

MYDDLE, BROUGHTON & HARMER HILL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Myddle Village Hall at 7.00pm on
Wednesday May 3rd. 2023

Present:

Councillor Mr. C. Ruck (Chairman)

Councillors: Mr. M. Andrew, Ms. J. Bienek, Mr. I. Anderson, Mr. G. Harding; Mrs. J. Jackson, Mr. G. Miller, Mr. A. Harris, Mr. A. Jones.

Mr. J. O'Donoghue (Manager Shropshire Town & Rural Housing)

Ms. K. Hepburn (Senior Development Officer Shropshire Town and Rural Housing).

The Parish Clerk.

Fourteen members of the public.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss K. Row and Shropshire Councillor B. Williams.

2. Welcome by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr. O'Donoghue and Ms. Hepburn

3. Minutes of the meeting held on September 18th. 2022.

It was reported that the minutes had already been approved at the Council meeting held on November 2nd. 2022 and copies were given to those in attendance.

4. Matters Arising from that meeting.

Parish Plan:

It was reported that the Council Chairman and Clerk had carried out a detailed review of the Parish Plan and had highlighted the many developments that had taken place. Members considered and approved the review at a Council meeting when it was agreed that no major action was needed.

Ellesmere Road/Newton on the Hill Junction:

The proposed development of a buffer 40mph zone and improved road markings had taken place and appeared to be working well.

5. Proposed Social Housing Project in Harmer Hill.

Mr. Jason O'Donoghue gave an informative outline of the proposed development, which was being undertaken following a request from the Parish Council stating that investigations had indicated that there was a need for varied social housing within the Parish. This information was supported by the records held by 'Home Point' at Shropshire Council's Housing Department.

He pointed out that Shropshire Town & Rural Housing was responsible to Shropshire Council for well over 4,000 properties at various locations in Shropshire. These properties included rented and shared purchase accommodation.

It was confirmed from the floor that the Parish had been seeking a suitable location for some time but there was a reluctance from land owners to sell as the price paid for land for this type of development was only 10% of its commercial value. However, the site finally offered was on land adjacent to Godings Lane which was a small extension to the area used as a playing field and owned by Mrs. G. Mayall of Lea Hall Farm.

Mr. O'Donoghue then pointed out that as the land was outside the development area special regulations applied but discussions with Shropshire Council planners had indicated that it was suitable for a small development of about ten affordable varied units. Intensive site inspections had been taking place regarding drainage, the access road; service provision and the effect on the local flora and fauna and it was now time to involve the local community. As such a small Steering Group would be set up comprising Councillors and members of the public who were supportive of the scheme. This group would look in detail at all aspects of the proposals before a planning application was submitted, at which time all local residents would have an opportunity to study the plans and make comments.

Because of the nature of the development, applications in the first instance would be restricted to those living within or who had firm identifiable contacts with the Parish. Providing the project was approved it would be 2025 before properties were available.

Mr. O'Donoghue, the Council Chairman, Mr. Purslow and Councillors then responded to a wide range of questions and comments raised by members of the public. Many of these were critical of the scheme but several were complimentary. However, there was widespread concern that an outline map had not been provided giving a clear indication of the possible layout of the site. The Chairman promised this would be available at the next Council meeting when the project would be discussed again. Members of the public could attend that meeting on June 22nd. in Harmer Hill Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm.

6. Council Chairman's Report.

The Chairman had compiled an interesting and informative report, highlighting the range of activities undertaken by the Council in the past year to meet the community's needs. These included road safety measures, litter and dog fouling control, maintenance of the two play areas and the many footpaths which are well-used by residents.

With 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, he was pleased to report that the Council had still been able to make grants towards the upkeep of the Village Halls and Church Grounds as well as supporting the publication of the Messenger and the development of the Youth Centre. Small grants had also been given to three local charities.

He wished to extend thanks to all the Members, the Parish Clerk and Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams for their dedicated support throughout the year.

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

6. Police Report.

A representative of the local Police had been invited to the meeting but unfortunately, work demands on the very small team prevented anyone from attending.

7. Open Forum

The following items were raised:

1. A request from Shotton Hall for
 - (a) An additional streetlight in Shotton Lane.
 - (b) An extension of the 40mph limit on Shotton Lane.
 - (c) Support for publicity requesting dog walkers to respect Shotton Hall Grounds.
2. For renewed pressure to be put on the Police and Shropshire Council to reduce the speed limit on Wem Road from 40mph to 30mph.
3. Confirmation that the promised dog waste bin would be placed close to Harmer Hill Village Hall.
4. A request for a sign indicating the location of Harmer Hill Village Hall.

The Chairman gave an assurance to those who were still present that all these requests would be considered and acted on where possible.

8. Chairman's Closing Remarks.

Thanks were extended to those in attendance for their genuine support.

Minutes approved as a true copy:

Signed: _____ ***Chairman.*** **Date** _____

Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.
Chairman's Report - 2021-2022

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 2022

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 with many activities taking 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 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.

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

Local Housing

Councillors have continued to pursue the provision of low-cost housing within the parish for local people with the possibility of constructing some affordable housing in the Parish under a 106 agreement, which means that local people are given the first opportunity to rent the properties although very little positive progress has been made so far.

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 this 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.

Play Areas in Myddle and Harmer Hill

The play areas in both Myddle and Harmer Hill have a continuing maintenance programme including an annual ROSPA inspection by a Shropshire Council qualified inspector to ensure our children can play safely on the equipment provided. A number of minor issues have been identified and a programme of maintenance is being put in place.

Environmental Maintenance Grant

Mr Marco Busi continues to be employed on an hourly basis and Mr Simon Busi is now also employed on an hourly basis within the same budget constraints and their joint sterling work is helping to keep our parish looking very presentable.

Dog Fouling

Thoughtless dog owners are still allowing their dogs to foul footpaths and not clearing up after them. The bag dispensers are frequently restocked with bags and bins are emptied when necessary.

Litter

Litter is another major source of concern to local people. Mr Simon Busi was asked to carry out a major litter pick during January 2022, and the Annual Parish Litter Pick was able to be held in March 2022. I can report that several members of the community have now 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.

Myddle School Safer Access

Unfortunately, Shropshire Council cut the funding for this project for the foreseeable future. Rest assured your Parish Council is still trying to get a resolution to the problem. Proposed plans can be viewed by following this link. <https://bit.ly/2UWF9OK>

Road Safety.

A new Vehicle Activated Speed Sign has been approved for the Parish to be sited in Harmer Hill. It will record vehicle speed going through the village on the A 528. Unfortunately, we have been waiting 9 months for Shropshire Council to erect a post for the sign.

In Myddle one of the VAS signs has been moved to a more prominent place near the school. Clearing trees to enable the solar panel to function efficiently was carried out by 4 volunteers and the VAS sign was moved by 2 volunteers. Our thanks go to the volunteers involved.

Reports indicate that the Vehicle Activated Speed Signs in Myddle are reducing the number of speeding vehicles. An agreement has been reached to construct a dropped kerb on the Wem Road, Harmer Hill, however, the Parish Council has to pay the full cost of the project and may only use contractors approved by Shropshire Council.

A report last year from the County Road Safety Officer indicated that he had secured additional funding and was hoping to proceed with safety measures at the junction of the A528 and Newton Lane and the extension of the 30mph speed limit in Lower Road, Harmer Hill. Proposed plans can be viewed by following this link.

<https://bit.ly/2UWF9OK>.

Unfortunately, we are still waiting for the commencement of this work.

All the road-related issues raised at meetings are reported to the Highways Department or the Road Safety Officer.

Community Infrastructure Levy: (CIL)

For the past few years, housing development has been charged a levy that 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. However, there is still just over £22,000 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.

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>

Grants

Each year the Council is permitted to spend a limited amount of money in providing small grants to Charities or other bodies providing a service which benefits local residents. The group has to make a written application and the grants are awarded at the March meeting. This year three applications were received and a grant of £160 was made to each of the following charities, Hope House Hospice, Crane Counselling and the Hospice.

Local Churches and The Messenger

Grants were requested and given to both local churches, St Peter's, Myddle and St Mary's, Broughton to assist in the costs of grounds maintenance. An additional grant was requested and given to assist in the production of The Messenger, a valuable source of Council information.

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 overgrown vegetation, and renewing the yellow and blue footpath and bridleway signs.

Other points

Despite anticipated inflationary increases, your Parish Council unanimously agreed not to seek an increase in the precept for 2021-22 which could have increased the Community Tax. Full details of our budget can be found on the Councils web site. <https://www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk/>

All the street lights that are the responsibility of the Parish Council have now been converted to LED lights. Unfortunately, there are still several lights that the Parish Council are not responsible for.

Both village halls requested additional grants due to the impact of COVID-19 restricting their opening and their income and £2,000 was given in May 2021 for the general upkeep of each village.

We are reliably informed that the Myddle Youth Club will be restarting in Myddle. A £500 Grant is allocated towards the running of the Youth Club, although the club is not running at the moment the money will be held in case the club resumes.

Tree inspection and maintenance work is 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.

The Council is still awaiting action from Shropshire Council regarding Ellesmere Road/Newton-on-the Hill junction, Wem Road Footpath and Harmer hill reservoir.

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.

Two Councillors have resigned during this year.

Ms Celia Whittingham left to pursue a career in the British Army and is currently at Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Mrs Helen Morgan M.P. Helen is now the Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for the North Shropshire Constituency.

I would like to welcome two new councillors representing Harmer Hill, Mr Marshall Andrew and Mr Andrew Jones.

Colin Ruck

Chairman of Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.

May 2022

Following the Local Elections on 6th May 2021, the following are the current members of the Parish Council

Colin Ruck

Geoff Harding

Jad Bienek

Alex Harris

Ian Anderson

Karyn Rowe

Jeanette Jackson

Greg Miller

Recently Co-opted members

Marshall Andrew (March 2022)

Andrew Jones (May 2022)

Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams