



HADLEY AND LEEGOMERY PARISH COUNCIL

Hadley Community Centre, High Street, Hadley, Telford, TF1 5NL.

Telephone/Fax: 01952 245501

Email: Clerk@hadleyleegomery-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.hadleyleegomery-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Hadley and Leegomery Parish Extraordinary Council Meeting held on the 25th March 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillor Eileen Callear (Chair)

Councillor Carol Hughes

Councillor John Snell

Councilor David Brown

Councilor Andrew Benion

Councilor Jasmine Bennett

Councillor Stuart Parr

Councillor Thomas King

Councillor Jordan Keeble

Councilor Phil Milward

Councilor Jared Callear

IN ATTENDANCE

Clerk Jane Lees

Deputy Clerk Rebecca Cowie

ten members of the public

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which then held a one minutes silence in honour of Cllr. Keith Austin who sadly passed away last week.

C25/124 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs A. Jhawar, S. Younis and S. Ali

Cllr. J. Bennett proposed, Cllr. J. Keeble seconded, seven in favour, two abstain to note the apologies.

C24/125 PUBLIC SESSION

A gentleman spoke about the desire of some members of the Council to hold unnecessary extraordinary Council meetings, and holding Polls which are a waste of public money and does nothing for residents. To request getting rid of Finance Committees, he went on to say, is foolish, Councils need more financial scrutiny, not less. The gentleman said the Shropshire County Council had financial difficulties through lack of scrutiny. The gentleman then moved onto the agenda items C25/129 and 130. He said that when someone is elected they are elected, and to try and change rules is silly. He asked all Councillors to be sensible and work together for the betterment of the community.

Another gentleman spoke regarding his monitoring of crime statistics in the Parish. He said every month violence and sexual crimes were the top statistic in the Parish He referred to a recent incident in an alleyway the area. He said that he knew of incidents



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of drug taking and dealing in the alleyway, and now there has been an assault on a young girl. The gentleman spoke of the crime statistics and said that he notes that a crime has never been reported in the Parish Hall however the Council were prepared to pay £7000 on cctv so the Councillors felt safe. The gentleman said that was fair to spend that amount of money to feel safe however no crimes had ever been committed there.

The gentleman continued- asked for empathy for the victim in the recent assault and for people to sign his petition to have the alleyway closed. He would like an agenda item regarding this alleyway being closed and a full survey of where women and girls feel unsafe in this Parish and draw up an action plan to deal with this issue instead of the menial stuff the Parish Council usually does.

A woman then spoke about the reduction of Parish Council meetings, does the Council agree that holding private group meetings to predetermine votes to avoid public scrutiny and prevents residents knowing how the Council arrives at their conclusions. The Chair responded that she could confirm that there have been no private meetings for twelve months at this Council so the accusation that there are private meetings are a complete lie, so if anyone can provide any evidence of a meeting where there has been predetermination of a vote in the past twelve months whilst she has been in this role she would like to see it.

C25/126 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None

C25/127 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Cllr. D. Brown proposed, Cllr. J. Keeble seconded, one abstain, two against six in favour to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council which was held on the 3rd February 2026.

C25/128 Motion from Cllr. S. Parr

- a. To resolve the Council returns to monthly meetings of the Full Council**
- b. The Council disbands the Finance and General Purpose Committee**

Cllr. S. Parr addressed points a and b together. He reminded members that the Council had voted the previous year to move to bimonthly meetings. He expressed the view that, if a reduction was necessary, it should apply to the Finance Committee rather than Full Council.

Cllr. Parr went on to accuse the Labour group of predetermination, suggesting that decisions were being made before Council meetings took place. He stated that the proposed reduction in Full Council meetings was, in his view, intended to limit transparency, control the flow of information, reduce accountability, and exclude other councillors, noting that the Finance Committee consisted of only 11 members.



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Cllr. Andrew Benion seconded the motion.

Due to a disruption from the public gallery leading to the Chair giving a warning of inappropriate behaviour by the member of the public. The person then left the chamber.

The Clerk responded with her advice to the Council to retain the Finance Committee, stating legislation and good practice indicates this is the best way to reduce workload on the Full Council, and to enhance scrutiny of finances.

Cllr D. Brown noted the work done by the Finance committee on behalf of the council.

Cllr. D. Brown proposed an amendment to the motion to keep the Full Council's meetings as bimonthly and to increase the Finance Committee meetings to every month , Seconded by Cllr P. Milward.

Seven in favour, amendment carried.

Cllr. Andrew Benion requested Cllr E. Callear's response to be written in full.:

Cllr. A. Bennion stated that meetings had taken place outside of Council meetings to agree decisions in private. Cllr. A. Benion asked the Chair if offices were elected in private meetings. Cllr. E. Callear replied no. Cllr. A. Benion handed round some papers. Cllr. E. Callear asserted again that there had been no private meetings for twelve months. Cllr E. Callear stated that you did not get elected until Council meetings.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion, nine in favour, two against. Motion resolved.

The Clerk advised the Chair and the Council that the items C25/129 AND C25/130 were unlawful following advice given by the senior Solicitor at NALC.

The Clerk advised the Chair to withdraw the motions.

C25/129 Motion from Cllr. Stuart Parr

To resolve that the Council adopts a policy that no single group or family unit shall hold a majority of seats on a standing committee.

Motion withdrawn

C25/130 Motion from Cllr. Stuart Parr

To resolve that the membership of the Personnel Committee be



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dissolved and reconstituted immediately so that no single group or family unit shall hold a majority.

Motion withdrawn

C25/131

Motion from Cllr. Stuart Parr

To resolve that the Council adopts the General Power of Competence with effect from 1st September 2026 and requires a monthly update to all members on progress towards meeting the prerequisite requirements.

Cllr. A. Benion seconded the motion.

A member of the public repeatedly caused a disturbance and was warned by the Chair who quoted the relevant points in Standing Orders that she would be asked to leave if she continued with her disruption.

Cllr. S. Parr withdrew the motion.

C25/132 Motion from Cllr. Stuart Parr

To agree locations to request new grit bins and agree the council's Position on funding them.

Cllr. Andrew Benion seconded the motion

Cllr. J. Keeble suggested having a map of where the grit bins are on the Parish Website. Cllr. J. Bennett suggested it was up to residents to suggest areas that need grit bins rather than Councillors deciding so the Council should get feedback on areas requiring bins.

Cllr. E. Callear stated that the motion was not clear on what was to be discussed, the budget sets out a plan for grit bins, and Telford and Wrekin have a system of snow wardens. Cllr E. Callear put requests into the Clerk, there is a delegate spend already in the budget for requested bins, and they are then ordered.

Due to disruptive members the Chair read out Standing Orders 2a.

Cllr. A. Benion left the meeting.

Cllr. S. Parr asked what criteria was used for weighing up locations for grit bins.

Cllr. D. Brown proposed, Cllr. J. Bennett seconded, all in favour for the decision be referred to the finance committee for discussion.

C25/133 Motion from Cllr. E. Callear

BUS STOPS

To discuss and resolve a procedure that Councillors should follow



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regarding information they hold regarding any damage to council assets.

Cllr. E. Callear stated that this motion was in response to the vandalism to the Remembrance bus stop. Although it was kind of a member of the public to try and clean the damage, the bus stop was a crime scene and was in the process of being investigated by the police. Cllr. E. Callear proposed that Councillors should firstly report damage to the Police if necessary and to the Clerk. That no Councillor should act unilaterally in arranging remedial work or engage third parties unless formally authorised to do so. Reasonable steps should be taken to preserve evidence until such a time that it is confirmed that no further action is to be taken by the police. All incidents should be recorded and reported to full Council and placed into Standing Orders. This is to comply with proper governance and maintain public confidence in the way the Council make decisions

Cllr. J. Keeble seconded the motion.

Cllr. S. Parr stated there needs to be an out of office procedure. Cllr. E. Callear replied if it is criminal damage as with the bus stop then it is a report to Police.

The motion was carried with nine for and one against.

C25/134 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN NEXT AGENDA

Silencing mobile phones during meetings.

C25/135 DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS

Events Committee Wednesday 1st April at 1.00pm

Full Council Meeting Tuesday 7th April at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairmans signature.....