

**Minutes of the proceedings of Valley Park Parish Council held on Monday 9 July
2007 at 8.00pm at the Knightwood Leisure Centre Valley Park**

Present: Councillor A Dowden (Chairman) and Councillors R Bryan, Mrs C Dowden, Mrs A Dyde, Mrs L Guy, and Mrs K Oliver.

Apologies for Absence: apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Anderson, G Bentley-Bloor and Mrs T Bentley-Bloor

Action

11 Presentation by Jon Whale from HCC Accredited Community Support Officers and Chief Inspector Diana Boyles from Hampshire Constabulary Eastleigh Division.

Jon Whale from Hampshire County Council who was in charge of Hampshire's Accredited Community Support Officers attended the meeting together with Chief Inspector Diana Boyles from the Eastleigh Police district and gave presentations on the level of community support and police officer cover in the Valley park area.

The accredited Community safety Officer (ACSO) service had been running for around two and a half years amid worries of levels of crime in Hampshire.

The officers were individually accredited by HCC and were on patrol 80% of the time. Whilst the service was quite new it had already proved effective in many areas. Officers had been trained to deal with young people in a constructive way through community engagement. They used a yellow card system for a first offence with a follow up letter to parents. Enforcement through fixed penalty notices followed by acceptable behaviour contracts and ASBOs were only used when necessary.

He stressed that partnership working was crucial to maximising resources. Initial deployments of ACSO's had already been made to undertake an assessment of the scale of the problems in the area and to enable a suitable course of action to be developed. To date three teams of up to four ACSO's had patrolled the area and had taken place on a Friday evening and two other evenings concentrating on identified locations such as the youth shelter, the shopping precinct and the leisure centre.

These patrols had engaged a number of young people and issues discussed. No alcohol had yet been found although it was appreciated that the recent wet weather was most probably a factor.

Action

As a way forward it was therefore agreed to put a six week operation in place to include at least two patrols per week concentrating on Friday and Saturday evenings. This would then enable a full assessment to be made so that a way forward could be progressed.

Chief Inspector Boyles reported that in addition to a dedicated Pc for the Valley Park area the Eastleigh West Safer Neighbourhood scheme had 5 police constables and 4.5 PCSOs in the area to call upon when needed. Their remit was to deal with longer term identifiable issues. Targeted patrols were also able to assist. The Chief Inspector then went on to illustrate how these resources were deployed.

The Chairman stated that large areas of Valley Park did not have the necessary level of policing which he felt was clearly required in the area feeling that it needed a combination of things done to alleviate anti social behaviour.

The Chief Inspector stated that she was not in a position to red circle a PCSO for Valley Park. However she did undertake to ascertain if one could come from the Romsey division. This would cost in the region of £6000 per year for two years with the remaining funds being met by Hampshire Police. The PCSO would spend 80% of the time on patrol and the remainder on admin. She stated that she would be happy for a PCSO to come and support the local police officer when the need arose.

Reference was made to a proposed designated places order for the prevention of the consumption of alcohol and explained that in six weeks time officers would have the power to seize alcohol from young people which would obviate the need for such an order to be implemented. She also stated that Valley Park was to receive much more support than the area had recently been receiving.

Councillor Mrs Dowden asked what would happen if a young person passed alcohol onto an 18 + year old to avoid the alcohol being confiscated. The Chief Inspector responded that they could seize the alcohol if they believed there was an intent to supply.

Councillor Mrs Dowden asked if the Parish part funded a PCSO would the Parish lose out on existing resources. The answer was NO.

Mr Wedge, a member of the public, stated that he lived adjacent to a cycle way and had had numerous problems when people left the area late at night. He had suffered vandalism to both his house and car. Another disturbance after midnight resulted in an officer attending.

Action

The Chief Inspector replied stating that the PSCOs only worked until midnight mainly due to funding restrictions. She also made reference to how 999 and 101 calls were graded and their response time to those graded calls.

Mrs Wedge, a member of the public, asked if the police saw the complaint forms that go to the wardens. The answer was NO.

Mr J Billingham, a member of the public, stated that what was needed was an increase in preventative measures.

Councillor Mrs Dyde asked if there was an opportunity to target the 12 midnight till 2 am period but the response was that this could only be done with a police team on an identified issue which was evidenced based.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their informative presentations and all others for their attendance and contributions.

RESOLVED:

That Jon Whale's offer to put a six week operation in place, to include at least two patrols per week concentrating on Friday and Saturday evenings, in order that a full assessment could be made so that a way forward could be progressed, be accepted.

Jon
Whale

12 Correspondence Received.

The Clerk reported upon a request he had received for a grant from Home-Start Eastleigh. The organisation had supported 12 families in Valley Park during 2006/2007 at accost of £715 per family. Members considered this organisation worthy of support.

Resolved:

That a grant of £100 be made to Home-Start Eastleigh in recognition of their work in Valley Park.

Clerk

13 Minutes.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2007 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Action

14 Matters Arising.

The Chairman reported that with respect to the Parish Council's insurance he had upgraded the insurance with Zurich to include cover for volunteers and also to indemnify Councillors against libel. The new premium was now £651.

15 Borough and County Council Reports.

It was reported that Councillors Mr and Mrs Dowden had been invited to attend a meeting with Jamie O'Rielly , the Community Safety Officer at TVBC on 17 July at Duttons Road Romsey on anti- social behaviour.

Councillors Mrs Dyde and Mrs Guy had attended an energy meeting pertaining to planning applications at Beech Hurst Andover.

The Chairman reported that Tesco had agreed to contribute £100 to the floral displays in Valley Park. He also reported that a TVBC community safety project had received a sum of £1500 for a hedge planting scheme at Caernarvon Gardens.

16 Accounts

It was noted that at long last Lloyds TSB had now opened a bank account for the Parish and the Clerk had now received details together with the appropriate paper work. Both the Clerk and the Chairman had made personal payments on behalf of the Parish and authority was now sought for reimbursement.

Resolved:

That the following items be approved for payment:-

Clerk

Mr A Purr (clerk) £863.99 (New Laptop and Printer)

Councillor A Dowden £651 (Zurich Insurance)

The meeting ended at 10.00pm