

Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.

Chairman's Report - 2022-23

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 2023

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.

Over the years Shropshire Council has passed on various amounts of money that have arisen from various housing projects in the Parish. This year it has enabled the Council to install a VAS Unit on Ellesmere Road in Harmer Hill, construct a dropped kerb on Wem Road; change all the Council-owned streetlights to LED units and erect new signs on the play areas.

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.

Queen's Jubilee.

The Council were pleased to be able to give financial support to excellent community events held in Harmer Hill and Myddle and to purchase a new seat for each village and was saddened by not being able to put them in place before the Queen passed away.

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.

The dramatic increase in the cost of electricity impacted the Council with a substantial problem and as mentioned earlier we were fortunate in having grant money to enable the majority of the Council lights to be changed from all-night lighting to fixed hours. It caused a few early problems but seems to have been accepted. We also joined a consortium of other Councils headed by the Shropshire Council who were able to negotiate a much-reduced price for the provision of electricity.

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. However, we are pleased that the improvements to the Ellesmere Road speed limits entering Harmer Hill from the direction of Myddle have been completed.

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.

Litter is a different problem and we are looking at ways in which this can be dealt with. In Harmer Hill, a local resident has taken over the task as a volunteer for their recreation ground but it seems we may have to pay someone a small retainer to look after Myddle.

Tree Work.

Under Government and Insurance regulations, trees for which the Council has responsibility have to be inspected every four years and the review has been carried out again by a highly qualified arborist who identified problems including the removal of dead trees. This has to be carried out to maintain insurance coverage and this work has already been undertaken.

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.

Major Headaches.

There are a number of issues which continue to frustrate the Council: Harmer Hill Reservoir, Safer Access to Myddle School, Wem Road Footpath, 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 1st of April 2023. 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.

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, 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 2022-23 which could have increased the Community Tax. Full details of our budget can be found on the Council's web site. <https://www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk/>

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.

Colin Ruck

Chairman of Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.

May 2023

Current Parish Council Councillors

Colin Ruck

Geoff Harding

Jad Bienek

Alex Harris

Ian Anderson

Karyn Rowe

Jeanette Jackson

Greg Miller

Marshall Andrew (Vice Chairman)

Andrew Jones

Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams