

HADLEY AND LEEGOMERY PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Hadley and Leegomery Parish Meeting held at Castle Farm Community Centre, High Street, Hadley, Telford, on the 18th April 2017 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Members of the public: Two members of the public were present.

In attendance: Cllr John Smart, Chairman of Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council
Clerk to the Council, Jonathan Brumwell

2. CHAIRMAN

In accordance with paragraph 17(1) of schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor J Smart, Chairman of the Parish Council, presided.

3. MINUTES

The meeting confirmed that the minutes of the Parish Meeting which had taken place on the 5th April 2016 and were presented at the Annual Meeting of Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council on 10th May 2016 where they were approved as a true record.

4. CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman of the Parish Council gave a report, a copy of which is filed with the minutes and appears on the Council's website at www.hadleyandleegomery-pc.org.uk.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016/17

The meeting noted a report from the Clerk of the Parish Council which summarised the Council's income and expenditure against budgets for the period 1.4.16 to 31.3.17.

6. HIGHWAYS

The Clerk delivered a summary of Highways improvements due to be made under the Pride in Your Community programme.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS OF THE PARISH

Mr Butler requested traffic survey data for Horton Lane. The Clerk said that this would be made available if Mr Butler wished to arrange to collect it.

Mr Butler also made the Council aware of a defective street light at the junction of Horton Lane and White Row, and damage to trees caused by refuse lorries.

Cllr A Twyford read a statement from the Apley Preservation Association thanking the Parish Council for its continued support in connection with the Peregrine Way planning application.

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting, 18th April, 2017

The significant change in this year's events was the resignation of Councillors Rob Sloan and Faith Sloan, both of who were such valued and hard-working Members of this Council. Their departure was for medical reasons and we continue to wish Faith the best outcome to her situation.

Two new Members were duly co-opted and have made an excellent start to their new roles. We look forward to a long and fruitful association as we work together to continue improving the lives of those whom we represent. Welcome John Parkin and Gemma Offland.

Our Clerk, Jonathan Brumwell has completed his second year and has produced some excellent work, especially his reports. We are grateful to him and to Gail Lawrence, who look after the business of the Council so reliably and to the highest standard.

Planning issues have dominated the year, with the Peregrine Way and Maxell developments being prevalent. This Council did everything in our power to help and support the wishes of our residents but as consultees, this was all that we could do. However, the processes have been completed and we must accept the decisions, however distasteful, and try to work towards making the best of the consequences.

Our environmental improvements continue unabated as this is the work that brings about the most positive reactions from our residents. For example, the Warwick Way roundabout was in need of an overhaul, and this has been completed, thanks to the donations from our 3 ward Members, Cllrs. Sloan, Smith and Murray. Although there have been changes in the Borough's staffing arrangements, we plan to maintain our programme of improvements throughout the Parish.

The pressure on our schools from the new developments is of concern. Provision is being made for the extra places as far as possible and we trust that children who are new to the area will be able to find places in their local schools.

Our work with the schools continues; our concerts, held jointly with Hadley Orpheus Male Voice Choir, are extremely popular and both at Christmas and in the summer, Hadley Methodist Church is filled with enthusiastic adults and children. We are happy to make donations to all the choral groups to further this essential work.

HLC now runs the library service and again, this Parish Council is happy to support Dr. Eatough in her bid to maintain the highest level of literacy in the community as well as the school. HLC continues to rise in status as it becomes one of the top 100 school in the country. Dr. Eatough and her staff deserve the greatest thanks for giving our children the best possible start in life.

Our Youth Club continues to grow and Mark Palmer-Burridge produces imaginative events for the young people to enjoy.

As we support the young, we also provide for the not-so-young in the form of 2 days of Christmas celebrations for our pensioners. These are hosted by Hadley United Services Club, to whom we are extremely grateful for the standard of service they provide.

Our Police Officers are very much in evidence, providing much-needed reassurance to residents of all ages. They are very much part of community life and we continue to be grateful for all that they do for us.

Our Community Centre is to go through a change and re-launch following recent surveys. These will be assessed by a small group of Members who will make appropriate recommendations to full Council. The building is kept in pristine condition, mainly because of the diligence of our caretaker, Carol Henderson. We also welcome Karen Walker, her assistant. Because it is now very attractive as a venue for family events, we are confident that we can market it as such, and rename it, as its current identity of Castle Farm merely confuses people. More of this later!

Our other main asset is Hadley Cemetery. Cliff Henderson manages proceedings with great sensitivity and many compliments are offered about this, as well as its wonderful condition.

Remembrance Sunday sees a large parade and services at the War Memorial, and in the Methodist Church, with all the village Ministers taking part, including our own Cllr. Wood. We are proud to pay tribute to the fallen in all conflicts, and give thanks for the freedoms they won for us.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my vice-chairman, Cllr. Malcolm Smith, the Chairman of F&GP, Cllr. Bill McClements, who is also working to secure Leegomery Community Centre, and Cllr. Pat Smart for taking care of the Events Committee and the Environment . Cllr. Twyford has ably represented us on several occasions, and I thank her, too. We have 2 non-councillors on Events, Sean Thomas and Rosemary Jones, and I thank them very much for their contribution.

I look forward to another busy and highly productive year as we all work together for all the people who have put their trust in us, and assure them that we shall always do our best to help them.

John Smart
Chairman

18th April, 2017