

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The March meeting was held in Harmer Hill Village Hall when as usual a substantial programme of business was conducted, starting with the co-option of a new Member to replace Miss Whittingham who resigned earlier in the year. The person selected was Mr. Marshall Andrew a Harmer Hill resident and he was able to participate in the meeting which followed his co-option.

Speeding Traffic:

Members considered a wide range of issues and foremost was responding to the many complaints about speeding traffic that are regularly brought to the Council's attention. Unfortunately the Council has no powers to enable them to deal with what is unfortunately a National issue. However a small group of Members meet frequently with Shropshire Council's Highways safety officer to discuss these issues and suggested improvements are then passed to the area Police Road Safety Officer for consideration and possible action, Earlier in the year the following proposals had been made – changing the speed limit from 40 to 30mph on Wem Road, Harmer Hill; introducing a buffer zone of 40mph entering Myddle on the Baschurch Road; speed restrictions on the Baschurch Road at Myddlewood; a 40mph limit on a section of the A528 by the new development at Hillcrest and the turning into Brookside in Myddle; a 40mph limit on Shotton Lane Harmer Hill and an extension of the 30mph limit on Lower Road Harmer Hill.

Of these, the only ones to gain full support from the police were the Shotton Lane and Lower Road proposals. Shropshire Council will try and include these in their future plans and will also consider providing advisory signs at Myddlewood and improvements to the gateway into Myddle from the direction of Baschurch. It was unanimously agreed by Council Members that the Council will continue to press for the other issues to be dealt with.

One successful outcome is that the plans for the improvements at the junction of the Ellesmere Road and the road to Newton on the Hill including a 40mph buffer zone should be undertaken in the near future after a wait of well over two years.

Streetlights:

A recent circular from Scottish Power has indicated that from March 1st. they were increasing the cost of electricity for the street lights from 12p to 47p per kWh, which means the annual cost for the Parish would rise from just over £500.00 to approx £2,000.00. The Clerk was asked to seek other quotations and to see whether it would be beneficial to join the Shropshire Council streetlight consortium.

We have also been informed by E.On who manage the lights that they are currently not in a position to take on any column replacement work or additional column installations in the Scottish Power area.

Increased Fuel Costs:

Concerns were expressed regarding the effect the increased fuel prices would have on many residents and it was felt that the most appropriate way to help initially was to provide information on the range and type of support which is currently available. It was suggested that a detailed article could be published in The Messenger, which was delivered to most properties in the Parish and Councillor Mrs. Jackson offered to oversee the project.

Grants:

Each year the Council budgets a small sum of money to enable it to give grants to charities or organisations that apply for help and this year has given grants of £180.00 to each of the following charities - Hope House, The Hospice and Crane Counselling.

Youth Club:

Members were pleased to hear that the Youth Club in Myddle will be re-started following its demise during the pandemic and the Council will be giving moral and financial support to the organisers.

Shropshire Council:

The Council, like many organisations and individuals is frequently critical of the lack of response from Shropshire Council to issues that are raised but the following report was recently given to Clerks and highlighted by Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams:

Shropshire Council is disappointed about the National delay in addressing Social Care where in Shropshire 79% of the total budget last year was spent in dealing with this area of work, which only deals with about 3% of the population. Most of that money was spent on adult social care although the numbers of children in care had risen from 240 to 600 during the pandemic.

Ukraine Crises:

Before the meeting closed there was unanimous support for the following message to be sent to the Leader of Shropshire Council:

'Council Members are united in their support of any actions taken by Shropshire Council in efforts designed to appease the suffering and hardship of those refugees from Ukraine, whose lives have been decimated by the invasion of their homeland by Russian forces'.

Minutes:

As always the full minutes of the meeting can be found on the Councils web site – www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk