

**MYDDLE AND BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Harmer Hill Village Hall at 7.00pm on**  
**Wednesday May 21<sup>st</sup>. 2014**

**Present:**

Councillor R. Jeffrey (Chairman).

Mr. C. Taylor (Shropshire Council).

Councillors: J. Heath, P. Keyse, R. Purslow and R. Tiernan; Shropshire Councillor B. Williams; the Parish Clerk and 10 members the public.

**1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs E. Hodge, R. Jones and C. Ruck.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on May 8<sup>th</sup>. 2013:**

It was reported that the minutes had already been approved at the Council meeting held on June 26<sup>th</sup>. 2012. Copies were available for those in attendance.

**3. Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Broadband Development in the Parish:**

Mr. Chris Taylor from Shropshire Council gave an interesting and informative talk on the provision and benefits of faster broadband in Shropshire and its likely arrival in various areas of the Parish. He responded to questions from those in attendance and assured everyone that he and his colleagues were always prepared to give help and advice by telephone or email contact.

The Chairman thanked him for attending and for an excellent presentation.

**5. Chairman's Report:**

Mr. Jeffrey gave a report on the Council's activities over the past twelve months, which included details of the Council's Membership, the updated mission statement, the budget, traffic and road safety, the relationship with the police and other agencies and plans for the future.

He informed the meeting that Mr. Ian Gunton had resigned due to pressure of work and expressed thanks for the service he had given to the Council over many years.

The Council was now seeking to recruit a new co-opted Member.

He concluded by thanking his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their dedication and hard work, pointing out that Councillors did not get paid and had decided against claiming any allowances.

A copy of his report is attached.

**6. Proposed Change to Council Name**

The Chairman outlined his reasons for changing the name to include Harmer Hill in the title as this was a major settlement within the Parish. This had been discussed at the last Parish Council meeting, when a number of parishioners had supported the inclusion of Harmer Hill but because of historical reasons, wished Broughton to be included too.

In the discussion which followed there was full approval for the inclusion of Harmer Hill in the title but a mixed re-action to the retention of Broughton. It was pointed out

that if this was included there would be other larger settlements which might need to be considered too.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their responses and stated that a decision would be made at the next Council meeting

#### **7. Planning Issues:**

The Chairman gave a detailed report on the complex nature of the current planning situation. The Government needed to forge ahead with providing housing and had set targets for Shropshire and all other major Councils, insisting that these targets were met.

Currently this target was not being achieved in Shropshire and was not helped by the fact that numbers could not be included where approval for building had been given but there had been no start on the development.

Developers had seen this as an opportunity to put in plans for development on sites outside the agreed planning boundaries and these were being approved, even though they were contrary to the wishes of residents in local parishes.

The problem facing Shropshire Council is that, if they turn down a planning application and it goes to appeal, the planning inspectorate have been given instructions that the norm should be to grant approval. If Shropshire Council loses the appeal they are faced with considerable financial costs.

These instructions had already resulted in the approval for development on two sites in the Harmer Hill which were outside the boundary and contrary to the wishes expressed in the Community Led Plan. Council Members and the public had strenuously objected to both without success. However, he felt that forceful opposition had resulted in a reduction of the number of houses on the site adjacent to Orchard House and the withdrawal of the application to build affordable housing on land adjacent to Harmer Hill Village Hall.

He gave an assurance that the Council would continue to object to applications which did not meet the Parish's stated criteria.

#### **8. The Community Led Plan:**

The Chairman reported that having adopted the Plan, the Parish Council was determined to tackle many of the issues which had been highlighted. Individual Councillors have taken responsibility for different aspects and progress has been made on a number of fronts.

##### 1. Meetings have been held:

- (a) With representatives of Shropshire Council, to highlight and seek action on areas of concern over road safety. There were particular concern over the main roads and the need for a controlled crossing by Myddle School.
- (b) In both Village Halls, to try and determine the need for additional affordable housing. Mr. Purslow explained the action that had been taken and stated that the number of people seeking affordable housing, as identified by the Council, was far less than suggested by some housing associations. To help clarify the situation a representative from Meres and Mosses Housing Association would be attending the next Council meeting, to outline their role and the help they can give.

- (c) With representatives of Myddle Primary School and the Corbet school, to help assess ways of helping and involving young people.

Other activities have included:

- (a) Work to ensure the delivery of faster broadband in the Parish.
- (b) Production of a comprehensive list of all the clubs and associations.
- (c) A full review and upgrading of the Parish footpaths.
- (d) Efforts to remove litter from the roadsides.

**9. Street Lighting:**

At last year's meeting it was reported that there had been a need to appoint a new contractor for the maintenance of the fifty two Parish streetlights. Part of the new contract included a full review of the lights which had not taken place for several years.

This review highlighted many deficiencies, with some lights outdated and not up to modern required standards and others with safety defects. The Council had adopted the report and lights with urgent safety defects have been dealt with. However the remaining work to replace outdated lights was still outstanding and the cost of this work was in the region of £15,000.00. As the Council did not have this amount of money in reserves, there was a need to determine whether to phase the work over a period of five years or to seek a Government loan, which was available at a low fixed interest rate. This would enable all the work to be carried out at the same time.

This would be decided at the next Council meeting but the general feeling from the public attending was that the Council should seek a loan.

**10. Public Forum:**

1. Lower Road, Harmer Hill.

A number of people raised concerns about the state of Lower Road and felt that urgent action was needed to improve the road surface. It was also suggested that it should be signposted as a single track road with passing areas created.

The Chairman agreed that this that this would be tabled on the agenda for the next Council meeting and that the requirements of the 106 order attached to the housing development taking place there would be studied.

2. Planning:

Information was sought regarding the Council's response to planning applications in relation to size, height, lay-out etc. The Chairman gave an assurance that every aspect of a planning application was given serious consideration and in most cases a site meeting was held. Any planning concerns expressed by Members or brought to their attention by residents was passed back to the relevant planning officer.

**11. Chairman's Closing Remarks;**

Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and participation stating how pleased he was to see a much higher level of attendance than in previous years. He encouraged them to attend Council meetings too to see how the Council was operating.

**Minutes approved as a true copy.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ *(Chairman).*