

MYDDLE, BROUGHTON & HARMER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

At the Council Meeting held on January 8th. 2020 the following items were among the issues discussed:

Budget

The budget for 2020 – 2021 was approved and next year's precept was set at £29,250.00 which is a 5% increase on last year's figure, to take account of inflation costs and the additional work the Council is undertaking. The precept is the amount of money the Parish requests from Shropshire Council, which is then divided by the total number of properties in the Parish paying Council Tax. Because there are additional properties this year there should be little or no increase in the Parish element of your Council Tax bill. Details of the budget can be found on the Council's web site or a paper copy can be obtained from the Clerk at a cost of £5.00.

Highways Issues and Road Safety:

Over the past few years a whole range of road safety issues have been brought to the attention of the Shropshire Council's Highways Department I, which has overall responsibility for the work. Because of continued cuts to the department's budget we have been advised that there is unlikely to be any work carried out in the foreseeable future, other than pot hole repairs and re-surfacing work. However the Council has been given a grant of £1,500, which has to be matched funded, to enable minor work like litter picking, pavement cleaning and simple drain clearance to be undertaken. The Council has contracted Mr. Marco Busi to do many of these tasks.

Speeding Traffic:

Excessive traffic speed seems to cause most of the concerns raised by members of the public, not just in this Parish but across the whole Country. Council members are aware of this and are in constant contact with the Police, Shropshire Council and the Safer Road Partnership to assess ways in which this can be dealt with. Many of you will be aware that the 'speed van' operates in Harmer Hill and regularly reports drivers for speeding – many of whom live in the local area! Unfortunately there are strong regulations governing where these vans can be located but the Partnership regularly undertakes covert checks at other locations. The Council has been fortunate in securing the necessary finance for four Vehicle Operated Speed signs to be located at various sites and last autumn a group of Myddle residents set up a Community Speed Watch programme to monitor speeds along the Bachurch Road in Myddle. Those involved are all volunteers and give up valuable time in all weathers to try to ensure that there is some control. It is a project greatly appreciated by Councillors and in an effort to support and enhance their work the Council has agreed to purchase two new and up-dated Vehicle Operated units which indicate the actual vehicle speed and record the speed of every vehicle. This allows the Council to pin point exactly where and what the problems are and it should be possible to move the units to varying locations. Negotiations with suppliers are still on-going but hopefully the new units will be in place within the next two months.

Streetlights:

The Council is responding to a National directive which states that existing VOS (yellow) lights must be replaced by the white LED units as a means of saving electrical power. A start has been made on the project and should be completed in the next few weeks. This will ultimately reduce the cost of maintenance and electricity.

Community Infrastructure Levy:

When new properties are built the developers have to pay a substantial levy to Shropshire Council and part of this is then passed on to the Parish where the properties are being built. Because of considerable development in the Parish over the past few years, this money has enabled the Parish Council to install - two VAS units in Harmer Hill; provide a new children's play area in Harmer Hill; extend the Myddle play area, together with a new access path and up-grade all the street lights. It will also be used to pay for the additional speed activated units that are planned.

Contact

You are reminded that you are welcome to attend planned Council Meetings, where you have an opportunity to raise issues before the start of the meeting or you can contact the Clerk by telephone or email at any time to discuss issues of concern – preferably not Sunday tea time!