

MIDDLETON & SMERRILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held on 15th March 2023

Attendance: Councillor David Mallaband (Chair)

Other Electors of the Parish: Helen Brocklehurst, Dianne Jeremy 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

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th March 2022

The minutes were confirmed and signed

4. Chairman's Report

The last year has seen significant changes to our lives. With relevant freedom from covid returning us to a more normal life, and then the invasion of Ukraine and the increasing financial difficulties now facing us all.

Every day presents us with a fresh challenge.

Over the last 12 months we have continued to have bi-monthly meetings and one additional meeting to discuss planning applications.

We have continued to give consideration to all planning applications and have responded positively in all instances and a few provisos where thought necessary. The latest application for development of the Greencroft site, which will have a large impact on the centre of the village, looks to be in line with our parish aspirations, but unfortunately the Peak Park planners seem more interested in guiding development for second homes and holiday lets rather than family units. In my report in 2021 I praised the planners for listening to local councils but it seems they have taken a backward step in this respect.

With the help of the National Lottery Awards for All, we have continued to maintain the playground by replacing the old swings, installed some exercise equipment and added two more picnic benches. Something for all ages.

Our Climate Change Group continue to improve our natural habitat and with plantings, hedgehog watch, and litter picking to name but a few, every part of the parish has benefitted in one form or another.

We welcome the recent actions taken by the Haddon Estates River Keeper to repair the sluices and maintain water levels in the river and work on the Sheepwash, bringing the Dale back to a condition that many of us have enjoyed over the past decades.

Last year we celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee, and all children in the parish under the age of 16 received a jubilee coin, but unfortunately, we also mourned her death in the same year. However, looking forward, this year we have the opportunity to celebrate the crowning of the King.

We had the disappointment in May that a large cycling rally came through the village on the same day as our village market. We have endeavoured to ensure that any future events are notified to local villages to avoid this type of clash again.

Our thanks to the Village Hall Committee who have had a full timetable of events during the year. The range of events not only covered the successful Bateman celebrations which attracted a lot of interest from far and wide, but also the significant improvements to the village hall. Thanks again, for all their hard work in making these events happen and to the creation of 'A Portrait of Middleton' which not only made good reading for today but hopefully in the years to come when they see daylight again.

Finally, my thanks to our clerk and all the individuals and groups that have helped to maintain our parish. From snow warden, to gardeners, litter pickers, parish councillors, all those carrying out various administrative duties and others, all of whom have contributed their efforts free of charge to enabled our parish to flourish in these difficult times

Despite the gloomy prospect of financial difficulties everywhere you turn, I believe we have a strong community spirit that will help those in need so that everyone in the parish can continue to enjoy what beauty we have on our doorstep.

David Mallaband

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 19:35