

COUNCIL NEWS

Two Council meetings were held in Harmer Village Hall on Wednesday 8th. May. The first was the Annual Parish Meeting which is open to the general public giving an opportunity to meet the local Councillors and discuss issues related to the Parish.

Unfortunately, only two residents took the opportunity and the meeting went ahead with an update on the items raised last year, a full report from the Council Chairman and information from two of the PCSOs from Wem Police.

Outlining the items raised last year it was reported that:

- (a) No progress had been made with the proposal to build a small estate of affordable properties on land adjacent to Godings Lane in Harmer Hill. The Council had agreed to relinquish the lease but the land had not yet been purchased by Shropshire Council.
- (b) Neither the police nor Shropshire Council supported a request to reduce the speed limit on Wem Road to 30mph without additional calming measures, which currently Shropshire Council were not able to finance.
- (c) The request for an additional street light and an extension of the 40mph speed limit in Shotton Lane had been investigated and the new streetlight contractors 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. There were no objections from the police or Shropshire Council to the extension of the 40mph if and when finance could be made available.
- (d) The request for a dog waste bin close to Harmer Hill Village Hall resulted in a new bin being purchased by the Parish Council and put in place and this was being emptied regularly.

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman gave 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 upkeep 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 can be found on the Councils web site.

Police Report.

CSO Liz Walmsley and PCSO Oilly 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 roadside 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.

No further issues were raised.

The second meeting was the Council's AGM when the first item was news that Miss Karen Row had resigned from the Council because of her study commitments. Thanks were expressed for the work she had undertaken for the Council and it was confirmed that an attempt would be made to appoint a replacement Councillor for the Harmer Hill Ward. Members then moved on to elect Officers and appoint representatives for the next year. Councillor Colin Ruck was elected as Chairman and Councillor Marshall Andrew Vice Chairman, both on a unanimous vote. Details of all the other appointments can be found in the minutes of the meeting.

Other issues considered were:

(a) Affordable Housing:

There was concern about the lack of further information about the proposal to develop the small affordable housing estate adjacent to Godings Lane and the Clerk was asked to make contact with the legal department at Shropshire Council to discuss developments.

(b) Entrance Signs for both Villages

In the absence of Councillor A. Harris who was dealing with the proposed project and had been unable to attend the meeting because of a family illness, it was decided to defer any discussion until the next meeting

(c) Myddle Church Clock

Councillor G. Miller reported that he had contacted three companies and to date had received two quotations for carrying out the upgrade but understood that the third one was in the process of being prepared. Once all three had been received and considered by a representative of the Diocese he would bring the figures to the Council for consideration.

(d) Audit:

Members considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement which was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. A range of other draft audit documents were issued for consideration before the full audit was approved at the June meeting

(d) Planning Applications

Details of four applications had been received from Shropshire Council's planning department and these were considered and responded to and it was noted that the application for development at Sleaf Airfield had been approved.

The full minutes of the meeting can be accessed on the Councils web site – www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk