

# MIDDLETON & SMERRILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Attendance: Councillor David Mallaband (Chair)

Other Electors of the Parish: Helen Brocklehurst, Henry Brocklehurst, Paul Jeremy, Claire Sutton and Jamie Wigley

Non-electors: Matthew Lovell (Parish Clerk), David Merton and Richard Silson

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, Simon Spencer (County Cllr)

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016

The minutes were confirmed

4. Statement of Accounts and Precept for 2016

The accounts for 2016/17 have been internally audited and made an addition to reserves mainly due to mild weather and our projects awaiting external decisions and tenders. They are being presented to council for approval at tonight's meeting and will then be available on the website whilst being sent for external audit.

5. Chairman's Report

During the past year the Parish Council met a total of 6 times.

Two planning consents were considered. One for Molly Moos Tea Rooms which was approved and appears to be successful, and one for a new agricultural dwelling on Weaddow Lane which following various questions raised and requests for further information is still under discussion.

The ownership of the Village Hall still continues to be unresolved. As a result of unfavourable responses from the owners including an unrealistic rental being offered, the Parish Council are actively pursuing alternatives to possibly build a new village hall but given the recent circumstances surrounding the village market it is unsure if any further work should be done on this matter.

Maintenance of Parish Council properties has continued and efforts are still being made to progress with refurbishment of Batemans Tomb. Small repairs have been made to some of the Sites of Meaning and inspections to playground equipment to ensure their suitability.

Bradford Dale has been a topic of conversation regarding the changes to the way it is managed and also the unsafe pathway down from the village. Little has been achieved regarding the change of management style but a joint letter from Youlgrave Parish Council and Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council to Lord Edward may yield a positive response. Our thanks to Derbyshire County Council for the work undertaken to reinstate the track and the drainage down to the dale which is a vast improvement.

As with previous years we have continued to chase the County Council regarding the poor state of the roads and regularly report potholes with relative success albeit there are still further potholes requiring urgent attention despite the recent repairs.

The issues regarding Tor Farm remain but Council has decided to continue its 'no action' following advice from the Police that we were in danger of being tantamount to harassment.

Our website continues to expand with the introduction of a 'latest news' section which keeps us up to date with all the latest 'happenings' from road closures and changes to introduce charges at recycling centres and them now being rescinded.

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

Unfortunately due to lack of support this year there has been a significant cut back in activities during well dressing week and after an emergency meeting only the well dressing and two days of teas can be maintained. It is the first time for over 50 years there has not been a village market. Further activities will be considered following a survey of parishioners regarding what they would like and any future support that is offered. A follow up meeting will be held on 20th June to discuss the findings. Hopefully a solution will be found to reintroduce the village market in 2018 and also carry out additional social events during this year.

The precept was reluctantly increased to £3300.00 which will go towards the increasing costs of salting roads in winter and maintenance of village assets. With the public toilet again under threat of closure there may be additional funds required, if in the event of closure, the Parish decides to fund them ourselves.

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

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 in having to attend District meetings this evening and a statement was read reflecting problems at District with a 10% cut in his grants for local assistance, the toilet block review highly likely to close all DDDC public toilets and the local housing plan submitted to Government which will see approx. 6500 new homes in the Dales area outside the Peak Park. He noted his grants last year had gone towards a bench in Youlgrave, Defibrillator unit in Monyash, Bakewell Community Transport and the church roof here in Middleton.
  7. County Councillor Simon Spencer – sent his apologies and was thanked in his absence for successfully pursuing the resurfacing of the track into the dale.
  8. Police – PCSO Boswell sent 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. – none
- Thanks were given on behalf of all present by Henry Brocklehurst to David Mallaband for his Chairmanship