

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 17th April 2012 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Parish Councillors

Councillors M J Smith (Chairman, Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council), R G Dickens (Vice Chairman, Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council), R K Austin, H P Dickens, M D Grindrod, W A M McClements, G I Moore, J Smart, A Twyford and M L Wickstead.

Members of the public

Four members of the public were 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 M J Smith, Chairman of the Parish Council, presided.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors J Harrison, R R Plenderleith and L A Savage.

4. MINUTES

The meeting confirmed the minutes of the Parish Meeting which had taken place on the 19th April 2011. 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 attached.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2011/12

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 1.4.11 to 31.3.12.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS OF THE PARISH

Mr B Dawes referred to a proposal that had been discussed by the Council in June 2008 regarding the re-instatement of railway station facilities on the site of the former New Hadley Halt.

The matter had been put to Telford & Wrekin Council at that time requesting that it be included in the Local Transport Plan and that the provision of station facilities be formally pursued with the relevant rail bodies. The Clerk to the Parish Council confirmed that the Borough Council had responded to that request informing that the proposal would require a complete new station which based on similar projects would cost in the region of £7 million. It was not likely that such a project would be undertaken by any of the rail companies due to the close proximity of other stations which could be accessed by bus routes from the Hadley area, and the likely usage level.

Mr Dawes informed the meeting that a proposal to re-open Baschurch station near Shrewsbury is currently being progressed and he requested that a new request for the re-instatement of station facilities for Hadley be put forward.

Others were in favour of this and the meeting agreed that a further approach should be made to Telford and Wrekin Council regarding this, on the grounds as before of improving the provision of sustainable transport and reducing the area's carbon footprint

RESOLVED that the Parish Meeting will put forward a request to Telford & Wrekin Council to pursue the re-instatement of station facilities for Hadley.

Mr D J Moore raised the matter of speeding traffic in Pool Meadow, Hadley. He reported that vehicles regularly exceed the 30 mph speed limit and undertake dangerous manoeuvres approaching and negotiating the chicane at the start of the one-way section. He asked that action be taken to improve signage, possibly by a large 30 mph marking on the carriageway.

Parish Councillors were supportive of this and the Clerk suggested that the first action should be to request a new speed count to provide accurate current speed data. Councillor Smart mentioned that previous counts had been done at locations which would give the lowest speed readings and any new count should be done at the point of maximum speed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Meeting requests the Parish Council to pursue the above.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman of the Parish Council,

2013

Chairman of the Parish Council's Report to the Hadley and Leegomery Annual Parish Meeting 17th April 2012

The Parish Council's year began with local elections in May when all 16 seats on the council were contested and filled at election, something that many local councils do not achieve. Following the elections the council welcomed five new members - Councillors Tony Bentley, John Harrison, Ann-Marie Houghton, Leon Murray and Lesley Savage. The elections were the first to use the new warding arrangements for the Parish and there are now four parish councillors for each ward.

One of the main events in the council's calendar is the annual Village Green Fun Day which took place on Sunday 26th June and was the most successful to date with many local groups taking part and a large number of local people enjoying the free entertainment. The 2012 Fun Day takes place on the 24th June and we look forward to another great day.

The Council's programme of concerts involving local schools included a summer concert for the first time when choirs from Hadley Learning Community Primary and Secondary Phases took part along with the Shropshire Male Chorus, making an enjoyable summer evening. The Christmas Concert held in December included choirs from Millbrook and Apley Wood Primary Schools joining the Hadley and District Orpheus Male Voice Choirs for another successful evening.

The annual Remembrance Parade and Service took place on the 13th November with one of the biggest attendances ever seen, reflecting the growing displays of support and acts of remembrance for our armed forces seen throughout the country.

December saw the council's Christmas parties for senior citizens of the parish and these too had the highest number attending since these important events began. Photographs of the two parties showing lots of happy faces can be seen on our web site, which has grown through the year to include picture galleries and other items of local interest.

The Parish Council's youth provision has grown during the year under the excellent guidance of our Youth Engagement Officer, Mark Palmer-Burridge, and now includes a weekly football session on Friday afternoon at Hadley Learning Community Sports Hall,, weekly karate classes on Tuesday evening in Leegomery as well as the established weekly youth club on Wednesday evenings at Castle Farm Community Centre. The Council is firmly committed to providing activities for young people and will continue to focus on this important area of its work.

The Council has long been committed to improving the environment and has continued with a programme of planting in highway verges during the year alongside the established annual floral displays which include hanging baskets in Hadley and Leegomery Centres and floral planters in High Street, Hadley and at Princess Royal Hospital. The Village Green shrub beds which were replanted during the previous winter gave a magnificent display of colour in their first summer, and we look forward to seeing them mature over the coming years. A great example of community involvement took place in March when the Council in partnership with Telford & Wrekin Council's Environmental Service arranged the planting of 10,000 wild flowers at different locations in highway verges in the parish. This was carried out by local people who volunteered to help and we are extremely grateful to them for their support. We hope that this can now be repeated in other areas of the parish and will help to generate a sense of ownership by the community.

Grants totalling almost £6,000.00 have been made to 23 local groups and organisations to help with their work and development, and a new Grants Policy was introduced at the beginning of the year to help ensure that support is focussed on activities and services within the parish.

Throughout the year the Council has put forward its views on a total of 63 planning applications affecting the parish, and when necessary has been represented at meetings of

the Plans Board of Telford & Wrekin Council where a representative of the Parish Council has presented the councils objections to specific applications.

The long awaited regeneration of Hadley Centre is due to start next month and the Parish Council has continued to work to ensure that the needs of local people will be taken account of in the new development. The rebuilding period will be a challenging time for the businesses involved and the Council asks that they continue to be supported and used whilst the work takes place.

I would like to thank all members for their hard work during the year, and in particular our Vice-Chairman, Councillor Richard Dickens, and our Committee Chairmen – Councillor John Smart, Finance and General Purposes Committee; Councillor Lesley Savage, Parish Events Committee; and Councillor Tony Bentley, Personnel Committee. My thanks also go to our staff for their continued hard work and support throughout the year.

Presented by Councillor Malcolm Smith, Chairman, 17th April 2012.