek the support of the Parish Council in objecting to the planning application. She listed a range of concerns including the loss of good agricultural land, lack of consultation, noise, safety and visual impact. Further comments supporting and objecting to the scheme were then raised until the Chairman brought the discussions to an end pointing out that Members would be considering the application in the meeting which was to follow and he felt that they had sufficient evidence to make a qualified judgement and response.

The Council could either approve or object to the plans or make a no comment response. The Council's comments would be seen by the responsible planning officer alongside all the other responses that had been made and he would make the final decision.

The only other item raised related to concerns about residue from the recent resurfacing of Wem Road, Harmer Hill blocking the gullies and drains.

Shropshire Council would be informed and asked to take action.

9. Chairman's Closing Remarks:

The Chairman thanked everyone who had attended and especially those who had contributed to the discussions and invited them to stay on for the Council's AGM which would be starting immediately after the end of this meeting.