

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF
VALLEY PARK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11TH JUNE 2007
AT THE KNIGHTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE, CHANDLER'S FORD**

Cllrs Present: Cllr. Clive Anderson, Cllr. Gregory Bentley-Bloor, Cllr. Tamara Bentley-Bloor, Cllr. Raymond Bryan, Cllr. Alan Dowden (Chairman), Cllr. Celia Dowden, Cllr. Andrea Dyde, Cllr. Louise Guy, Cllr. Karyn Oliver

Acting Clerk: Kevin Glyn-Davies

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None recorded

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None recorded

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded

4. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The Chairman reported that he has received notification of Councillor training in respect of the new code of conduct at Crosfield Hall, Romsey commencing at 19.00 hours on 4 July 2007. This was noted.

5. TO READ AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING - 15 MAY 2007

The Minutes were Proposed by Cllr. Celia Dowden, Seconded by Cllr. Clive Anderson and unanimously agreed. Further to Minute 17 of the previous Minutes relating to the cost of baskets in Valley Park, a discussion ensued concerning the principle of obtaining donations from local businesses associated with the flowers. The Chairman stated that the cost of the flower baskets was very little in real terms when apportioned against the individual council tax payer. Cllr. Andrea Dyde commented that the parish council must work together with the community to establish a good partnership and suggested that perhaps a children's fun party day could be held. Members were in agreement with such a concept. Cllr. Celia Dowden felt that sponsorship of the flower baskets and roundabouts should be pursued. The Chairman stated that Lawrie McMenemy is prepared to launch the flowers as part of attracting future sponsorship via good media coverage.

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE PARISH CLERK

The Chairman reported that as a result of the recruitment exercise for the vacancy of Parish Clerk that Andrew Purr has been appointed to the position with effect from 1 July 2007. This led on to a brief discussion concerning future intentions of the Parish Council. The Chairman commented that a Website will be established for the Parish Council to ensure that Minutes, Agendas and activities carried out by the Parish Council can be publicly accessible and that Cllr. Gregory Bentley-Bloor is prepared to effect such development. The Chairman explained that it was the intention to produce a quarterly newsletter containing Parish Council reports. There is every intention to seek quotations for notice boards and seek grant support from Test Valley Borough Council. Cllr. Celia Dowden felt that notice boards must be attached to buildings as this would be infinitely better than free standing and thereby reduce the opportunity of vandalism. Members felt that there should be four or five notice boards with at least one in the community centre and that 50% grant should be sought from Test Valley Borough Council.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he has had a conversation with Jacob Denman from Zurich Municipal for public liability insurance. The premium quoted amounts to £598.50, which includes £5,000.000 for public liability insurance, £45,000 for fidelity guarantee and £10,000.000 for employer liability. It was Proposed by Cllr. Andrea Dyde, Seconded by Cllr. Celia Dowden and unanimously agreed to accept the premium quotation of £598.50 and place the order accordingly. Motion Carried.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH MITIE SECURITY

The Chairman reported that Mitie were unable to attend this meeting to give a presentation on security arrangements as prescribed by the Parish Council. Indeed, the company had made it clear that they had insufficient manpower to meet the security needs of the Parish Council. As an alternative, the Chairman had obtained details from another security firm named Kestrel, based at Totton. This company can offer an emergency response team but this does necessitate the need for a contract and commitment from the Parish Council. The principle of this feature is that Councillors can phone a dedicated telephone line and get a rapid response team to visit a particular incident and deal with accordingly. Cllr.

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Celia Dowden questioned what powers Kestrel had for their rapid response team? Members felt that that it may be prudent for Kestrel to attend a future parish council meeting and give a presentation.

The Chairman referred to another option of having PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) and considered it would be beneficial to investigate the feasibility of their deployment at Valley Park, most especially on Friday and Saturday nights up to midnight. Members acknowledged that most incidents were alcohol related and on one specific occasion, £1,200.00 worth of damage was inflicted to the Knightwood Leisure Centre on one weekend. Furthermore, the Chairman stated that he was Proposing a Motion to the Test Valley Borough Council Full Council meeting on 21 June (Seconded by Cllr. Celia Dowden) that Test Valley Borough Council introduces alcohol free areas within Parkland and woodland areas of Valley Park in order to help combat antisocial behaviour, which is causing concern and increased expenditure to local residents. Furthermore, the Council considers removing the Youth Shelter at the Knightwood, Valley Park Leisure Centre. Members unanimously agreed that an invitation to attend the July or September Full Council Meeting be extended to Chief Superintendent Ann Wakefield to explore deployment of PCSOs for Valley Park.

10. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

The Chairman reported that there are speed limit reminder notices that can be deployed to remind motorists of the prescribed speed limit. He felt that the Parish Council should formally place a bid for two such speed limit reminder signs, initially two on Knightwood Road and thereafter Shannon Way/School Lane. The Chairman explained that such signage is moved every six weeks to avoid familiarity. Members unanimously supported that such a bid be placed.

The Chairman reported that he had obtained two quotations with the specification to trim verges between Wicklow Drive and Shannon Way and to cut/trim 2 metre margins around flower boxes on Knightwood Road with future subsequent visits. Mike Howe's (Bishopstoke) submitted quotation value amounts to £90.00 and £120.00 respectively plus a suggestion to trim and clear both sites at a later date totalling £150.00. Turning Leaves Ltd (based in Chandlers Ford) quotes one initial visit for strimming the verge at £30.00. Subsequent visits suggested three times annually at £25.00 each. To cut trim around flower boxes the charge would amount to £8.00 per box (12 boxes @ £96.00 total per visit)

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suggested twice annually, prior to flower box changes. It was Proposed by Cllr. Alan Dowden, Seconded by Cllr. Clive Anderson and unanimously agreed to award the contract lawn maintenance to Turning Leaves Ltd as a matter of urgency. Motion Carried.

The Chairman reported that he had obtained a quotation from Wilton Ventilation Systems Ltd to supply and fit three panels to bus shelter amounting to £395.00 plus VAT (£464.12). It was Proposed by Cllr. Alan Dowden. Seconded by Cllr. Clive Anderson to accept this quotation. Motion Carried.

The Chairman commented that he was in receipt of information regarding the Hampshire County Council Private Finance Initiative for Street Lighting and advised Members that Valley Park Parish Council should request to be included in this initiative. It was Proposed by Cllr. Celia Dowden. Seconded by Cllr. Andrea Dyde that the Parish Council should request to be included in this initiative. Motion Carried.

Cllr. Celia Dowden reported that she recently attended the Test Valley DAPC meeting in her role as representative. She also reported that the Standards Committee representation has now been elected and decided.

Cllr. Louise Guy expressed her concern with regard to the Borough Council's suspension of weekly refuse collections most especially through the Summer months. Members unanimously agreed that a letter should be sent to Environment and Health Services requesting an urgent review of the situation, seeking the reinstatement of weekly refuse collections at least during the Summer months of June, July and August.

The Acting Clerk commented that as a result of letters sent to Chilworth and North Baddesley Parish Councils regarding the proportion of each parish council reserve of the 2006/2007 precept (34% and 52% respectively) being repaid to Valley Park Parish Council, no positive responses have been forthcoming. Members unanimously requested that a letter be sent to Test Valley Borough Council requesting arbitration and mediation between Chilworth, North Baddesley and Valley Park Parish Councils regarding the proportion of parish council reserves being repaid to Valley Park.

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Members unanimously agreed that a letter should be sent to the Chief Executive of Test Valley Borough Council expressing disappointment that the newly created Valley Park Parish Council was not automatically covered with a temporary parish clerk to take all meetings, no arrangements made for the job advert for a permanent parish clerk, no banking or insurance arrangements and no arbitration was indicated to Chilworth and North Baddesley Parish Councils at the time of the split and the potential effect on precept funds.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.02 hours.