

MYDDLE, BROUGHTON & HARMER HILL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Harmer Hill Village Hall at 7.15pm on
Wednesday May 8th. 2024

Present:

Councillor Mr. C. Ruck (Chairman)

Councillors: Mr. M. Andrew, Ms. J. Bienek, Mr. G. Harding, Mrs. J. Jackson, Mr. G. Miller.

Shropshire Councillor B. Williams.

The Parish Clerk.

Three members of the public.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillors A. Jones and I. Anderson

2. Welcome by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on May 3rd. 2023.

It was reported that the minutes had already been approved at the Council meeting held on June 21st. 2023 and copies were given to those in attendance.

4. Matters Arising from that meeting.

(a) Proposed Social Housing Development in Godings Lane.

The Chairman reported that the Council had agreed to relinquish the lease on the land subject to a few caveats but no response had been made and the Council had been made aware that no progress had been made regarding the sale of the land to Shropshire Council.

(b) Request for an additional street light and an extension of the 40mph speed limit in Shotton Lane.

The Clerk reported that:

(a) He had held a site meeting with a representative from the new streetlight contractors who had stated that there was no Network to connect additional lights to and there were too many trees in the area to consider installing solar lights.

(b) Neither the police nor Shropshire Council would object to an extension of the 40mph limit but it was subject to budget restraints and currently was a low priority.

(c) Reduction from 40mph to 30mph on Wem Road, Harmer Hill.

Discussions had taken place with the Police and Shropshire Council, neither of whom would support the suggestion unless additional calming measures were put in place and currently Shropshire Council could not provide a budget for that.

(d) Request for a dog waste bin close to Harmer Hill Village Hall.

A new bin had been purchased by the Parish Council and put in place and was being emptied regularly.

(e) Request for a direction sign for Harmer Hill Village Hall.

This had been passed to the Village Hall Committee.

5. 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, in an effort to meet the needs of the community. 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.

By 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 up-keep 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.

PCSO Liz Walmsley and PCSO Olly Morris were in attendance and stated that they had been made aware of the concerns raised by the Council with the major one being road safety and speeding traffic. They were engaged in carrying out road side speed checks and would respond to identified locations. Although the Parish has a low crime record it was essential for the public to be vigilant and report concerns to the police on 101 or direct to the Wem team.

The plan is to make the public aware of their presence and they were happy to attend organised events.

The Chairman thanked them for attending.

7. Open Forum

No items were raised.

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 - 2023-24

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 2024

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.

Community Infrastructure Levy.

This year the Council received the final payment of a levy which is imposed on constructors when more than one property is built. The Parish Council gets a small percentage of the levy for spending on approved Community projects. Part of it has been spent on a new Notice Board in Harmer Hill and other projects are under consideration including welcoming signs on the main access roads

Community Environment Project.

The Council were again successful in obtaining a grant of £1,500.00 from Shropshire Council to carry out work related to Shropshire Highways. This grant has to be matched with an equal amount from the Parish Council and has enabled Mr Marco Busi to continue to be employed on an hourly basis and Mr Simon Busi is also employed on an hourly basis to help deal with some of the main concerns which are raised regularly – litter; dog waste; and overgrown areas. It also enables the provision of tools and protective clothing for litter picking by residents.

Grants.

Again this year substantial grants were made to both Village Hall Committees in recognition of the outstanding work that is carried out in providing accommodation for so many varied events and activities. Grants were also given to help with the maintenance of the grounds at Myddle and Yorton Churches; the production of the Messenger and support the Youth Centre which resumed activities after the end of the lockdown.

The Council also budgets for small grants to charities that serve local needs and apply for help. This year a grant of £150 was sent to Hope House Hospice; The Severn Hospice and Crane Counselling.

Street Lights.

Early in the financial year, we were informed by E.ON who were contracted to maintain the street lights owned by the Council that they wished to withdraw from the contract. Having sought advice from several sources Highline Electrical from Oswestry was contracted to take over the work and the move has been very successful and a little bit cheaper. At the same time, it was decided to join a consortium organised by Shropshire Council for the payment of the electricity costs as they have been able to negotiate a reduced price with Scottish Power.

Highways.

The Council continues to press for the control of speeding traffic in the area by Myddle School, a 40mph buffer zone on the approach to Myddle on Baschurch Road and a reduction in the speed limit on Wem Road in Harmer Hill. We have been promised action with the introduction of a 20mph speed limit by the school with additional calming measures but this looks like it is still two years away. The Police and Shropshire Council will not agree to a 30mph limit on the Wem Road unless additional calming measures are put in place to force traffic to slow down.

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.

Members have been concerned to hear of a few incidents of anti-social behaviour on the field in Myddle at various times. The anti-social activities have been reported to the police and they are keeping a watching brief but we urge anyone who is aware of such activities to either report them directly to the police on 101 or contact the Parish Clerk who has direct access to local police and will advise them of the situation.

Tree Work.

Under Government and Insurance regulations, trees for which the Council has responsibility have to be inspected every four years. The latest inspection took place last year when remedial work was carried out but a continuous watching brief tries to ensure that none of the trees pose a danger to the public.

Planning.

Planning applications are considered at every meeting of the Council. As part of the National Plan, Shropshire has 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. However, all applications need to be considered and responded to before the planners make their decisions. 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 or part purchase the properties. This was discussed in detail at last year's meeting but has not made much progress since then but meetings are still on-going.

Major Headaches.

There are several issues which continue to frustrate the Council: Harmer Hill Reservoir, Safer Access to Myddle School and buildings constructed without full planning permission

Litter

Litter is another major source of concern to local people. The Annual Parish Litter Pick was able to be held on the 23rd of March 2024 with 29 volunteers. I can report that several members of the community have 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.

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>

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, cutting back overgrown vegetation, and renewing the yellow and blue footpath and bridleway signs. If you would like to help please contact Colin Ruck 07906622133.

Other points

Despite anticipated inflationary increases, your Parish Council unanimously agreed not to seek an increase in the precept for 2023-24 and again for 2024- 25 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/>

In conclusion, I would 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.

Colin Ruck

Chairman of Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.

May 2024

Current Parish Council Councillors

Colin Ruck
Geoff Harding
Jad Bienek
Alex Harris
Ian Anderson
Jeanette Jackson
Greg Miller
Marshall Andrew (Vice Chairman)
Andrew Jones
Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams