

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 commencing at 7.00 p.m.**

**Members of the public:** Two members of the public were present.

**In attendance:** Cllr John Smart, Chairman of Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council  
Clerk to the Council, Jonathan Brumwell  
James Dunn, Service Delivery Manager – Telford and Wrekin Council  
Kirsty Liddell, Project Officer – Telford and Wrekin Council

### **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.

### **4. MINUTES**

The meeting confirmed that the minutes of the Parish Meeting which had taken place on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and were presented at the Annual Meeting of Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 where they were approved as a true record.

### **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](http://www.hadleyandleegomery-pc.org.uk).

### **6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015/16**

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 1.4.15 to 31.3.16.

### **7. NUPLACE DEVELOPMENT, HADLEY**

James Dunn, Service Delivery Manager – Telford and Wrekin Council, delivered a presentation and answered questions on the proposed Nuplace development at Hadley Centre.

### **8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS OF THE PARISH**

There were no comments from members of the public.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

## **Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting, 5th April, 2016.**

Following the Local Elections we are proud and privileged to have new members who have quickly committed themselves to cross-party work for the benefit of the residents who elected us.

Welcome to all our Councillors.

One of our exciting achievements is the winning of funding through the Pride in Your High Street initiative and for this we must thank Councillor Bill McClements and Jon Brumwell for all the hard work that they have done and continue to do in respect of this. Phase 3 of the Centre will be under way soon and once this has all been completed, we shall have a revitalised area with additional parking and enhanced features to be enjoyed by all.

I cannot stress enough the importance of partnership working with Telford & Wrekin Council and the Parish Environment Team does sterling work to maintain our high standard of care. Thanks to Wayne Griffiths and his apprentice, Dre Broom. We acknowledge the ideas put forward by Sean Thomas who is wholly committed to continuing improvements in the Parish.

We are proud of the work of Friends of Apley Woods who received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in September. Our former clerk, Colin Potts prepared much of the work for our nomination.

As the cuts continue to bite, this Council does all that we can to protect services which we consider vital. The library was at risk but with the initiative of Dr. Gill Eatough, Principal of Hadley Learning Community, with our support, it is intended to keep the library open at the school and we urge our residents to make full use of it.

We continue to fund all-age youth clubs to ensure that our youngest residents have a facility which provides them with a meeting place where they can indulge in suitable activities with their friends. Mark Palmer Burrige continues in this vital work and we thank him for all that he does.

Planning issues continue to absorb much of our time. The housing development on the Maxell site is disquieting as the provision of school places in our area is inadequate. Consent was granted for this large development in spite of this Parish Council's serious concerns about traffic, access to medical care, potential harm to the Apley Woods wildlife, as well as the overriding issue of school places. The proposed industrial development at Hortonwood was considered a threat to the well-being of the pupils at Queensway HLC, given the nature of their problems. However, with the intervention of Dr. Eatough and myself, all the requirements have been agreed.

We are extremely proud of our schools and always enjoy the concerts that we arrange for their choirs. Apley Wood and Millbrook Primaries take part in the Christmas concert, this year on Tuesday, 13th December, along with Hadley Orpheus Choir, and HLC Primary and Secondary Phases join with the Orpheus for the summer concert on Tuesday, 12th July. Both events take place at Hadley Methodist Church and all residents are invited to attend these free musical treats.

The annual Parish Fetes continue to be extremely popular and are well attended. We are proud to provide free entertainment and to promote local voluntary groups by donating stalls for their use. These are always held on the last Sunday of June. This year's event is more special as there will be emphasis on Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday. We are in the process of erecting new fencing to the south perimeter of the Village Green to enhance the visual aspect.

The importance of Remembrance Sunday cannot be stressed enough. The usual parade and service will take place on the 9th November. The trees and shrubs surrounding the War Memorial are scheduled for improvement.

The Pensioners' Christmas dinners will take place on dates yet to be arranged, and we have new entertainment planned.

Cllr. Faith Sloan has proposed the introduction of a gardening competition and I'm sure that this will be of interest to many. More on this later.

We continue to rely on volunteers to enhance the lives of all of us and many do not realise that our Parish Councillors receive no allowances. We work for the community because it matters to us. To help other volunteers, we provide grants to support them to continue in their crucial work and we would remind all groups that we will consider all grant applications according to merit and provided that they are within our grants policy.

This Council has seen some staff changes as well as welcoming new councillors. Carol Henderson has been promoted on the retirement of Vera Holland who worked hard to maintain this building in pristine condition. Carol continues to maintain this high standard and we thank her and her new deputy, Julie, for keeping us clean and tidy!

Cliff Henderson is regularly complimented on the beautiful state of the Cemetery. We are extremely grateful to him for keeping the Cemetery so beautiful. We also thank him for the work he has carried out on our behalf.

Jonathan Brumwell has had a baptism of fire as he has had to learn so many varied aspects of Parish Council work. His reports to the Planning Department are worthy of much commendation. Gail Lawrence, herself a qualified Parish Clerk, has proved to be invaluable in helping Jon to settle in and she is without doubt, a great asset to the Clerk, the staff and all of us.

In closing, I wish to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues for all their contribution to our continued success as an outstanding Parish Council. In particular, I should like to thank my vice-chairman, Malcolm Smith who played a major part in putting forward our concerns at the Planning Committee, Bill McClements for his chairmanship of F&GP as well as all the other work that he does for us, Pat Smart who has soldiered on with the Events Committee and environment work in spite of her health problems, Angela Twyford for her work on Personnel and very able representation whenever we have needed her, and indeed to all our Members who always take an active part in our work.

I look forward to another busy and productive year for benefit of our electors who expect and deserve the best service which we always try to provide.

John Smart  
Chairman

5th April, 2016