

# MIDDLETON & SMERRILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Attendance: Councillor David Mallaband (Chair)

Other Electors of the Parish: Helen Brocklehurst, Joan Mallaband, Henry Brocklehurst, Jamie Wigley

Non-electors: Matthew Lovell (Parish Clerk), Simon Spencer (County Cllr),

1. Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting.

The meeting appointed the Parish Clerk to take the minutes.

2. Apologies – Graham Elliott District Cllr, Andrew McCloy PDNPA Member

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

The minutes were confirmed

4. Statement of Accounts and Precept for 2016

The accounts for 2015/16 have been internally audited and are being presented to council for approval at tonight's meeting. The reserves increased by £541.45 and are being held to assist grant aided repairs to parish assets.

5. Chairman's Report

During the past year the Parish Council met a total of 5 times. Having started the year with only three councillors it was necessary to co-opt additional councillors. After advertising and attempts at changing meeting dates two additional councillors were appointed giving us a full council.

The ownership of the Village Hall continues to be unresolved. In January a meeting was held to discuss options that had been offered by the owners. All trustees past and present were invited including the Village Hall Committee and members of the public. A poor turnout but a refusal of the offer was the outcome.

Following the Parish Council obtaining official title of various sites within the village we have started to make some progress in the maintenance and upkeep. The playground has had a significant clean in the 'soft' play area which should give 5 years without ingress of moss and all village owned trees have been pollarded and cut back to ensure their safety. The play equipment has had worn parts replaced to give it a new lease of life. Quotes have been received for the full maintenance of Batemans Tomb and efforts are in hand to obtain suitable grants and funding.

As with previous years 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.

The issues regarding Tor Farm and the unsightly trailers parked on the outside of their boundary have been the result of many discussions and letters to the Police and Peak Park over many years. We have decided to discontinue this action following advice from the Police that we are now in danger of being tantamount to harassment.

Once again 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 held 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 and other asset improvements.

2015 saw the installation of the defibrillator in the telephone kiosk. Once again, our thanks to all for donations and assistance in achieving this outcome.

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

6. District Councillor – Graham Elliott sent apologies having been called away this evening and a statement was read reflecting on his first year and assistance given to parishes in his District asking that Middleton request funds before other projects apply. He continues to fight for our fair share of expenditure.
7. County Councillor Simon Spencer – noted the frustrations across his 21 rural communities with the disparity in cuts particularly with Community Transport and buses which due to the efforts of the petition has seen a reprieve until June next year (after the next County Council elections). Potholes will hopefully see some action shortly with the Jet Patcher returning ( a £1.8 million central government grant has been given to County for road repairs) which can only be used between April and September. He expressed his frustrations with the lack of accurate communication from Highways and slowness in dealing with the straightforward solvable problems.

He agreed to take back comment on the inappropriate road diversion, a community request for assistance with the church roof and was concerned from the Chair's report that the police attitude had so changed as they have a legal duty to deal with Highways safety orders.

8. Police – PCSO Hayley Grundy sent her apologies and noted that there had been no reported incidents in the parish in the first part of the year.
9. To consider any other Parish matter that may be brought forward by the Council or local government electors. - Thanks were given by Henry Brocklehurst to David Mallaband for his Chairmanship and hard work and hope that he would remain in office for a further year.