

**Minutes of the Valley Park Parish Council Meeting  
held on Monday 6 November 2023 at 7.30pm  
Location: Valley Park Community Centre**

**Present:**

Cllr Mr A Dowden (Chairman)  
Cllr Mrs C Dowden  
Cllr Mr J Fryer  
Cllr Mr S Cross  
Cllr Mrs D Green  
Cllr Mrs K Woods-Townsend  
Cllr Mr R Bryan

**Apologies:**

Cllr Mr S Shahi, Cllr Mr C Anderson (Vice Chair)

**Action**

**24 Welcome and apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C Anderson and Cllr S Shahi.

**25 Declarations of interests**

None on the agenda.

**26 Minutes of the meetings held 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.**

**27 Matters Arising**

**27.1 Speed limit Castle Lane**

Cllr C Anderson raised a concern of the speed limit on a dangerous part of Castle Lane. The Clerk wrote to the Leader for Universal Services to investigate. The proposal of reducing the speed on Castle Lane was denied. After discussions, councillors requested for a caution sign for pedestrian crossing.

**Resolved that: Clerk to ask if a warning sign of pedestrian or bicycle crossing can be placed along that route.**

**27.2 Knightwood Woodfair Response**

Councillors were informed that the Knightwood Woodfair would not take place anymore.

**28 To receive and consider correspondence**

**28.1 Grant request from Mental Health Ambassadors at Toynbee School**  
Councillors read the letter and a discussion took place.

**Resolved that: That £150 to be offered to the school for the project.**

28.2 Hedgehog Highway project

Councillors discussed the project and it was agreed that more research about what other companies offer shall be done.

28.3 Land at Castle Lane – Valley Park

An email was received regarding the land at Castle Lane. Councillors agreed that it is premature to discuss this item before the next local plan is approved and a consultation takes place.

28.4 Support for Climate and Ecology Bill

The Parish discussed the motion and approved it.

**Resolved that: the Council pass this motion and send a message to the MP to inform that we support the motion.**

28.5 Toob complaints

There were several complaints received regarding the damage done after installing the optic fibre. Residents were informed about the complaints procedure.

**29 Public questions**

None

**30 Discuss plans for the hanging baskets and troughs next year**

Councillors requested inserting of a gel tube in the hanging baskets for keeping them moisture and raised concerns about watering. All councillors agreed that there is a need for improvement of the look of the hanging baskets and efficient watering. It was agreed that 150 baskets will be ordered for summer 2024.

**Resolved that: Clerk to contact the hanging baskets' provider to discuss ways of improvement of the floral display.**

Councillors also agreed that more wildflowers should be planted in identified areas in Valley Park, as well as trees at the back of Burnham Beeches.

**31 Welcome signs updates**

The two locations were approved by the councillors.

**Resolved that: Clerk to apply for the license and arrange for installation of the signs.**

**32 Accounts – ratification of budget approval**

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

**Resolved:**

**That councillors approved the budget and agreed for the precept to be raised by £1,000. The accounts were approved.**

32.1 Bus shelter request Harvest Road bus stop

Councilors approved the installation of a bus shelter at Harvest Road bus stop, on Skyswood Road.

**Resolved: That Clerk to apply for a grant for the bus shelter.**

32.2 Purchase new laptop Clerk

**Resolved:**

**That purchase of a new laptop for the clerk is approved.**

**33 Borough and County member reports**

Cllr A Dowden stated that St Francis School and the Church are interested in the community energy project. A meeting with Laura Wilson and the schools will take place to set this off as a community project.

Councillors were informed that a new play and support group for children with additional needs and their families was set up by the St Francis Church.

**34 Planning Applications**

The were no planning applications to be reviewed.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_