

Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.

Chairman's Report - 2024-25

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 2025.

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/ and many activities take 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.

Councillors

Two Councillors resigned during the year - Karen Rowe and Andrew Jones - both for work-related reasons, and I would like to thank them for their help and support during their time as Councillors. Roger Jones (a previously long-time serving Councillor) was co-opted to fill one vacancy. Three existing Councillors have decided against standing for re-election in 2025, and I would like to thank Jad Bienek, Geoff Harding and Ian Anderson for their help and support during their time as Councillors.

Highways Maintenance.

Several projects have been identified, including road safety at Myddle School, speeding traffic controls, etc. All have been discussed in detail with Shropshire Council, which has been unable to finance them in the short term or even long term!

St Peter's Church Clock.

It was decided to give a substantial grant towards the restoration of the Myddle Church Clock.

Myddle Village Hall Car Park

According to the Village Hall Deeds, the Parish Council is ultimately responsible for the Village Hall and it was agreed to use the Community Infrastructure Levy grant to cover part of the cost of resurfacing the car park. The car park is used extensively by people dropping off and picking up children from school.

Environmental Maintenance Grant.

Environmental Maintenance is seen as an important element of Council responsibility and the grant is used for such activities as gully and pavement clearance and dealing with dog fouling problems, etc. The Council has to match fund a grant from Shropshire Council to carry out general Highways Maintenance projects. This grant has been £1,500 per annum but has been reduced this year to £750. Money has been transferred from other Council activities to enable £3,000 to be spent.

Defibrillators.

The Council decided to cover future maintenance costs of these two important assets for our community, although oversight is still carried out by dedicated volunteers.

Myddle Play Area Woodland.

Following concerns raised by residents about the safety aspects of several self-sown sycamore trees, advice was obtained from a qualified arborist who recommended the removal of the trees. This was supported by Shropshire Council, who own the land and the Forestry Commission. A full review of the woodland is planned with more appropriate new trees being planted.

Welcome to Signs.

These have been erected at various sites on the main roads entering Harmer Hill and Myddle and the cost was partly funded by a Community Infrastructure Grant.

Youth Club

A grant has been awarded after the formation of a new youth club.

Litter

Litter is another major source of concern to local people. The Annual Parish Litter Pick was held on the 22nd of March 2025, with 27 volunteers thanked for their help and support. 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. Regular visits from the Local Speed Enforcement team help to remind drivers to drive through our Parish at a safe speed.

Footpaths

a) Sale of Woods in Harmer Hill.

Sections of the woods have been purchased by a number of residents and concerns have been raised regarding the footpaths within the woods, some of which are permissive paths. Positive discussions have been held with the new owners.

b) Footpath from Bridgewater Arms, Harmer Hill to Pimhill alongside the A528.

Following a request from some residents, this was discussed with representatives of Shropshire Council Highways Department, who, because it is alongside a main A road, will only allow it to be constructed if it is a full-scale path accessible for everyone. The cost of doing that is prohibitive.

c) Public Rights of Way

Considerable use is made of local footpaths. 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.

Social Housing Project

A committee will be formed to oversee any development and it will be chaired by Russell Purslow.

Other Major Headaches.

There are several issues which continue to frustrate the Council - mainly the Harmer Hill Reservoir planning enforcement and Safer Access to Myddle School.

Other points

Despite anticipated inflationary increases, your Parish Council unanimously agreed not to seek an increase in the precept for 2024-25 and again for 2025-26, which could have increased the Community Tax. Full details of our budget can be found on the Council's site. <https://www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk/>

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, our Parish Clerk, Mr Jack Wilson and Shropshire Councillor, Mr Brian Williams (who retires this year) for their dedicated help and support throughout the year.

Colin Ruck

Chairman of Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Parish Council.

May 2025

Parish Council Councillors until April 25

Colin Ruck (Chairman)
Marshall Andrew (Vice Chairman)
Geoff Harding
Alex Harris
Jadwiga Bienek
Roger Jones
Jeanette Jackson
Greg Miller
Ian Anderson

Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams

Parish Councillors from May 2025

Colin Ruck (Chairman)
Alex Harris (Vice Chairman)
Marshall Andrew
Roger Jones
Jeanette Jackson
Greg Miller
David Evans
Henry Rook
Sylvia Hammond

Shropshire Councillor Sarah Marston