

HADLEY AND LEEGOMERY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
held on the 21st June 2011, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

130/11 PRESENT

Councillors J Smart (Chairman), A Bentley, M D Grindrod, W A M McClements, L A Savage, M J Smith, A Twyford and M L Wickstead.

Clerk to the Council: Colin Potts.

131/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Councillors H P Dickens, R G Dickens and G I Moore.

132/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

133/11 COMMENTS BY MEMBERS WHO HAVE DECLARED PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS, AND BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, IN RESPECT OF ITEMS LISTED IN THE AGENDA ONLY

One member of the public was present. No matters were raised.

134/11 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee which was held on the 19th April 2011 (previously circulated) be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

135/11 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee approved its draft terms of reference for submission to the Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDED that the draft terms of reference as approved by the Committee are submitted to the Council for adoption.

136/11 BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee reviewed a budget comparison report in respect of the Council's budget for 2011/12. There were no matters arising.

PLANNING**137/11 Applications for consideration**

RESOLVED that the under-mentioned applications are dealt with as follows:

1. TWC/2011/0438 - Display of 1 No. 8 metre free-standing internally illuminated pylon sign, 5 No. internally illuminated fascia signs on building, 1 No. non-illuminated vinyl graphic sign on building, 1 No. free-standing internally illuminated menu sign, 4 No. externally illuminated directional signs, 1 No. drive-through height restrictor sign, and 3 No. car park signs, former Enterprise Garages Site, Trench Lock, Telford. (Proposed KFC site) – no objection.

2. TWC/2011/0456 – change of use to taxi booking office with parking to rear, Unit 10 Trench Lock 2, Trench, Telford – no objection.

3. TWC/2011/0468 – installation of a mezzanine floor and office accommodation with external windows, ancillary toilet and canteen facilities and an open storage area, Unit 1c Queensway Business Park, Hadley, Telford – no objection.

4. TWC/2011/0470 – change of use of 2 No. shop units from retail A1 to hot food takeaway A5 use, 44/46 High Street, Hadley, Telford – objection on the grounds that the proposed development will result in traffic congestion and parking of vehicles which will endanger other road users and pedestrians at a location opposite to a road junction; that the proposed opening hours will impact adversely on the locality generally and nearby residential properties in particular; and that it will create an excess of hot food takeaway businesses in the immediate area which already has three such businesses located in High Street and Gladstone House, Hadley.

5. TWC/2011/0474 – erection of 10 No. flats and change of use of existing building to hot food takeaway use class A5 with living accommodation above and erection of a single storey rear extension (outline), 40 Castle Street, Hadley, Telford – no objection.

6. TWC/2011/0476 – change of use of open space to private garden land with erection of a 1m high fence, 165 Hurleybrook Way, Leegomery, Telford – no objection.

138/11 Permissions granted (for information only)

The Committee **noted** that Telford & Wrekin Council has granted permission in respect of the following:

1. TWC/2011/0308 – change of use from light industrial B1 to performing arts school D2, Unit 24, Horton Court, Hortonwood, Telford.

2. TWC/2011/0319 – single storey front and side extension with storage space in roof, 140, Hadley Park Road, Hadley, Telford.

3. TWC/2011/0355 – 3m high non-illuminated free-standing notice board, Hadley Learning Community, Crescent Road, Hadley, Telford.

4. TWC/2011/0360 – tree preservation order consent in respect of works to Lime tree at rear of 12 Dalby Close, Apley, Telford.

5. TWC/2011/0414 – side extension to form garage and conversion of existing garage to habitable room, 1 Fleming Court, Apley, Telford.

139/11 Notice of appeal (for information only)

The Committee **noted** that Telford & Wrekin Council has received notice of an appeal in respect of application TWC/2011/0068 – erection of a two storey rear extension following partial removal of existing rear extension, 205 Hadley Park Road, Hadley, Telford.

GRANTS

The Committee was informed that the budget provision for grants for 2011/12 is £5000.00, of which £1350.00 had been spent leaving a balance of £3650.00.

140/11 Applications for consideration

RESOLVED that

(i) the Council in accordance with its powers (i) under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should make the following grants which, in the opinion of the Committee, are in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will directly benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

S.T.A.B.L.E.	£100.00
Listen and Care	£100.00

(ii) the Council in accordance with its powers under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 should make the following grant:

Leegomery Community Club £100.00

141/11 Thanks for grants previously made (for information only)

The Committee **noted** that thanks for a grant previously made have been received from Hadley Five-O and Ironbridge Gorge Brass Band Festival.

142/11 Grants policy

The Committee approved a draft Grants Policy for adoption by the Council.

RECOMMENDED that the draft Grants Policy as approved by the Committee is adopted by the Council.

PAYMENT AUTHORISATIONS AND APPROVALS

143/11 Expenditure for ratification

RESOLVED that expenditure incurred on behalf of the Council under the terms of Financial Regulation 3.4 as detailed below is ratified:

Amount Excl VAT	Details
£51.77	TR Carey – plumbing repairs at Cemetery Lodge
£100.00	S P Holding Services Ltd – empty septic tank, Cemetery Lodge (s. 214, LGA 1972)
£128.22	Ian Gibbons Building Maintenance – maintenance and repairs at Castle Farm Community Centre
£14.50	Ultravend Hygiene Services – toilet rolls for dispensers, Castle Farm Community Centre (s. 19, LGMPA 1976)
£44.25	Edventure Ltd – football net, Youth Café (s.145, LGA 1972)

144/11 Payments for ratification and approval

The Committee reviewed a list of payments to be made. Councillor M L Wickstead had verified against invoices etc. the cheques to be drawn and payment authorities to be signed.

RESOLVED that

(1) the drawing of urgent cheque number 301972 is ratified, and that the drawing of cheques numbered 301973 to 301994, six payments in respect of salaries by BACS, and direct debits in favour of Titan Telecommunications, Talk Talk Business and Neopost Ltd., all payments totalling £17,003.34 and as detailed in approval lists submitted, is authorised.

(2) Councillors L A Savage and M J Smith are authorised to sign the authorities for payment and the cheques to be drawn.

145/11 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Committee discussed the allocation of funds within the total budget provision for Environmental Improvements. Recurring expenditure in respect of the hanging baskets and planters, contribution to traffic island displays and funds allocated for Apley Woods are already allocated and total £8500.00. The balance available is £6,000.00 of which £4500.00 was proposed when the budget was set for expenditure on further planting schemes around the Parish. The remainder, £1500.00 is available to cover other environmental items such as grit bins, litter bins, benches etc.

The Committee considered a request for a replacement bench to be sited at "Woodhenge", Apley, submitted by Telford and Wrekin Council's Environmental Maintenance Officer. This would involve the Parish Council making a payment to the Borough Council for the purchase of the bench, and the Borough Council meeting the cost of installation and maintenance.

A request for two grit bins was also received, one to be sited at the junction of Peregrine Way with the A442 and one to be sited in Royal Oak Drive.

The Committee also considered a proposal that the Council funds additional grass cuts for the Village Green in Hadley in order to restore the number of cuts per year to the level that existed prior to 2011. The Borough Council has reduced the number of grass cuts in public areas from 16 to 12 per annum as a cost saving measure. It was felt that this results in an untidy appearance by the third week of each cycle and as the Parish Council has invested in new plants and shrubs to enhance the area the grass should be kept in a tidy state. The estimated cost would be £275.00 per annum to include an allowance for one further cut if needed prior to Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED that

(1) The Council will make a contribution to Telford & Wrekin Council of up to £525.00 for the purchase of a bench to be installed at Woodhenge, Apley;

(2) The Council will purchase through Telford & Wrekin Council two additional grit bins to be sited at Peregrine Way and Royal Oak Drive, Apley at a cost of £140.00 each;

(3) The Council will pay to Telford and Wrekin Council a sum not exceeding £275.00, pro rata for the remaining grass cutting season of 2011, to restore a fortnightly cutting cycle.

(4) The Council will proceed with funding the purchase of plants for new planting schemes at strategic locations to be agreed with Telford and Wrekin Council's Environmental Maintenance Officer within the agreed budget provision of £4500.00, with labour costs to be funded by Telford & Wrekin Council, and that delegated authority is granted to the Clerk to place orders for plants for these schemes within that budget provision which are to be determined in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, the Environmental Maintenance Officer, with input from Mr. S Thomas and Mrs. P Smart.

146/11 VILLAGE GREEN IMPROVEMENTS – GRANT APPLICATION

The Committee considered how to proceed in respect of proposed improvements to the village green in the light of the failed grant application to Sita Trust. The Clerk provided information about the Big Lottery grant schemes which include Awards for All for grants up to £10,000.00 and Reaching Communities for larger grants. The latter scheme allows for the submission of an outline proposal which is assessed for eligibility to save wasting time on a full application which will not be considered.

RECOMMENDED that the Clerk submits in behalf of the Council an Outline Proposal to the Reaching Communities grant scheme for the same project that was the subject of the Sita Trust application, and if that stage is successful proceed to prepare a full application to be submitted on behalf of the Council.

147/11 CEMETERY

The Committee received for information a report on recent problems with youths drinking alcohol and causing a nuisance in the cemetery at times outside the normal opening hours of the cemetery and action taken. The Local Policing Team has been involved and the situation is being monitored.

148/11 FOOTWAY LIGHTING

The Committee considered whether the Council should make enquiries in to alternative management contracts for its Footway Lighting, with a view to reducing costs and improving control and efficiency.

RECOMMENDED that the Clerk makes enquiries of street lighting contractors regarding the costs and service levels that could be obtained for the management and maintenance of the Parish Council footway lighting stock and reports back to the committee in due course for further consideration.

149/11 NOTICE BOARDS

The Committee considered a proposal that the Parish Council should have a notice board at Leegomery Centre. The Clerk informed the Committee that the Council's two existing notice boards at Castle Farm Community Centre and the Cemetery are in a poor condition and will need replacing soon.

RECOMMENDED that the Council agrees in principal to the purchase and installation of a notice board at Leegomery Centre, subject to consideration and approval of quotations for a suitable notice board together with replacement notice boards for the two existing locations and allocation of a budget provision, and that the Clerk will liaise with Telford & Wrekin Council to seek permission for the installation at a suitable location in Leegomery Centre.

150/11 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

RESOLVED that a price increase of £2.50 per hour to £25.00 per hour by the council's appointed contractor for routine electrical maintenance and repair work is accepted, the new rate still being the lowest when compared with the original competitive quotations obtained.

151/11 HADLEY YOUTH CAFÉ

RESOLVED that expenditure of £1050.00 excluding VAT in respect of the purchase of a pool table under delegated authority is ratified, and that the Clerk is authorised to dispose of the old folding pool table which has only a nominal value in the most effective way.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.