

**MYDDLE BROUGHTON AND HARMER HILL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
MYDDLE VILLAGE HALL ON JUNE 25TH. 2025 AT 7.30 pm.**

Public Session:

There were six members of the public present and the following issues were brought to the attention of Members:

Public Footpath 67A

Mr. & Mrs. Mackechnie outlined the reasons they wished to remove a small section of the Public Footpath which traversed land they had recently purchased. They understood that the Parish Council had objected to the proposal although Shropshire Council, The Ramblers Association and other groups had raised no concerns.

In an attempt to get a resolution it was decided that concerned Members would attend a site meeting with the owners and Shropshire Council's Rights of Way Officer.

The Hollow, Harmer Hill:

Mr. & Mrs. Jackson raised concerns about the amount, size and speed of traffic using the Hollow as a 'rabbit run', causing many incidents of damage to drains and verges. In the previous week a fast moving tractor had uprooted a young hazel tree.

Several possible solutions were considered including a proposal that action could be taken to prevent access to the Hollow from Ellesmere Road.'

Any action would be subject to a period of public consultation and finance being available for any work.

Sleap Aerodrome:

Mr. Bruce Buglass from Sleap Aerodrome Operations gave an up-date of activities which take place throughout the year, stressing that every attempt was made to keep noise to a minimum.

The two busiest weekends would be on the 5th. /6th. July which is the Operations Model Air Show and the 11th -13th. July which is the 'Annual Fly In', when 300+ aircraft will be arriving from all over Europe. Only the first event is open to the public, the second is a members only event. Details can be obtained from <https://www.shropshireaeroclub.com/event-list>.

Present:

Mr. C. Ruck (Chairman)

Mr. A. Harris

Mr. M. Andrew

Mrs. S. Hammond

Mrs. J. Jackson

Mr. G. Miller

Mr. H. Rook

Mr. R. Jones

In Attendance:

Shropshire Councillor Mrs. S. Marston.

The Parish Clerk.

Four members of the public.

25/15 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillor D. Evans.

25/16 Disclosure of Personal or Prejudicial Interests:

Councillor J. Jackson declared an interest in Agenda Item 4(e).

25/17 Minutes from the two meetings held on May 14th. 2025.

The minutes of the meetings were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

25/18 Matters Arising:

(a) Affordable Housing project.

There had been no further developments and Shropshire Council had still not agreed to purchase the land.

(b) Myddle Village Hall Car Park – repair.

Councillor G. Miller reported that the work had been completed satisfactorily.

(c) Harmer Hill Reservoir – Enforcement Order.

Shropshire Councillor S. Marston was thanked for the effort she had taken to investigate the continued delay in getting this problem resolved and for the written report she had sent which had been circulated to Council Members.

Unfortunately further waste had been deposited on site but the Council had been informed that a new Officer was dealing with the legal aspects of enforcing the order.

(d) Harmer Hill Footpaths.

This had been dealt with in the Public Session and the Clerk confirmed that he would contact the ‘Rights of Way’ Officer to arrange a date for a site meeting

(d) Myddle Wooded Area.

Unfortunately a few untimely issues had arisen with the Council being accused of felling more trees which was untrue. The Clerk had responded to this accusation pointing out that additional work had involved removing the trees which had been felled and lining the pathway edges with suitable felled saplings.

On the wider issue Councillor J. Jackson reported that she had been in contact with a number of agencies who were prepared to offer advice on re-stocking the area and in some cases giving grant aid. It was agreed to look at additional areas where new trees could be planted.

25/19 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 21st. 2025

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

25/20 Matters Arising:

(a) Affordable Housing Project:

A request was made for further information about the planned project.

(b) Climate Change:

Concern was raised about possible drainage or flooding problems as a result of additional rainfall.

Responses were made to both items and are recorded in the Minutes.

25/21 Correspondence:

Members considered the details of the correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting and where appropriate, responses had been or would be made.

25/22 (a) Accounts for Payment:

Payment of the following accounts was approved:

Mr. C. Ruck	Postcrete for footpaths repair	£14.00
Evans Construction	Purchase & Erection of 'Welcome To' signs	£11,952.94
Mr. J. Wilson	Salary (June)	£425.15
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax and NI (June)	£327.36
Shropshire Council	Energy Costs (2025 -2026)	£1,806.11
Mr. J. Wilson	Expenses May & June)	£129.65
Mr. M. Sheehy	Internal Audit (2024-2025)	£325.00

25/22(b) Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was tabled and approved.

25/23 Children's Play Area Up-grades

It was decided to defer this item until the next meeting as it had been proposed by Councillor D. Evans who was unable to attend this meeting.

25/24 Audit Documents:

Members considered and approved the following External Audit documents:

The Internal Auditor's Report, The Accounting Statement and the Reconciliation Statement.

The Clerk confirmed that the full Audit report would now be sent to the External Auditor in London for review. Members of the public can obtain a copy of the full report from the Clerk on payment of a £5.00 fee.

25/25 Report from Shropshire Council:

Shropshire Councillor Sarah Marston gave an interesting and informative report on the business that had been taking place and confirmed that she had been appointed as deputy member for social care.

The new Council was having to work to a budget which was set by the previous administration and financial matters seem to be much worse than anticipated.

A full copy of her report is attached.

25/26 Planning Applications:**A. The following application had been received for consideration:**

1. Avalon, Lower Road, Harmer Hill – Erection of single storey side and rear extensions with balcony (25/01810/FUL). *No objections raised.*

B. The following applications had been approved by Shropshire Council:

1. Proposed dwelling to the South of Shotton Lane, Harmer Hill plus new vehicular access (25/01316/FUL).

2. Meadowland, Sleaf – Variation of Conditions 2 & 9 and removal of Conditions 5 & 7 attached to planning permission 22/02001/EIA

25/27 Speed Control Measures:

Councillor D. Evans had suggested that further consideration should be given to the issue of speeding traffic on Wem Road, Harmer Hill and by Myddle School. In his absence it was decided to consider these at the September meeting as they had previously been discussed with Shropshire Council and the police.

Members considered concern raised by some residents regarding traffic speed on Ellesmere Road, Harmer Hill with a request for the speed limit to be set at to 20mph. However it was understood that Shropshire Council had already been contacted and responded and as this is a major 'A' road a reduction to 20mph would not be tenable. Regular speed checks are already taken.

25/28 Police Report:

Incidents recorded in April:

Nil report.

24/29 Exchange of Additional Information:

(a) Additional Agenda Items for the September meeting.

Consideration of possible projects

(b) Issues Needing Attention:

1. Highways:

No additional issues raised.

2. Street Lighting:

No issues raised.

3. Other:

No issues raised

24/30 Committee and Other Reports:

SALC North Shropshire Area Committee:

Councillor S. Hammond had already emailed Members with details of the meeting she had attended and various aspects had been discussed during the meeting. She confirmed that there had been a positive feel to the meeting with the election of a new Council and changes to Council Officers approach.

She emphasised the need for the Council to respond to Shropshire Council's 'Call for Information' by outlining everything that needed to be activated – whatever the cost.

It was also agreed to lobby local MPs. regarding the Government's decision to remove funding for local plans.

24/31 Date and Time of next meeting.

Wednesday 3rd. September at 7.30 in Harmer Hill Village Hall

Minutes approved as a true record:

Signed: Colin R. Ruck **Chairman** **Date:** 3rd. September 2025

Correspondence received since the May meeting:

Phil Bamber – Rights of Way Officer re Public Footpath 67A.

Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital Trust – News Up-date.*

Gail Power – Intro to Town Planning Course.*

Dianne Dorrell – Weekly Briefing.*

Shropshire Council – Message from New Council Leader.*

Shropshire Councillor Sarah Marston – News up-date on Harmer Hill Reservoir.*
Chairman – Local E Newsletter.
Gail Power – Details of Community Infrastructure Grants.*
PCSO Jamie Robinson – Safer Neighbourhood Police Report.*
Chris Mellings – Hospital Transformation Programme – Up-date.*
Gail Power – Training Bulletin.*
Chairman – Local E. Newsletter.
Dianne Dorrell – Weekly Briefing.*
Police – Fraud Advice.*
Cllr. Sarah Marston – Letter from Cabinet Member to Councils.*
Chris Mellings – Armed Forces Day.*
Resident – Complaint about the work carried out in Myddle Wood.
Residents – Concern about accessing Ellesmere Road in Harmer Hill – seeking 20mph speed limit.*
Resident - Concerns over the size and speed of vehicles using The Hollow.
Telephone call – Complimenting the Council on the erection of the ‘Welcome to’ signs.
Several Emails complimenting the ‘Welcome to’ signs.
Claire Cracket – Lord Lieutenants Newsletter.*
Ashley Kendrick – Information re. The completion of the Declaration of Interests Forms.*
Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital Trust – ‘Get Involved’.
Many email messages thanking Councillor Marshall Andrew for the new planters.
Austin Vaughan – Play Area inspection reports.
Paul Harfitt – seeking information about the proposed affordable housing development.
Alex Wagner (Shropshire Council) – ‘Call for Informationl.*
Emma Green- Harmer Hill Reservoir – oversite transferred to Mr. Beeston who will be seeking to engage with the prosecution process.
Chris Mellings – Future of Neighbourhood Plans.*
Chris Mellings – Hospital Transformation Process.*
Councillor J. Jackson – Felled tree removal.
Wem Rural Parish Council – Supporting Local Business in North Shropshire.*
Cllr S. Hammond – Report from the North Shropshire Area Meeting.*

Shropshire Council Report: June 2025

This month has largely been a month for members, myself included, to get their feet under the table. Full Council has taken place, so everyone has been appointed to various roles and responsibilities; I am the deputy cabinet member for social care.

Cabinet met for the first time earlier this month with a number of items on the agenda. Most notably: the financial outturn for 2024/25 and Telecare charging structure consultation. The outturn is worse than previously reported, with £60m of savings now being needed. Two-thirds of which are savings that weren't delivered last year. The Cabinet will consider changes to Telecare to bring us more in line with other councils.

The council's overall position was set in the budget, which was adopted last January. This is the envelope within which the new administration will have to operate this year:

- Savings required this year: £60m
- Reserves: £5m (audit says SC should have £15-20m)
- CIL money: £30m unspent
- Overspend of £34m largely due to Social Care spending despite significant savings in this area
- The last admin borrowed £26.9m in March to avoid bankruptcy and balance the budget. That will cost £1.3m in interest a year from the council's revenue.

Over the month, the new administration has been setting out its priorities and how they are addressing them.

- Fixing more potholes and improving the state of Shropshire's 3,200 miles of roads
- Improving customer service across the council, making it more responsive and easier to do business with
- Better and closer working with town and parish councils, who can help take on some services from Shropshire Council, or may be better placed to find simple solutions to issues in their area

Actions so far:

- The Deputy Leader has written to all parish clerks asking for their views on closer working and how we can work together to deliver for Shropshire. Hopefully, the cultural change will soon be more visible.
- Announced a new pothole repair crew has been added to the repair team. This extra team is employed directly by Shropshire Council, not Keir.
- If you use the park-and-ride in Shrewsbury, you might like to know that, from the end of June, the frequency will increase to a bus every 12 minutes instead of 20 minutes.
- Catching more pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals who are missed by the system by leveraging the benefits system when people apply for other benefits – this will allow those on UC to receive free school meals as announced by the government recently

- The transport minister Lilian Greenwood has agreed to meet with Heather Kidd to discuss government off-ramp for the £215m NWRR project, like the one Norfolk CC obtained. At present it will cost the Council £39m to stop the project or £215m to complete it. Neither of which the council can afford or deliver for Shropshire.

Regarding local casework a number of residents raised concerns when I was campaigning about speed reduction through Myddle & Harmer Hill and the Council is working with officers at the moment to rework the Councils approach to 20mph zones (similar to those on Oxfordshire rather than Wales) and establishing a road danger reduction forum to consider a vision zero strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and injuries & increase healthy safe mobility for all) amongst other things.

On a similar point, in response to the recent Wem Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) speed checks I contacted the PCSO for the area about residents' concerns over speeding. The recent check reported that

During our time in Harmer Hill we checked 77 vehicles and 81% of vehicles were abiding by the speed limit

During our time in Myddle we checked 44 vehicles and 100% of vehicles were abiding by the speed limit

PCSO Morris has suggested that if residents or the PC have concerns about a particular time of day that you believe speeding is of concern they will carry out the checks then rather than the random approach they have used to date. Please let me know and I am happy to feed this back to the SNT.

I would be grateful if anyone who requires help or advice could email

sarah.marston@shropshire.gov.uk. I don't have a council mobile yet, but I will let everyone know the number when it becomes available!

Cllr Sarah Marston

Shropshire Council: The Meres Division