

MIDDLETON & SMERRILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held on 15th May 2019

Attendance: Councillor David Mallaband (Chair)

Other Electors of the Parish: Helen Brocklehurst, Henry Brocklehurst, Dianne Jeremy, Paul Jeremy, Mary Marsh, Pat Musgrave 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 – Simon Spencer (County Cllr) and PCSO Boswell

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2018

The minutes were confirmed and signed

4. Statement of Accounts and Precept for 2019

The accounts for 2018/19 have been internally audited and made an addition to reserves due to a solicitor's bill still awaited. 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 including one joint meeting with the Village Hall Committee.

The Village Hall Committee continues to make good progress with additional activities and increased attendance to the various functions for which everyone is grateful. We look forward to more of the same this year.

Attempts are being made to provide improved facilities for the Village Hall Committee to work with.

As reported last year following the 'community letter' and requests for a definitive reply regarding the Waterhouse trustee's position and intentions, we received no response. It has been concluded therefore that ownership of the Village Hall looks less and less likely. Despite the latest initiative, which was a request to purchase, council wrote on three occasions and received no response from the trustees.

It was agreed therefore that we should progress with alternative options for a village hall and consultation with the parish was decided upon. A joint meeting with the Village Hall Committee was held to discuss and agree the best way for this to be done. This resulted in the recent survey whereby a questionnaire was sent to all 68 residences in the Parish. I am pleased to say this resulted in over a 50% response, which according to statistics for this kind of consultation is very good.

These replies will now be discussed at a future joint meeting to decide our next steps.

Council continued to scrutinise all planning applications and is pleased to support both applications and improvements at Middleton Hall and Castle Farm. All of which

eventually received approval, including the building of a new residence for Greencroft Farm which took over 12 months to finalise.

We continue to chase road repairs, road sweeping, gulley cleaning and gritting with Derbyshire Dales District Council and Derbyshire County Council with a reasonable success. One of the biggest issues is the need for gritting during winter months which we will continue to point out the requirement for better treatment. Fortunately, we had a very mild winter but were still 'caught out' on two occasions.

Regular maintenance of Parish Council properties continues and we carried out necessary repairs as a result of vandalism to one of the sites of meaning located in Bradford Dale.

Agreement has been reached with the PDNPA to carry out essential repairs to Batemans Tomb which was delayed because of lack of funding. It is hopeful that we will be included in this year's budget.

A plaque was installed in the war memorial garden to remember those from the Parish that died 100 years ago during WW1.

The situation with Bradford Dale continues to disappoint, but with the change of management at Haddon Estates and fresh initiatives from the PDNPA there may hopefully be some improvement regarding the situation.

It is unfortunate that there was a need to increase the precept this year, but with potential additional costs being placed upon Parish Councils and our desire to maintain our reserves this should allow us to achieve this.

Finally, I would like to extend our thanks to Henry Brocklehurst and Claire Sutton for their service to the Parish. Henry having served 40 years and Claire with over 20. My personal thanks to fellow councillors, our clerk and all who have been involved in various ways to make our parish a pleasant place to live.

David Mallaband Chairman

6. District Councillor – Graham Elliott thanked parishioners for returning him for another four years.
7. PDNPA Member Andrew McCloy noted his readiness to assist representations on planning applications on a case by case basis should officers prove over-zealous. He noted the Conservation Team's desire to work with Council on Bateman's Tomb and the Peak Park's frustration in getting agreement in Bradford Dale which they regard as a Heritage asset even though there is little legal protection for it. The PDNPA welcomes news that the management changes at the Estate will improve relations and Andrew will try to broker a face to face meeting with Council to discuss the issues.
8. County Councillor Simon Spencer – sent his apologies, the Annual meeting of DCC clashed with us.
9. Police – PCSO Boswell sent apologies. He had noted that no crime has been reported in the last 60 days.
10. To consider any other Parish matter that may be brought forward by the Council or local government electors. – Cllr Musgrave welcomed his opportunity to serve his new community. Paul Jeremy praised the Councillors for their efforts and gave thanks on behalf of all present to David Mallaband for his Chairmanship
The meeting ended at 20:35