

# MIDDLETON & SMERRILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Attendance: Councillor David Mallaband (Chair)

Other Electors of the Parish: Eileen Brocklehurst, Henry Brocklehurst, Paul Jeremy, Mary Marsh and Jamie Wigley

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

1. Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting.

The meeting appointed the Parish Clerk to take the minutes.

2. Apologies – Cllr Helen Brocklehurst, Cllr Claire Sutton, Simon Spencer (County Cllr)

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017

The minutes were confirmed

4. Statement of Accounts and Precept for 2017/18

The accounts for 2017/18 have been internally audited and made an addition to reserves due to projects awaiting expenditure. 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 has met for a total of 7 times.

Seven planning requests were considered during the year whereby the council replied positively on all requests.

Derbyshire Dales District Council have once again highlighted their intention to reduce the numbers of public toilets in their district which threatened the one in Middleton with the option of closure or the parish to take on the running costs. After two meetings with representatives at our parish council meetings it transpired that we are in a unique situation in that we own the toilets and DDDC have a 50 year lease to run and maintain the toilets all year round until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2043. Despite our best efforts and a presentation to DDDC at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March we have only managed to keep the toilets open on a seasonal basis. Given the situation of many other public toilets we consider this to be a reasonable outcome.

The ownership of the Village Hall still continues to be unresolved. An additional initiative was undertaken late last year that resulted in a community letter, signed by over 100 residents from within the Parish, being sent to each of the Waterhouse trustees requesting the granting of the freehold. 3 of the 5 trustees responded positively and 2 have as yet not responded at all. A further letter has been sent requesting that we have a final decision from all 5 trustees and with reasons for refusal if that is the final decision. It is hoped there will be a response in time for the VHC AGM on 26th June.

Care of Parish Council properties has continued regarding day to day maintenance, but very little progress regarding improvement. The specification for refurbishment of Batemans Tomb, as proposed by the PDNPA, has proved to be too detailed and potentially very expensive so a less ambitious plan is being considered to repair individual aspects rather than the whole.

Bradford Dale has been a topic of conversation regarding the changes to the way it is managed for some time now. Last year I reported that a joint initiative with Youlgrave Parish Council and ourselves to write to Lord Edward may yield a positive response. Unfortunately, despite having written a second time in July, this has resulted with no response at all. A rather disappointing state of affairs.

The situation regarding the poor state of the roads in the parish continues to be a cause for concern and despite government injecting more cash into county councils and additional resources applied by Derbyshire County Council we have, as yet, not seen any benefit. The gritting regime for Middleton that is in place showed its shortcomings this winter leaving the village roads in a dangerous and often impassable condition. There was a time that this would happen in only the most extremes of weather.

I am pleased to report the rejuvenation of the Village Hall Committee and in particular the return of the village market this year. They have already succeeded in continuing to provide some very enjoyable social events and we look forward to more of the same.

Our website has seen further development with the inclusion of news from the Village Hall Committee which is a very welcome addition.

Having increased the precept to £3300.00 last year the decision was made to leave at this level for the coming year which should cover our budgeted costs and leave our reserves intact.

I'd like to extend my thanks to fellow councillors, our clerk and all who have been involved in fund raising events and other activities to help keep our parish the pleasant habitat that it is.

David Mallaband Chairman

6. District Councillor – Graham Elliott noted that he is one of 39 councillors and that life of the Planning and Licensing Committee in his third year of office is extremely time consuming with the Local Plan (all 165 pages available on the DDDC website) now expecting 5000 homes to be built in the Dales District by 2033 concentrated on Matlock, Ashbourne and the southern part. The PDNPA has given permission for 30 affordable homes in Bakewell as its contribution. The Public Toilet review has seen closures already effected with Monyash included – the nearest is now 2.5miles away at Parsley Hay. Following the snow disruption Graham's current efforts are to persuade County Cllr Spencer of the merits of extending the grit route into Middleton by Youlgrave as the cost of grit compared to wall replacement from accidents would benefit DCC. Less street services are to be expected from DDDC although the Free Parking Badge for residents is currently in its 17<sup>th</sup> Year. The Chief executive is retiring this month and the Deputy expected to be given the job and not replaced to save costs.
  7. County Councillor Simon Spencer – sent his apologies.
  8. Police – PCSO Boswell sent apologies.
  9. PDNPA Member Andrew McCloy reported that cost cutting in the Authority had seen the Ranger Service reorganised and gradual improvements in the Planning Service with training courses for Parish Councillors and (following a discussion with officers by our clerk) proposals for a better liaison with the Parish Clerks on what the PDNPA can assist with. Andrew offered to liaise with planning, conservation and rangers where council needed and noted the Conservation Officers frustration with the situation and heritage in Middleton Dale where there is also a lack of landowner communication with them. He promised to follow up on the lack of cycle event notification but noted that many organisations consider the use of public roads does not require them to notify to any authority.
  10. 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