

**Minutes of the Valley Park Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 6 January 2025 at 7.00pm
Location: Valley Park Community Centre**

Present:

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

Apologies:

32 Welcome and apologies

No apologies were received and all councillors were present.

33 Grants

Toynbee Mental Health Ambassadors presented the plans for continuing the training for the Mental Health Ambassadors and enhanced the pastoral support at the school with the introduction of a bereavement group and a reflection garden for grieving children. The Ambassadors thanked the Parish Council for their previous grant that helped with purchasing resources for the wellbeing room.

Resolved That:

The Parish Council agreed for a grant of £1,000 to be offered to the mental health ambassadors at Toynbee School.

34 Declarations of interests

None on the agenda.

35 Minutes of the meetings held 4th November 2025

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

36 Matters Arising

None

37 To receive and consider correspondence

The Clerk informed that an email was received from the probation office to complete a survey about any project the Parish can use unpaid workforce for. It

was suggested that unpaid workforce can be used for community landscaping and cleaning the bus shelters.

Resolved that:

Clerk to complete the survey and suggest the projects, as agreed by the Council.

38 Public questions

None

39 Valley Park Creative Trail

Councillors were informed that the Clerk contacted a Valley Park resident writer, who is running a community writing project, offering support with advertising the project. The Parish offered to dedicate a page for the Valley Park Creative Trail on the parish website, once the project is complete.

40 Accounts – ratification of budget approval

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

Resolved that: Councillors approved the accounts.

41 Borough and County member reports

Councillors discussed about the devolution programme. Hampshire County Council could be one of the local authorities to apply for inclusion in the Government's Devolution Priority Programme – for the delegation of central Government decision making powers and additional funding to local councils to give them more local control over certain areas such as education, transportation, and health services. This would be the first step towards creating a Strategic Authority across the wider region, with an elected mayor, incorporating the local authority areas of Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council.

The Government expects local authorities to postpone local council May 2025 elections.

Cllr C Dowden informed the council that there are regular borough meetings with updates regarding the local plan.

42 Planning Applications

The current planning applications were reviewed.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____