

MIDDLETON & SMERRILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held on 16th March 2022

Attendance: Councillor Dianne Jeremy (Chair)

Other Electors of the Parish: Helen Brocklehurst, Paul Jeremy, Pat Musgrave, and Jamie Wigley

Non-electors: Matthew Lovell (Parish Clerk)

1. Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting.

The meeting appointed the Parish Clerk to take the minutes.

2. Apologies – Simon Spencer (County Cllr), Graham Elliott (District Cllr), Andrew McCloy (PDNPA Member), PCSO Morris and Cllr David Mallaband

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th March 2021

The minutes were confirmed and signed

4. Chairman's Report

Council resumed in-person meetings in the Hall from May under Covid distancing rules and agreed to rotate the Chair on a meeting by meeting basis for this year. It has been much easier to consider the issues when people are physically together as Zoom meetings were sometimes subject to technical glitches.

The Boundary Commission originally proposed to maintain 3 seats in the Bakewell ward by adding Youlgrave to the ward. Middleton would not have been part of this – the suggestion was it would be part of a new ward in Winster and Bonsall. We celebrate the success of the creation of the Rural Youlgrave District Ward that basically encompasses the parochial boundary, plus Monyash. A real result as the initial proposal was to completely break up the independent Lathkill and Bradford Ward. The Boundary Commission conclusions are due to be ratified by Parliament shortly.

Planning – council responded to all applications supporting local needs that enhance our community. The applications that supported local employment have all been supported by this Parish Council.

A real example of community spirit has been shown by the support for the Bateman Festival Year. The first event was the unveiling of a new information board at Bateman's Tomb. We would like to thank everyone who helped with the phase one clean up, works to the gate and painting of the railings. This work culminated in the

provision of a board and finger post provided by Cllr Musgrave. Bateman's Tomb has been restored to its proper original state, with a new information board unveiled on 7th November 2021. The unveiling, celebration tea, Oliver Stephenson's speech and exhibition in the Hall were very well attended. There has been a significant increase in the number of visitors to the tomb. Improvements, particularly the steps on the approaches to the tomb are yet to be completed. The Festival itself is being managed by Paul Jeremy and Council has been sent the draft of the Bateman Village Board ready for manufacture by 28th May. The second festival event was the Bateman Arms evening on 12th February with an exhibition on the history of the pub. This event was organised by Cllr Wigley. The third festival event will be the unveiling of the Bateman board, providing information about the contribution of the Bateman family to the village. The board will be unveiled by the great-grandson of Thomas Bateman at 2pm on 28th May.

The creation of a Climate Change Group has seen real progress in local actions for local people and especially in the tidy up and planting of all our community areas. 'Bee-Friendly Middleton' was the theme for 2021 – every household received some plants to support pollinators and children were given sunflowers to grow. The stone-planter in the Square was reclaimed and re-planted, providing a colourful summer display and now the Spring flowers are emerging. The picnic garden was cleared and planted with annuals and wildflower seeds and bulbs, making it a more attractive place for residents and visitors. A community litter-pick collected more than 80 bags from the village and the surrounding grass verges.

Our title to the Village Hall is still a long term goal but the fortune of the Village Hall Committee in applying for and receiving grants not tied to tenure has enabled essential repairs to be carried out. A Covid re-start grant has facilitated internal improvements and some essential external repairs.

Dianne Jeremy

5. District Councillor – Graham Elliott sent his apologies
6. PDNPA Member Andrew McCloy sent his apologies
7. County Councillor Simon Spencer – sent his apologies.
8. Police – PCSO Morris sent apologies.
9. To consider any other Parish matter that may be brought forward by the Council or local government electors.
No matters were raised.

The meeting ended at 20:27