

HADLEY AND LEEGOMERY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting held on the 7th September 2010
commencing at 7.00 p.m.

204/10 PRESENT

Councillors P Smart (Chairman), P H Durling (Vice-Chairman), E J Austin, R K Austin, R G Dickens, M D Grindrod, C S J Harrison, W A M McClements, G I Moore, J Smart, S Thomas, A Twyford and L M Wilkes.

Also present:

C Potts – Clerk of the Council;
E. Gormley, Principal Highways Engineer, Telford & Wrekin Council.

205/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Councillor R R Plenderleith.

206/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests

207/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1 member of the public was present.
PC Jenny Nally and CSO Richard Harrison were present representing the Local Policing Team.

The Chairman proposed that if the only matters to be raised at this point related to the highways schemes listed at item 5 in the agenda, the public comments be deferred and taken when that item was dealt with. That being acceptable it was

RESOLVED to defer comments by the public in respect of agenda item 5 until that item is dealt with.

208/10 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 6th July 2010 are confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

209/10 HIGHWAYS – TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed Ellie Gormley, Principal Highways Engineer, Telford & Wrekin Council, who was present to explain two proposed highway improvement schemes and to seek the council's views on them.

209a/10 Trench Lock/Sommerfeld Road – upgrade to existing roundabout junction.

Telford & Wrekin Council is proposing to upgrade the junction of Trench Lock/Sommerfeld Road as part of its Capital Works Programme for 2010/11. This will involve the construction of a formalized kerbed roundabout to replace the existing 'painted' roundabout, improved surfacing on all approaches of the roundabout, the footways and crossing points, and improved lighting. The work is scheduled to begin in early November and will last approximately 5 weeks. Business affected have been consulted and a diversion route agreed. Sommerfeld Road will be closed at that point, but Trench Lock will remain open on traffic control.

Councillors raised the following points:

Could the pedestrian crossing point on Trench Lock to the North East side of the junction be relocated to the South East side? This would be a safer option with narrower sections of carriageway to negotiate.

There is a need for a light controlled crossing in view of the numbers of young people crossing.

Could light beacons be installed to mark the pedestrian refuges in the carriageway to give more warning of crossing points?

Ms. Gormley explained that the existing pedestrian refuges are to be enlarged, with hard kerbs added and the tactile paving areas extended. There will also be a 'ghost lane on the approach from Trench Lock Interchange to ensure that there is only a single lane of traffic to cross. It would not be possible to install a light controlled crossing due to the number and location of accesses along the section of road in question.

Ms. J McKendrick questioned why Trench Lock had been described as a fast road and asked what speed limit was in force. It was confirmed that the speed limit is 30 mph. She also asked about the reasons why a light controlled crossing could not be installed, highlighting the risk to children crossing.

Ms. Gormley explained that the proposals are intended to harness money secured by the Borough Council from developers to bring together re-surfacing work, safety improvements and street lighting enhancements, and that road safety was of paramount importance.

RESOLVED that the Council responds formally to the proposals supporting the improvements in principle and incorporating the points raised by councilors.

209b/10 Hadley Park Road

Telford & Wrekin Council is proposing improvements to signage and lining along the whole length of Hadley Park Road. The possibilities had been discussed with residents attending a recent PACT meeting and the current proposals have resulted from that.

Councillors raised the following points:

There are issues which will not be addressed by the proposals, namely the numbers and types of vehicles using the road. Large Goods Vehicles regularly use the road, although some are destined for the GKN site or the industrial estate.

There is a higher than average accident rate in Hadley Park Road and there have been a number of speed related accidents on the bend at the southern end of the road.

Could the access to the industrial estate be altered by linking it to the A442 Queensway?

Fixed speed cameras are needed to deter speeding.

Could chicanes be built to slow traffic?

Could the GKN site be requested to divert goods vehicles to its access road from the A442 Queensway?

PC Nally commented that there had been a 37% reduction in vehicle speeds since the mobile safety camera had been deployed in Hadley Park Road.

Ms. Gormley responded as follows:

Hadley Park Road was discussed at a recent meeting of the Safety Camera Partnership and it was confirmed that the mobile camera will continue to be deployed until end of the year. Government has confirmed that fixed speed cameras are no longer to be installed, and that none are to be replaced. This is outside the control of the local authority. The road is not wide enough to accommodate chicanes, although there is an element of natural traffic calming resulting from parked vehicles. The proposals include marking wider white lines on the bends which can either be 100mm wide together with red surfacing for their duration, or 200mm wide lines without the red surfacing. The wider lines have a greater impact, whilst red surfacing wears away quickly and is less effective. The Council's views on which option to use were sought.

Ms. J McKendrick asked whether traffic lights had been considered at the entrance to the GKN site and at the junctions at the ends of the road. She also stated that the proposed lining and signing would not be effective in reducing speed. Ms. McKendrick then asked what work is planned in Hadley and Leegomery to improve the condition of footpaths. Ms. Gormley undertook to obtain that information and pass it to the Parish Council.

It was proposed that the Council accepts the recommended scheme, to include the option of wider white lines on the bends without red surfacing, and it was

RESOLVED that the proposal be accepted and the Council responds to the proposals accordingly.

The Council also agreed to ask senior management of GKN to meet with representatives of the Parish Council and Ms. Gormley to discuss how access to its site for goods vehicles could be diverted to its existing purpose built access road from the A442.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Gormley for attending and presenting the proposals to the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. McKendrick informed the Council that the time allocated for public comment of 15 minutes was insufficient and that it should be increased to 30 minutes. She inquired as to how an application could be made for a grant by the Council to assist in sending items to aid the flood victims in Pakistan. The Clerk confirmed that legislation only permits local councils to incur expenditure on contributions to charitable bodies in furtherance of their work in the United Kingdom, or to bodies providing a public service in the United Kingdom, and that regrettably this precludes contributions towards their activities outside the United Kingdom (*s.137(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 refers*).

210/10 MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 20TH JULY 2010

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 20th July 2010.

RESOLVED that the minutes are approved and adopted.

211/10 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman reported the following:

- Royal Air Forces Association Wrekin Branch Battle of Britain Service to be held on Sunday 26th September. Councillor Harrison agreed to attend to represent the Council.
- The Chairman had been pleased to attend the Hadley Learning Community Summer Fete and to perform the opening of it.

212/10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – MATTERS SPECIFICALLY RELATING TO THE PARISH

Councillor J Smart reported that he had attended a meeting of Wrekin Area Committee of ALC and a meeting of Telford & Wrekin Parish Councils. Matters dealt with included:

- The Borough War Memorial which it is planned will be designated as an arboretum. Telford & Wrekin Council hopes that Parish Councils will work in partnership with this, but stress that the memorial is not intended to detract from the local memorials which exist. Councillor Smart asked that this subject be referred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for discussion on how the Parish Council might contribute.
- Report that many parish and town councils are disappointed in the response received from Telford & Wrekin Partnership regarding inclusion of local councils; WAC is to request that Telford & Wrekin Council will discuss this with other agencies involved, and the Committee is also to write.

- The proposals for local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases
- Concerns of local councils regarding the planning authority – a planning seminar is to be arranged in October.

213/10 SUMMER RECESS – ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The Council received a report detailing matter dealt with under delegated authority during the summer recess period, which included:

- Response to proposed traffic regulation order, Teresa Way
- Withdrawal of green card request in respect of planning application TWC/2010/0311 erection of dwelling and garage at Mill House, Hadley Park, following receipt of additional information
- Emergency cleaning of carpet in bar at Castle Farm Community Centre at a cost of £120.00 excluding VAT
- Purchase of three trees to be located on Perry Way, as part of scheme already agreed to tackle anti-social behavior. The cost of trees will be approximately £75.00 each.
- Replacement office desktop computer following sudden irreparable breakdown of existing. The replacement unit with software has cost £624.94 excluding VAT.

RESOLVED that items dealt with under delegated authority as detailed in a report received by the Council and summarized above are noted and expenditure ratified.

PLANNING

214/10 Applications for consideration

RESOLVED that no objection be made in respect of the following:

1. TWC/2010/0391 – erection of a car port to side of dwelling, 39 Manse Road, Hadley, Telford.
2. TWC/2010/0401 – erection of a two storey side extension, 11 Grovfields, Leegomery, Telford.

215/10 Permissions granted (for information only)

NOTED that Telford & Wrekin Council has granted permission in respect of the following:

1. W2010/0201 – Tree Preservation Order consent for the reduction of crown by 25% to 1 No. Ash tree, Plot 14 Park Court, Hadley, Telford.
2. TWC/2010/0053 – change of use from residential and commercial use to residential use with external alterations, 27 High Street, Hadley, Telford.
3. TWC/2010/0105 – replacement door, Apley Woods Dovecote, Apley, Telford.
4. TWC/2010/0112 – change of use of private open space to private garden land and erection of a 1.8m high close boarded fence, 33 Oakworth Close, Hadley, Telford.
5. TWC/2010/0161 – erection of a timber shed to rear of garage (retrospective), 33 Oakworth Close, Hadley, Telford.
6. TWC/2010/0247 – retrospective application for a mobile park home, single detached garage, 2 No. timber sheds and change of use of site for storage of 12 No. touring caravans and temporary siting of 1 No. mobile park home for repair, Jordan's Yard, 1 Haybridge Road, Hadley, Telford.
7. TWC/2010/0268 – retention of an ATM, Spar, Leegomery Centre, Pool Farm Avenue, Leegomery, Telford.

8. TWC/2010/0269 – installation of 1 No. illuminated sign, Spar, Leegomery Centre, Pool Farm Avenue, Leegomery, Telford.

216/10 Permissions refused (for information only)

NOTED that Telford & Wrekin Council has refused permission in respect of the following:

1. TWC/2010/0253 (full planning) and 2. TWC/2010/0264 (listed building) – erection of a conservatory, Hadley Park Windmill, Hadley Park, Telford.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council received a report which included a bank reconciliation to 31st July 2010 and confirmation of internal controls. Councillor J Smart had carried out the quarterly internal control checks for the period ended 31.7.10 covering payroll, bank reconciliation, cash floats, payments and income received.

217/10 RESOLVED that the report be approved and that the following expenditure incurred on behalf of the Council under the terms of Financial Regulation 3.4 is ratified:

Amount <u>excl. VAT</u>	Details
£29.00	Ultravend Hygiene Services – toilet rolls CFCC
£75.28	Shires Fire & Safety Ltd – replacement of stolen fire extinguisher CFCC
£28.98	The Clean machine Direct – replacement power cable for floor cleaner CFCC
£69.95	T R Carey – unblock drains CFCC
£90.00	JB Roadshow – disco for Youth cafe talent show 6.8.10 (s.19, Local govt. (Misc. Provns) Act 1976)
£35.05	Staples (re-imbursed to C M Potts re: card payment) – replacement ink cartridges for fax machines CFCC and cemetery (s.19, Local govt. (Misc. Provns) Act 1976 & s.214 LGA 1972)
£48.95	T R Carey - unblock drains public toilets (s.87 Public Health Act 1936).

218/10 Payments

Councillor J Smart had verified against invoices etc. the cheques to be drawn and payments to be made.

RESOLVED that

(i) the drawing of cheques already issued numbered 301654 to 301667 and 310669 to 301684 and ; payment of direct debits in favour of Neopost Ltd, UK Fuels Ltd and British Gas, totaling £7168.36; and the payment of salaries by BACS totaling £4782.69, as detailed in approval lists contained in the report, is ratified;

(ii) the drawing of cheques numbered 301685 to 301693 and payment of direct debits in favour of British Gas, Edf Energy and Neopost Ltd., totaling £2460.53 and as detailed in approval lists contained in the report, is authorized and that Councillors J Smart and R G Dickens are authorised to sign the cheques to be drawn.

219/10 AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010 – REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR AND NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

The Council received the report of the External Auditor in respect of the council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010, together with notice of the conclusion of the audit. There were no matters that the auditor needed to raise.

RESOLVED that the report of the External Auditor for the year ended 31st March 2010 be approved and adopted.

220/10 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE – POOL MEADOW

The Council received the Borough Council's latest response to the Parish Council's representations regarding the condition of the road surface in Pool Meadow. This confirmed that further large scale patching work would be carried out in the current year with a view to possible surface dressing next year subject to budget.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken by the Parish Council

221/10 TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL – DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SERVICE PROVISION/ENHANCEMENT OF SERVICE PROVISION

The Council considered correspondence from Telford & Wrekin Council regarding the delegation of responsibility for service provision. This outlined discussions which had taken place within both the Parish Charter Monitoring and Review Group and the Parish Forum meeting. Arising from this the Borough Council would like to gain a wider view of whether Parish and Town Councils would like to consider taking responsibility for additional services. Examples given were Parish Roadman/Warden, Road Sweepers, some road safety measures, recycling provision, minor repairs/erection of signs, litter picking, information access point provision, grass cutting, and one stop shops. The correspondence acknowledged that there are many factors relating to service delivery that need to be understood before decisions can be made, and it was simply seeking indications of interest at this stage.

Some members raised concerns about funding for any delegated services, where parish councils would need to raise this through their precepts whilst the Borough Council receives government grant funding for the provision of services. It was felt that it could be counter-productive for local councils to take on services where the economies of scale would be lost compared to the Borough Council undertaking the provision across the whole Borough. There would also be the additional costs and responsibilities of providing and maintaining equipment and machinery and additional employment responsibilities.

Conversely there was comment that a Parish Warden could bring benefits, being able to do things that the Borough Council don't, and it was pointed out that with the forthcoming cuts in principal authority budgets communities would look to local councils to take over services.

There was agreement that local council should have greater involvement in the decision making process relating to local services.

RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the Borough Council's request incorporating the points made as detailed.

222/10 HADLEY CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS

The Council discussed its response to the Hadley Centre redevelopment consultation. Members agreed that they approved of the development master plan in principle and are pleased with the overall design. However, it was also agreed that the following requests for amendments to the proposals should be submitted in the Council's response:

Allocation of retail units

The Council requests that the proposed allocation of units be amended to include provision for the Dry Cleaner/Laundrette and the Hadley Under and Over 5s shop to be accommodated, and suggests that this could be achieved by changes to accommodation for Wrekin Housing Trust and First Point, and by incorporating provision for a Post Office unit within the supermarket development subject to agreement with the Postmaster.

Retail Unit internal design

Environmental Health requirements will mean that the proposed café unit will need to be equipped with three separate toilets – male, female and disabled persons - and that the cost of fitting out the unit with these would become prohibitive to a potential tenant. It is suggested that the unit is built with the required allocation of toilet facilities and let as a purpose built unit. Whilst this would entail a higher rental it would be a more affordable option for potential tenants. The Borough Council is requested to negotiate with the potential tenant on this matter.

Infrastructure provision for street lighting, Christmas lights and floral displays

Provision must be made at the design stage to accommodate all required infrastructure such as lighting, fittings and power supplies relating to these items. The Street Lighting Engineer and the Parish Council's contractors must be consulted on the requirements.

Business continuity

Adequate provision must be made to enable those businesses and services that will be taking units in the new development to continue trading/operating during the construction process.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will submit the Council's formal response to the consultation incorporating the foregoing requests.

223/10 TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL – LICENSING ACT 2003 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY CONSULTATION

The Council received a report in respect of the draft Statement of Licensing Policy published by the Borough Council.

RESOLVED that the Council supports the draft Statement of Licensing Policy as published for consultation by Telford & Wrekin Council.

224/10 TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED that the Parish Council's preferred option for Borough Council Executive arrangements is that of Strong Leader; and that the Parish Council reached that decision principally because the proposals provide that a Strong Leader could be removed by councillors whilst an Elected Mayor could not.

225/10 CONSULTATION ON LOCAL BOUNDARY/PARISH SIGNS

The Council received information about a review of local boundary/parish signs by Telford & Wrekin Council, and proposals for their replacement. Whilst the Council agreed that in principle it would consider a financial contribution towards additional /improved signs, it felt that further clarification was needed. The Clerk is therefore to arrange to meet with the Borough Council Public Realm Manager together with the Chairman and the Tree and Environment Warden to discuss the possibilities and costs. The matter will then be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for further consideration.

226/10 WINTER SERVICE – GRIT BINS

The Council considered correspondence in respect of the Borough Council's policy on provision of grit bins which included details of how parish councils could provide additional bins.

RESOLVED that the Council will consider the provision of some additional grit bins, the number and locations to be determined, and that the matter will be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for detailed consideration and agreement of funding and locations.

227/10 CONSULTATION ON GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR LOCAL REFERENDUMS TO VETO EXCESSIVE COUNCIL TAX INCREASES

The Council received a report in respect of the above.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council stating that the Parish Council does not agree that local councils should be included in the proposals for local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases, but that should the legislation be enacted as proposed then safeguards to protect local councils should be incorporated as detailed in the report submitted to the council.

228/10 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC.

The Council noted the dates and times of the following:

- Parish Forum Meeting – Tuesday 28th September 2010 in Reception Suite at Civic Offices, Telford commencing at 7.00 p.m. (Parish Council representative: the Chairman of the Council).
- Hadley area Peoples Partnership (HaPPi) – Special General Meeting Thursday 30th September 2010 at Holy Trinity Church, Hadley commencing at 1.00 p.m. (Parish Council representative Cllr. Martin Grindrod).

229/10 NEXT CYCLE OF MEETINGS

The Council noted the dates of the following meetings:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and General Purposes Committee • Council | <p>21st September 2010
5th October 2010</p> |
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The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.