

**Minutes of the Valley Park Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 6 December 2021 at 7.00pm
Location: Zoom meeting**

Present:

Cllr Mr A Dowden (Chairman)
Cllr Mr R Bryan
Cllr Mrs K Woods-Townsend
Cllr Mrs D Green
Cllr Mrs C Dowden
Cllr Mr A Beesley
Cllr Mr C Thom
Cllr Mr C Anderson
Cllr Mr S Cross

Apologies for absence:

Action

35 Declarations of Interest

36 Minutes of the meeting held 1st November 2021

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2021, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed electronically by the Chairman.

37 Matters Arising

Councillors shared positive feedback received from residents by email and comments on social media, thanking for the poppies display.

Cllr Dowden informed that the place where Busy Bees nursery used to be located would be a special school.

38 20 is plenty motion

Councillors discussed the campaign for lower speed limits.

Councillors took into consideration the following aspects:

- In all areas of Hampshire, traffic speed impacts the safety and quality of life of our residents.
- Standardisation of speed reduction over a wide area is more effective and simplifies implementation; it also increases compliance.

Reduction to 20mph has been shown to be:

1. **Accepted** as normal by local authorities where 25m people in the UK live, including the whole of Wales and (soon) Scotland. 20mph is global best practice where people mix with motor traffic.

2. **Popular:** Government and other surveys consistently find 70% support in residential streets which rises after 20mph limits are introduced.
3. **Affordable and cost effective,** with multiple societal, environmental, economic, and climate benefits.
4. **Prioritise quality of life:** 20mph helps to create places where human activity, including walking, cycling and social interaction, takes precedence over traffic.
5. **Safer:** The UK's Department for Transport estimates that speed a reduction of 1mph in built-up areas reduces casualties by 6%. 20mph schemes typically lead to up to 20% fewer casualties.
6. **Better for the environment:** 20mph reduces CO2 emissions by 26% and NOx by 28% compared with 30mph and is 50% quieter.
7. **Enforceable,** like any speed limit.
8. **Little impact on journey times:** The 'stop-start' nature of traffic in built up areas is a much more significant factor. Roads can stay at 30mph where the needs of vulnerable road users are met. Bus journeys and timetables times are generally unaffected.
9. **Speed reductions** occur, even without regular Police enforcement, to the benefit of all road users. Note: all new car models will have in-car speed limiters from 2022.
10. **Few signs needed:** 1 or 2 signs on entry and some repeaters to remind drivers and no need for physical calming.
11. **Sustainable:** Ties in closely with other policies to address climate change, improve air quality and enable more people to walk and cycle – especially for short journeys.

All parish councillors strongly agreed to support the 20's Plenty for Hampshire campaign and call on Hampshire County Council to implement 20 mph as the normal speed limit in Valley Park.

39 **Community Emergency Plan**

Councillors agreed to form a panel of councillors to create a community emergency plan. The panel will be chaired by Cllr C Thom and will be comprised of: Cllr C Thom, Cllr C Anderson and Cllr A Dowden. The Parish Clerk will support the panel and attend the meetings. It was agreed to have an initial discussion in January to outline the plans and information.

It was also agreed that the Parish will call on volunteers who would like to be part of the plan, should any emergency happen.

40 To receive and consider correspondence

None

41 Public questions

None received.

42 Accounts

The Clerk informed councilors of the accounts received since the last meeting.

Resolved:

That the accounts be approved for payment.

43 Borough and County Councillor Reports

Cllr Thom stated that Friends in the Park are growing in size and informed councillors of the upcoming tree planting activities.

Cllr Dowden, in his capacity of Borough and County Councillor expressed his high disappointment and informed councillors about a recent incident regarding racist graffiti. The incident was reported to the police and it will be investigated.

Cllr Dowden informed the Parish about further resources cuts for the county council and the concerns raising from this. Councillors further discussed concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in Valley Park and the risk of a fire break in the summer as well as cannabis smoking.

44 Planning Applications

Planning applications were reviewed by the Planning Committee.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____