

The Parish Council

WHO ARE WE

Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council, elected by the local parishioners, is the first tier of local government and is one of 70,000 Parish and Town Councils in England. Its role is to serve the interests of the community and improve the quality of the local environment.

The Council represents the villages of Harmer Hill, Myddle and Yorton and the smaller communities around these villages. Elections are held every four years and the Council has an allocation of ten seats divided amongst three wards representing the three main communities. At the last election there were only eight nominations for election and as a result the Council had to co-opt two additional Members. Since then there has been two resignations for valid reasons, leading to the co-option of two more people. The next election will be held in May 2025.

Local Councils have powers granted by the Government, including the authority to raise money through taxation. This is known as the precept and the Council uses this money to provide a range of services which include street lighting, ground maintenance, upkeep of two play areas for children, grants to various organisations and a range of other smaller activities. The precept can be supplemented by other money raised by the Council including grant aid from a range of providers.

The administration of the Council is handled by the Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer, who is the only paid employee of the Council. Any other service carried out by the Council is contracted to individuals or companies. Council Members do not receive payment and have voted not to claim allowances.

The Council normally meets on the first Wednesday of January, March, May, September and November and the last Wednesday in June. The meetings take place in either Myddle or Harmer Hill Village Hall. By statute the Council has to hold an open Annual Parish Meeting and this is normally held in May and frequently on the same date as the normal Council meeting.

Details of meetings and agendas are published on the Village notice boards and on the Councils web site. Parishioners are welcome to attend these meetings and there is an opportunity to raise issues before the official meeting begins.

Councillors are always keen to hear from local residents and welcome suggestion for new projects that could be undertaken.

WHERE IS THE MONEY SPENT?

In a normal year the following items are the main areas incurring expenditure:

Street Lighting; Insurance; Grants to Village Halls ; Ground and Play Area Maintenance; Rent; Internal and External Audits; The Clerk's Salary and expenses; Litter and dog fouling collection; Membership of the Local and National Council Organisations.

Full details of the Council's income and expenditure can be found on this web site under 'What we spend and how we spend it'.

If you feel that you can contribute to the work of your Parish Council, why not stand for election and see how you can make a difference. You will find the work interesting and at times demanding but unfortunately you will not be paid.

For more information about the Council, its membership and the work it does, contact the Clerk who is Jack Wilson at 6. Primrose Drive, Shrewsbury, SY3 7TP or email him at myddlebroughtonclerk@talktalk.net. Jack will be more than happy to help you.