

**Minutes of the proceedings of Annual Parish Assembly of Valley Park Parish Council held on Monday 12 May 2008 at 8.00pm at the Knightwood Leisure Centre Valley Park**

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

**Apologies:** An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. A Dyde.

**Action**

**1 Chairman's Report**

Councillor A Dowden reported upon a successful first year for the Parish Council: see Appendix A for report.

**2 County Councillor's Report**

County Councillor A Dowden's annual report is attached at Appendix B

**3 Borough Councillor's Report**

TVBC Councillor A Dyde had tendered her apologies for this meeting so was unable to present her report to the meeting. However, her report is set out at Appendix C for information.

**4 Open Period**

Two members of the public attended the meeting but they did not ask to participate in this part of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm

## Chairman's Report

Tonight marks the first anniversary of Valley Park Parish Council. It has been a successful year for the Parish having achieved a number of objectives.

The objectives we achieved are:

- One of the first successful events delivered by the new Valley Park Parish Council was the Valley Park in Bloom feature which was launched by Lawry McMenemy.
- When Valley Park was part of North Baddesley I had the floral show running there for 10 years. Now as Chairman of Valley Park I am committed to continuing the scheme in Valley Park as it is so appreciated by local people. This year we are running it again and will be Launched by Mick Channon.
- As Chairman of the Parish Council & County Councillor for the area I sought regular patrols by the HCC accredited community safety officers thus making Valley Park a safer environment in which to live.
- Erection of new Notice Boards for the Parish which have become focal points for the display of local information and agendas.
- The creation of a web site for the Parish Council which provides residents and other interested parties with information on the all Council business and other news worthy items.
- Another major achievement was in regards to road safety through the purchase and erection of speed limit reminder devices. These are deployed in various locations to remind motorists of the speed limit. This was followed by another safety measure success for the Parish Council with the provision of safety guard railings at the pedestrian crossing on School Lane.
- One thing we have not been able to put in place as yet is the allotments for which there has been such a huge demand. Negotiations are still under way with TVBC the present landowner. But they are experiencing difficulties negotiating with the previous owner for them to sign for a change of use for the land. These negotiations have become rather protracted and I am currently unsure as to what the outcome will now be.  
When the new Valley Park Parish Council was set up Test Valley Borough Council did so and charged us the election costs of £7,500 and awarded us no additional money for reserves. We have therefore been prudent and gained business donations and local authority grants to assist us.

In conclusion I am sure you will all agree with me that the Parish Council has achieved a great deal in such a short space of time. Please be assured that the Parish council will continue to strive to give value for money and continue to look after the best interests of the local community.

I would like to thank my Vice Chairman and other members of the Council for their support over the last year and also to our Parish Clerk, Andrew Purr, who has supported us very well indeed.

Cllr. Alan Dowden  
Chairman of Valley Park Parish Council

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR's 2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

Hampshire County Council Tax will rise by 4.5% from April this year.

The Leader told the Council that the rise was necessary to meet inflation costs, the increasing demand for services and the requirements of changing legislation.

My group put forward a rise of just 3.5%, this was sufficient to provide a balanced budget and still provide enough finance to prevent further cuts to services.

I am the opposition Spokesperson for Adult Social Care and therefore a prominent member of the Safe & Healthy People Select Committee.

Last year I placed the following motion at the County Council

**' While Hampshire County Council fully supports Lord Ashley's Disabled Persons ( Independent Living) Bill, it writes to the prime Minister, Gordon Brown, to ask that government takes on the sponsorship of the Bill and extends its scope to cover vulnerable groups in society including frail, elderly people whose numbers are growing, allocates sufficient Parliamentary time to it and funds to implement its provisions.'**

The motion was supported unanimously.

I am pleased to have been appointed as a panel member of the Hampshire Commission. We will listen to evidence from various sources and produce a report to government in order to influence and inform the Government's Green Paper on personalised care due to be published this Autumn.

Previous consultations have shown that people want access to support when they need it and they expect it to be available to them quickly, easily and fit into their lives. They also want adult social care services to make provision for a range of needs, with a greater focus on using preventative approaches to promote people's independence & wellbeing. The emphasis should be on enablement and early intervention to promote independence rather than involvement at the point of crisis, within the framework of Fair Access to Care Services.

It will not be an easy task, with growing numbers requiring care and limited resources, but personalised care with individual budgets could be a better and more cost effective way of achieving improved outcomes.

The County Council have agreed to provide 400 Extra Care sheltered housing places. This will be part of a new generation of housing support and care that will offer older people the safety of care and support available on site where they live, 24 hours a day, according to people's assessed needs. This allows independence, something that most people value. I have strongly supported the County Council to pursue these aims.

Thirteen billion plastic bags are used across the UK each year and most of them end up in landfill. In an attempt to partly address this I placed the following motion before Hampshire Full Council and it was debated at the full council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**' That Hampshire County Council contact all major supermarket chains in Hampshire with a view of persuading them to switch over to the use of bio degradable/compostable shopping bags as soon as is practicable.'**

The Government have given the green light for the £200 million street lighting private finance initiative (PFI). The contract will be awarded in the autumn of 2009. All street lighting in Hampshire, installed prior to 1990, will be replaced within five years.

From April a new highways contract has been awarded to Amey to provide maintenance of 5,280 miles of Hampshire's roads & footways. It will run until 2015 with an option to extend it until 2018.

It is very frustrating that, yet again, the County Council will fail to provide the new Cycle/Pedestrian bridge at Flexford Road in this financial year. Although the area is within the Parish of North Baddesley it is the residents of Valley Park who will be most disappointed as parents are increasingly concerned about the safety issue this presents to children needing to use Flexford Road to attend school at Thornden. It is now programmed to be built within the 2009/10 capital programme. This is in fact to be financed from developers contributions. The reason given is because of environmental constraints and covenants on the land which will need agreements signed in order to proceed. The earliest it will be built is July/August 2009, if all of the constraints are overcome.

Because the public transport budget has been cut by a further £673K more cuts are likely to bus services, but most worrying of all is the £1 million reduction to be spent on road safety casualty reduction schemes.

I have supported many organisations within Valley Park from my annual allowance over the past twelve months and hope to be able to support others during this financial year. It was good news though that the County Council's administration have been forced to U-turn over their controversial move to control the size of trailers that can access Hampshire's household waste recycling centres. We have witnessed the increase in the fly-tipping of such a decision

I have been the County Councillor for the Baddesley Division, since January 1992. I have seen many changes during this time and the work is both varied and enjoyable. I look forward in continuing to work for all the residents within my division.

**HCC Cllr. Alan Dowden  
Baddesley division**

## Appendix C

### Borough Council Report 2007/8 – Cllr A. F. Dyde

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Lousie Guy and I were proud to be elected to the Borough Council in May 2007. It has been a steep learning curve and I would like to thank Councillors who have more experience for their time and patience, and pay tribute to Jacqui Shaw, a predecessor, who introduced me to the process and has remained a source of knowledge and inspiration.

Cllr Guy and I serve, as do all Councillors from the south of Test Valley Borough, on the Southern Area Planning Committee which looks at those planning applications which are brought before the committee. It is a very interesting and challenging role and we are grateful that the Great Covert site remains outside of the Core Strategy for future development at the moment.

Cllr Guy serves on Planning Control which is the next step in the planning application process and allows a smaller committee from both the north and the south of the borough to reassess planning applications which require further re-examination of the applications in light of planning law and policy.

Since May 2007, I have been a member of the Licensing Committee which examines policy and procedures within the Council licensing obligations which includes licensing of taxi's and vehicles, alcohol related licences, providers or hot food between 2300 and 0500, private members and social clubs, gambling, and premises where indoor sporting events take place. It has been a time of great learning as new legislation has been introduced and there has been a need to adopt new regulations and the requirement for all serving members and officers to be trained in the new law and its application.

There is a small three person committee drawn from the wider Licensing Committee and their role is to consider those licensing applications which require democratic debate and determination of the outcome. It is a formal and regulated process and I am very proud to serve on this committee.

Membership of the Standards Committee is also within my role. A councillor is subject to a robust Code of Conduct and the Standards committee deals with the Conduct of Councillors. This month, new regulations governing the code of conduct have been published which is to affect the complaints process and putting the filtering of complaints relating to breaches of the Code of Conduct to a local level, that is the Borough Council. Thus, now is a time for training and putting best practice into place within the Borough and I find that both exciting and stimulating.

Change is happening across the board and, as a member of Overview and Scrutiny Committee; I look forward to seeing the emergence of the best practice model being introduced to Test Valley Borough Council. It is particularly important now to gain the most effective model because there is a single party executive and the Overview and Scrutiny

Committee will now become the key element of accountability and scrutiny as required to safeguard decision making in a democratic process.

Whilst fully supporting the recycling programme, all the Borough Councillors for Valley Park have tried very hard to regain a weekly refuse collection, particularly in the summer months and also to work towards a curb side glass collection. Unfortunately, to date, despite all our efforts, it has been without success but we will keep battling. It is very important that residents who experience any problems with the collection of their waste to contact the Head of Environment and Health at TVBC, Duttons Road, Romsey.

To all the residents, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve the community. Please contact Alan Dowden, Louise Guy or myself, if you have information you wish to share so that we can effectively work to gain and maintain the quality of services that are provided by Test Valley Borough Council.