

MIDDLETON & SMERRILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held on 3rd June 2015

Attendance: Councillor David Mallaband (Chair)

Other Electors of the Parish: John Bingham, Eileen Brocklehurst, Helen Brocklehurst, Henry Brocklehurst, Peter Tapping and James Wigley

Non-electors: Matthew Lovell (Parish Clerk), Graham Elliott (District Cllr), Andrew McCloy (PDNPA P Member)

1. Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting.

The meeting appointed the Parish Clerk to take the minutes.

2. Apologies – none

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2014

The minutes were confirmed

4. Statement of Accounts and Precept for 2015

The accounts for 2014/15 have been internally audited and submitted to Grant Thornton for the external audit. The reserves decreased by £345 due to Council financing the balance of the defibrillator purchase and starting works on Batemans Tomb restoration by felling the trees.

5. Chairman's Report

During the past year the Parish Council met a total of 6 times, during which time a total of 9 planning applications were considered and responded to.

The ownership of the Village Hall continues to be unresolved. However a fresh initiative is underway in an attempt to revitalise discussions regarding future ownership and tenancy. The Village Hall is now registered as an asset of community value which prevents its sale without notification to the Parish Council. Some work has been done in maintaining and improving the Village Hall.

During the year the Parish Council obtained official title of various sites within the village including The Village Hall playground and buildings, the playground and buildings with picnic area, and Batemans Tomb. This ownership now opens up opportunities to claim grants for upkeep and repairs. We have already started work on Batemans Tomb and further grants are being pursued.

We have continued to chase the County Council regarding the poor state of the roads and regularly report potholes but with little effect. Road sweeping and footpath maintenance is becoming less available but we try to ensure our fair allocation.

Following discussions last year regarding the future maintenance and care of the Sites of Meaning, the Parish Council has declared its intention of taking over the maintenance, with some repairs having already been completed.

The Village Hall Committee provided teas in the Village Hall during the Well Dressings weekend and again made a very useful contribution to our funds. Our thanks to everyone involved.

The precept was set at £3000.00 which will go towards the increased costs of salting roads in winter and maintenance of village assets.

During the course of the year council managed to maintain its reserves for potential village hall improvements.

Our appeal to raise funds to purchase a defibrillator was relatively successful and with further contributions from the Parish Council and Village Hall funds, a defibrillator has been purchased. The telephone box has been donated to the Heartbeat Trust to house the defibrillator and BT will also continue to pay the electricity costs. It is planned that this will be commissioned shortly. Overall a good outcome and our thanks to everyone that donated.

A new website has been developed for Middleton. www.middletonbyyoulgrave.org.uk
Thanks to Jack Aston and Peter Tapping for their time and effort in getting this site up and running.

This also allows us to publish all Parish Council announcements digitally which is a new requirement.

Any local businesses, individuals or organisations that wish to be mentioned are welcome and should contact the clerk.

Finally, our thanks to everyone involved in all of the fund raising events and maintenance of the village, and all councillors and the clerk for their time and effort during the past year.

David Mallaband
Chairman

Thanks were given by Henry Brocklehurst to the Chair for his efforts.

6. District Councillor – Graham Elliott introduced himself to the meeting and promised to follow up any issues we might raise during his next four years as our new District Councillor. He emphasised that he was happy to be contacted by email, phone or in person at Youlgrave Garage anytime and hopes to attend all the Council meetings.
7. County Councillor Simon Spencer – apologies received
8. Police – PC Ian Hyde sent his apologies
9. PDNPA Member – Andrew McCloy noted to the meeting that he was completing his first four year term and had been nominated by Youlgrave Parish Council to stand for election for a further term. He expressed a desire to continue as our member and to support the parish in its dealings with the Peak Park Authority especially in enforcement of planning conditions.
10. To consider any other Parish matter that may be brought forward by the Council or local government electors.

An elector raised his desire to see various maintenance issues addressed by council – strimming the path to the tomb, consideration for a new larger noticeboard and for plants to be put in the parish trough. The issue of commercial notices on the board was discussed and it felt that these should be local and only allowed to remain for three months. An investigation of street cleaning is also required.