

MYDDLE AND BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Myddle Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday May 20th. 2015

Present:

Councillor R. Jeffrey (Chairman).

Councillors: Messrs. J. Heath, P. Keyse, R. Purslow, C. Ruck, G. Harding and S. Parker; the Parish Clerk; Sgt. C. Greenaway (West Mercia Police) and seven members the public.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillors Mr. R. Jones, Mr. R. Tiernan and Mrs E. Hodge.

2. Welcome by the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that there was a full and interesting programme planned and he felt sure there would be plenty of valuable contributions.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on May 21st. 2014:

It was reported that the minutes had already been approved at the Council meeting held on June 25th. 2014. Copies were available for those in attendance.

4. Matters Arising:

The Chairman indicated that his report later in the meeting would deal with the main issues arising from last year's meeting. No issues were raised from the floor.

5. The Role of the Modern Police Force

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Barrie Sheldon (Deputy Police Commissioner) to the meeting, who explained that Bill Longmore was attending a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and had sent his apologies.

He went on to give an interesting and informative outline of the current state of the West Mercia Force, indicating where savings had been made by sharing the working practices with the Warwickshire Force. There was positive news with the appointment of many new police officers but the police were faced with the differing needs of society, changes in the type of crime and a need to work more closely with other agencies.

He outlined a variety of new initiatives, with particular reference to a project designed to work more proactively with prisoners in an attempt to reduce the level of re-offending.

In closing he noted the positive relationship between the area police and the Parish Council and promised to feed this back to the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

The Chairman thanked him for a very positive report.

6. NHS Future Fit:

The Chairman then welcomed Sian Sansum from the Midlands and Lancashire NHS, who gave a very positive report on how the Future Fit programme was about meeting the health needs of everyone living and working in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and mid Wales. She emphasised that local patients, doctors, nurses and other health professionals were all working together to improve the care at local hospitals. There was a continuous period of consultation taking place which would last until the end of the year, after which there would be a need to formulate, publish and deliver acceptable developments.

It was a complex and challenging project.

The Chairman thanked Sian for her enthusiastic report.

7. Parish Council Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reminded everyone that he had produced a detailed written report which had been given to all those attending (copy attached). He then outlined the major issues which the Council faced in relation to planning; road safety and maintenance; strict budget control and the need to meet the aspirations of the residents.

He stressed the importance of the many and varied voluntary organisations which provided a range of valuable support in the community.

He concluded by thanking his fellow Members for their co-operation and support.

8. Parish Paths:

Mr. Ruck gave a report on the work being undertaken by a group of volunteers, to ensure that the many and varied footpaths and bridle ways in the Parish were maintained at a standard where they could be accessed by the public. It was a challenging task, including discussions with farmers to ensure that they met the obligations placed on them to ensure that the paths across their land were kept open.

He also praised the work of volunteer groups who undertook litter picking activity throughout the Parish in an effort to keep the areas neat and tidy.

Additional help was always welcome for both projects.

9. War Memorial Project:

The Chairman gave an overview of the project, which had been formed to make sure that the Parish War Memorial was maintained and to create a Book of Remembrance, dedicated to those members of the Parish who had given their lives in the service of their Country.

It was a valuable and moving task which was creating interest and already being widely supported by public donations.

10. North Shropshire Wheelers:

Councillor Russell Purslow explained how this volunteer group provided transport from local villages to Wem, Whitchurch and Market Drayton, when there was no access to public transport. It was a lifeline for some people who had no other means of transport and those wishing to make use of the service had to pay a small annual membership fee and a contribution to each journey they undertook.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council was keen to support this and extend the use of volunteer transport schemes within the Parish and would be giving this careful consideration during the next year.

11. Parish Defibrillator Project:

Councillor Phil Keyes gave an update on the scheme which had now been running for about three years. There was a full team of trained volunteers who could be called on to give assistance when needed. They had been called out several times and certainly saved the life of one resident.

12. The Parish Plan:

The Chairman reminded everyone of the importance of the Parish Plan which had highlighted a range of issues and requested developments. Many of these had been included in the Annual Parish Place Plan, which had to be submitted to Shropshire Council and the Parish Council would endeavour to carry out projects as and when money became available.

13. Public Forum:

There were no issues raised but Councillor Purslow congratulated the Chairman on the professional and positive approach he had taken in overseeing the Council's work and this was endorsed by everyone.

14. Chairman's Closing Remarks:

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and for the valuable and interesting reports but expressed disappointment at the low attendance.

Minutes approved as a true record.

Signed: B. Jeffrey Chairman Date: June 24th. 2015