

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 16th April 2013 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Parish Councillors: Councillors J Smart (Chairman, Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council), K Austin, H Dickens, J Harrison, W McClements, G Moore, L Murray, R Plenderleith, L Savage, P Smart, A Twyford and M Wickstead.

Members of the public: One member of the public was present.

In attendance: Clerk to the Council, Colin Potts

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.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Austin who had returned following a period of illness.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors A Bentley, M Grindrod, M Smith and R Young.

4. MINUTES

The meeting confirmed the minutes of the Parish Meeting which had taken place on the 17th April 2012. The Chairman signed the minutes.

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.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2012/13

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 1.4.12 to 31.3.13.

7. APLEY PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Councillor Angela Twyford gave a report which summarised the actions of Apley Preservation Association since it was formed in respect of the proposed development of land off Peregrine Way, Apley. The main points covered were:

- Site history – acquired by Compulsory Purchase by Development Corporation/New Towns Commission, with Section 7.1 consent given for residential development of larger detached properties as have since been built on neighbouring land.
- Changes to government planning policy led to English Partnerships (successors to New Towns Commission) rejecting the section 7.1 description and submitting in 2006 an application for mixed building including low cost smaller dwellings, flats and a much higher density with up to 200 dwellings.

- Local residents formed Apley Preservation Association to co-ordinate objections, which now has over 400 members.
- Notwithstanding this, outline planning permission was granted but subsequently a steering group was formed with APA representatives, English Partnerships personnel and local authority planning officers and councillors.
- Over next three years a compromise was reached with the number of dwellings reduced to 100, with no flats and an undertaking to ensure that street patterns are maintained. The outline permission was renewed in 2012 with a section 106 agreement detailing the changes agreed.
- English Partnerships has become Homes and Communities Agency, and the land has been marketed but with no interested developers to date.
- APA will remain involved as when the land is sold the detailed Reserved Matters application will be crucial in establishing the final design details including impact on existing residents, historic nature of Apley Castle, surrounding wildlife habitat, drainage, access for contractors, vista, parking and traffic issues etc.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS OF THE PARISH

The following matters were raised:

- Councillor Pat Smart raised concerns about a shortage of nursing staff at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust. Recent occurrences reportedly included one of the outpatient departments being four nurses short and cancellations of routine operations and procedures. It is understood that a significant number of agency nursing staff are being utilised by the trust at a high cost. Those present agreed that there is cause for concern and it was

RESOLVED that a request should be submitted to the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust under the Freedom of Information Act for details of the amount of money spent on agency nursing staff and the number of shifts covered by agency nursing staff in the last twelve months, and that the Parish Council is asked to invite the Chief Executive of the hospital trust to attend either its June or July meeting to discuss the concerns.

- Councillor Gill Moore reported that groups of males are gathering in the path next to Hadley Under and Over 5s Nursery, drinking alcohol and leaving rubbish. The Clerk will take this up with the Local Policing Team and Environmental Maintenance.
- Councillor Leon Murray reported that, despite the provision of litter bins, litter was being left around the new Hadley shopping centre.

The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Chairman of the Parish Council,

2014

Chairman of the Parish Council's report to the Annual Parish Meeting, 16th April, 2013.

At the end of the financial year this Council's balances continue to be healthy and my thanks to all groups on the Council for their support in working together as a united team and helping us to achieve our aims for the benefit of the Parish. The dedication of all members, and their commitment to serve, is shown by the unanimous vote in favour of not taking allowances, and for this I thank you all.

In the last year we have seen the resignation of 2 of our Members; Richard Dickens, who has served this Council admirably for nearly 10 years, and Ann-Marie Houghton who in 2011 became the youngest person in the country to be elected to a Parish Council. I'm sure you join me in thanking both for their service to the Community. Fortunately no election was called after either resignation and Cllr. Pat Smart was co-opted back onto the Council in November, followed by Cllr. Bob Young in February. This is Bob's first appointment to any Council and I'm sure his experience will be a big asset to us.

Cllr. Keith Austin has been absent through much of the year through ill-health and we hope that he will soon be restored to good health.

Much has been achieved over the last 12 months. The beginning of the year saw the closure and demolition of part of the old shopping centre. One year on, and we have Phase 1 of the new Hadley Village Shops, one of which is already trading. Eric Smith from BBC Radio Shropshire will open the new centre on Saturday, 1st June.

This development is an example of the close working relationship between this Council and Telford & Wrekin Council and the benefits that can arise from co-operation. I chair the Parish Charter Monitoring Group and it is vital that this symbiotic relationship continues.

Because of Telford & Wrekin Council cuts, we now have set aside a sum of money in our budget so as to consider which services we should support to help alleviate any cuts that would adversely affect our parishioners. The library hours were reduced so we have taken responsibility for subsidising the service, although this will be monitored in order to ensure that our funding is properly utilised.

The Parish Environment Team is another initiative and although there has been some concern about the extra cost to the people of this Parish, it has already been proved that we are all getting value for money for a very small outlay per household. The Team provide extra litter-picking and perform other tasks which improve and tidy the Parish. Wayne Griffiths and his apprentice, Kyle Harkness, are employed by the Borough.

Although we enjoy the advantages of working closely with the Borough, one area in particular has in the past caused much concern. This Council and our residents have been repeatedly let down by the Plans Board and Planning Officers when our concerns appear to have little merit in the determination of some applications. However, during the last year, through the Parish Charter and the work of the Parish Charter Monitoring Group, we have managed to obtain a rigorous review of the planning process. In June this year, all Members will be invited to attend the unrolling of the new procedure in planning which will involve officers working very closely with Parish and Town Councils.

Several of our Members are committed to working on such events as the Village Green Fete. Last year's defied the atrocious weather and proved to be yet another highly successful day. It was gratifying to see so many people enjoying the free entertainment. This year's will be held on Sunday, 30th June and we shall have all the usual popular attractions.

Remembrance Sunday saw another well-attended civic event and ours is now recognised as one of the major ones in Telford. It is gratifying to know that so many uniformed organisations and people in general, especially young ones, are keen to take part in both the parade and the service. Next year's will be one of even greater significance as it is the centenary of the outbreak of WWI. I hope this Council will agree to acknowledge this with a special event.

Our youth provision continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Mark Palmer-Burridge, now assisted by Samantha Davies who has made a good start in her work with our young people.

Last year was the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen, and all the Primary School children in the Parish were presented with celebratory mugs as a gift from this Council.

Our annual concerts in summer and at Christmas brought together our schools and male voice choirs, filling Hadley Methodist Church. These have been resounding successes with recipients of singing awards being presented with their trophies. The participants are extremely grateful for the continuing financial support of this Council.

Christmas was also celebrated over 2 days with the annual lunches for pensioners at Hadley United Services Club, who served an excellent traditional Christmas dinner, and we thank them again for this. The attendees were, as usual, entertained by Mick Taylor.

The Council awarded 26 grants to local organisations, totalling £6525. The biggest grants being £750 each to the Severn Hospice and Hope House.

Much work has been carried out over the last 12 months improving our environment, the biggest project being the landscaping of the corner of High street and Manse Road. My thanks to Sean Thomas a former member of this Council, and a current member of the Events committee, who together with Cllr Pat Smart, continue to work enthusiastically at improving the image of our Parish. I don't think anyone can fail to be impressed by the wonderful show of flowers around our area.

This council continues to support the work being carried out in Apley Woods with the provision of funding to 'The Friends of Apley Woods' who through Sean Thomas, as the link between the Friends and the Parish Council, strive to enhance this wonderful facility for all of us. This autumn will see the first Harvest Thanksgiving event in the Woods, where we shall be assisted by Telford Jubilee Band.

The staff have again shown what a good, efficient Council we are with their continued dedication to their work. My grateful thanks to both Colin and Gail who continue to be at the forefront of activities in the office, to Helen and Vera our very friendly and approachable caretaking staff and to Cliff for his unstinting work in looking after the cemetery. Also thanks to Mark Palmer-Burridge who has developed our youth services to three nights a week. I'm sure we are the envy of other Parish and Town Councils for having the services of Mark and his assistant Samantha Davies.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support throughout the year, particularly my Vice Chairman, Cllr. Malcolm Smith, and committee Chairmen, Cllr. Lesley Savage, F&GP, and Cllr. Martin Grindrod, Events.

I look forward to another productive year, working together for the people who have elected us to serve them.

Cllr. John Smart
Chairman