

## HADLEY AND LEEGOMERY PARISH MEETING

**DRAFT Minutes of the Hadley and Leegomery Parish Meeting held at Castle Farm Community Centre, High Street, Hadley, Telford, on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 commencing at 7.00 p.m.**

### 1. PRESENT

**Parish Councillors:** Councillors J Smart (Chairman, Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council), M Smith (Vice-Chairman, Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council), H Dickens, M Grindrod, R Plenderleith, P Smart, and A Twyford.

**Members of the public:** Three members of the public were present.

**In attendance:** 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. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors A Bentley, W McClements and G Moore

### 4. MINUTES

The meeting confirmed that the minutes of the Parish Meeting which had taken place on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and were presented at the Annual Meeting of Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 where they were approved as a true record.

### 5. 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](http://www.hadleyandleegomery-pc.org.uk).

### 6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014/15

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 1.4.14 to 31.3.15.

### 7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS OF THE PARISH

Concerns regarding progress on removing the one-way system on Pool Meadow were raised. Residents had been consulted in September 2014 but had received no notice regarding commencement of work. Concerns were also raised also regarding the speed of traffic on Pool Meadow. The Clerk was able to report that the Borough Council had confirmed that work to remove the one-way system within the next month and that the most recent speed statistics do not trigger any action by the highway authority.

Cllr R Plenderleith raised concerns regarding a recent event at Castle Farm Community Centre which caused to problems for neighbours, in particular Hadley United Services Club. The Clerk is aware of the issues concerned and is to review arrangements for events held at Castle Farm Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

## **Chairman of the Parish Council's report to the Annual Parish Meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015.**

This Annual Parish Meeting is the last of the current administration as the local elections will take place on Thursday 7th May. Again we have new Ward boundaries; they are Apley Castle, Hadley Castle, Hadley Manor, Leegomery and Trench Lock, returning a total of 16 Councillors to represent them on the Parish Council.

I am extremely proud to say that our disparate membership have worked very well together and at long last have become a truly non-political Council. This spirit of co-operation has resulted in some excellent work as we move forward as a Parish to realise the vast improvements we have made for the people who elected us. In the four years of this administration, the most significant was perhaps, the successful negotiation with Telford & Wrekin Council for the regeneration of Hadley Centre.

Planning has continued to cause concern but the decision to refuse permission for the demolition of Haybridge Hall was a particularly pleasing outcome of our robust representation. Unfortunately, the development on the Maxell site was given consent in spite of well-presented arguments about the lack of school places in the area, and the further problem of access to the Princess Royal Hospital once we see the predicted rise in early morning traffic as a consequence.

Our schools continue to serve local families to the best of their ability and all four, HLC Secondary and Primary Phases, and Apley Wood Primary are over-subscribed with Millbrook Primary almost at capacity, but with plans to extend. We can only hope that a new primary school will be provided to enable children to attend in their own area and not have to travel to other parts of the Borough for a school place.

We continue to maintain strong connections with all our schools by our annual joint concerts. These are now so popular that we have to have two; one in the summer and the other at Christmas. The children's choirs have grown from strength to strength and it would be gratifying to think that this has been helped by our encouragement and support. Tragically, GKN Sankey Male Voice Choir folded this year; a great loss after 70 years in this community. They always performed with HLC at the summer concert but Hadley Orpheus will now perform at the summer as well as the Christmas concerts. We are surely blessed to have such a depth of music in our Parish. Pat Smart's trophies for singing will continue to be presented to nominated choristers from all the schools' choirs.

Local children were invited to our weekend of commemoration of the First World War. People of all ages and from all areas came to see the exhibition which we put on, and we must extend our thanks to all who lent us amazing memorabilia. We thank Kuldip Singh and the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple for their contribution and Simon Jarman M.B.E. for his incredible collection of artefacts, and for all the knowledge about the war that he shared with us all. Our gratitude and thanks go to Cllr. Ron Plenderleith for the monumental amount of work he did to ensure the success of this venture. Ron is retiring from Parish Council work and he will be sorely missed. His humour has made our meetings more enjoyable!

The book stock at the public library sited at HLC was diminished by the removal of 8,000 books by the Borough library service. We are grateful to school Principal, Dr. Eatough, for her decision to offer to manage the library herself, and she asked for our support. To that end, this Council pledged financial support in an effort to maintain a satisfactory stock for all local readers. As Dr. Eatough said, we need to support reading among parents as well as children!

Our youth service continues to flourish and we thank Mark Palmer-Burridge for all that he brings to the life of our children. He proudly informs us that many girls now attend and take part in the numerous activities on offer and which we are happy to continue to fund. Thank you to Mark, his wife who also helps when required, and Sarah, currently on maternity leave, and her sister. We also fund the Junior Youth Club which is growing in popularity.

As well as providing for the young, this Council provides very popular 3-course Christmas lunches for the retired members of our community and this year's two dates have already been booked at Hadley United Services Club. It is notable that many of our senior citizens enjoy meeting at this festive time and it is gratifying to see so many happy reunions. We are grateful to the Club for their excellent meals and hospitality.

Our grant funding is available to local groups and societies and we encourage leaders to apply whenever they need financial help to continue providing their essential contribution to the lives of local people. Volunteers are the life-blood of this country and in return, we must all do what we can to help them.

Our Police Officers work with us and are always willing to provide advice, information and support. They are especially pleased with the installation of our CCTV system which is due to become live at any time.

Because of the improvements in the environment all over the Parish, we are beginning to shed the unjustified poor reputation and our residents now freely express their pride in their community, and visitors comment on how beautiful the area is. That is down to years of hard work by this Council and we recognise the efforts of Sean Thomas in pressing for the funds and the will to sow and plant wherever improvement can be made! This is very much work in progress and many more 'green and pleasant' oases are being planned by him, and the Tree and Environment Warden, Councillor Pat Smart. The PET team works hand-in-hand with us and Sean, Pat and I attend all the meetings to address areas where attention is need.

This is yet another example of the value of co-operation with the Principle Authority.

We often receive compliments on the state of the Cemetery and Cliff Henderson is to be congratulated on his excellent effort and the pride he takes in keeping the whole cemetery in pristine condition.

Castle Farm Community Centre has now been refurbished with only the new curtains and blinds to add the finishing touches. We can now market this building as an ideal and affordable venue for events. We had to say goodbye to Helen Simmons who has worked here for 17 years during which time she has proved to be an excellent caretaker and again, visitors have complimented us on the level of cleanliness. Vera Holland has been promoted to the post and Carole Henderson engaged as her assistant. Thank you to them for all that they do.

It was with great sadness that we bade farewell to Colin Potts, who retired after being our Clerk for 12 years. Colin had quickly built a reputation for being one of the best clerks in the Borough and we marked his leaving with the gift of a trip to the Jaguar Heritage Centre where he drove both the E-type and F-type cars, which delighted him. In addition, we organised a buffet for him at the Wickets, in Wellington, to give all his colleagues associated with this Council, the opportunity to say their personal farewells to him and to his wife, Lynne. We all wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

The positive side of losing Colin is the arrival of our new Clerk, Jonathan Brumwell, who had no experience of Parish Councils but who has brought transferable skills after many years at Wolverhampton City Council. He has made a brilliant start and we welcome him in anticipation of a happy working relationship with the Staff and all the Councillors. We are confident that the Council is again in very capable hands.

In conclusion, I wish to record my thanks to all our Members for their hard work, some of whom I have already named. In addition to them, I should like to thank my Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Malcolm Smith for his support and encouragement, Councillors Hazel Dickens and Angela Twyford for looking after the F&GP Committee, and Councillor Pat Smart for her work on the Events Committee. Hazel is to retire, along with Councillor Ron Plenderleith. Hazel is one of the founder members of the Residents Association and has shown unfailing commitment to this Council and community. She and Ron will be sorely missed. Also to retire are Councillors Austin and Wickstead after many years.

Thank you to all of them and to all of you who have worked for the common good of this community and the people that we were elected to represent. Seven of us have been re-elected unopposed but may I wish you all good fortune in the forthcoming election and trust that whoever takes office after 7th May will continue to work hard to improve life for all who live in this Parish.

Cllr. John Smart  
Chairman