

Minutes of the proceedings of Valley Park Parish Council held on Monday 8 December 2008 at 7.30pm at the Knightwood Leisure Centre Valley Park

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

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Anderson and Mrs A. Dyde.

Action

45 Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

46 Matters Arising

The Chairman advised members that in relation to minute 41 (Anti Social behaviour) he had been on a day shift with the two ACSOs. From the information he had received there did not appear to be any anti social behaviour problems in Valley Park at the present time. The Chairman would be joining the officers on a night shift in January.

47 Finance and General Purposes Committee

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 24 November 2008 be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

48 Parish News Letter: Delivery Options

Councillor Barton explained that he had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda as he was concerned that the onus for delivery of the parish news letter was being put on members and he felt that this was not sustainable in the long term. He asked other members if they had similar concerns and whether a professional delivery company should be employed.

There was general agreement amongst other members that the current system for delivery was satisfactory and was not an onerous task for them.

In addition members were able to deliver at short notice when a major issue required it and members were not confident that this would be the case if a professional firm was to be employed.

Resolved:

That the current practice whereby members deliver the Parish News Letter on a voluntary basis be adhered to.

49 Correspondence

The Clerk advised members that he had received notice from the Audit Commission that the Parish Council's annual audit had been completed and there were no matters on which the auditor had made a report. Accordingly the Annual Return had been certified and this would now be displayed on the Parish Notice Board. Members were very pleased that there were no concerns expressed by the auditor which was an achievement in itself as this was the Parish Council's first annual audit.

The Clerk also advised members that he had received an invitation from Romsey Town Council for up to four members to attend a networking evening at Romsey Town Hall on 13 January 2009. Any member wishing to attend was asked to let the Clerk know by the first week of January.

50 Accounts

The Clerk informed members of accounts received and paid since the last meeting.

Resolved:

That the accounts be approved for payment.

51 Borough and County Member Reports

Councillor Mrs. Guy advised members that she had attended a meeting of TVBC's Planning Control Committee which had dealt with a major planning application in the north of the Borough.

The Chairman advised members that he had attended a meeting of TVBC's Cabinet where they discussed rodent control in the Borough. Six months ago, the Borough had introduced a new pest control regime however monitoring had shown that about 51% of rat inquiries were not being accepted as falling into the categories for free treatment. There was also no evidence that these inquiries were being picked up through the private sector.

There was also evidence of a significant drop in mice inquiries of approximately 70% and again no evidence that these were being picked up by private sector. This suggested that there was a potential of increased infestations, associated public health problems and poison resistance if these cases were not being treated or were being treated ineffectually. In order to overcome this potential problem it was suggested that there was a need for a charged service for rats for non vulnerable groups and a free service for mice for vulnerable groups. Cllr Dowden spoke in favour of a free service for all residents if the Council was to resolve the rodent problem and prevent the risk of a future health problem. However the Borough Council chose not to adopt this approach and it was understood that around 75% of people would have to pay the charge of £40.

The Chairman advised members that traffic speed checks had been carried out in Katrine Crescent between 6 and 12 November which had revealed that there was not an issue with cars speeding in this road. In fact the results had shown that there was generally a high level of compliance of the 30mph limit.

The Chairman referred to his role on the Hampshire Commission and that it had now produced its report and recommendations. These had been well received both by HCC and the government. The Chairman gave a brief summary of the recommendations.

Councillor Mrs Dowden reported that TVBC were in the process of restructuring its citizens panel and also that the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be writing to parishes asking if he could come and explain what his Committee did at the Council. Councillor Mrs. Dowden was also fighting the cause of Relate with TVBC as it had recently cut their grant by 50% which had caused them severe difficulties in delivering their service.

52 Planning Applications

Application 08/02674/FULLS
Erection of conservatory to rear elevation
26 Caernarvon Gardens Chandlers Ford

Resolved:

That no comment be made.

Action

Application 08/02799/FULLS
Erection of conservatory to rear elevation
47 Morgan Le Fay Drive Chandlers Ford

Resolved:

That no comment be made.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm