



Minutes of Committee Meeting

September 11th 2013, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee: Alan Cooke, Bill Duff, Betty Field, Grant Scott, Nick Wood; Others: Jane White (Neighbourhood Involvement Officer), Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities), Ruth Sennett

1. Apologies: None received.
2. Minutes of Meeting June 12th 2013: These were agreed.
3. Matters Arising: None.
4. Correspondence:
 - BT have threatened to terminate use of the new telephone due to non-payment, despite trying for six months to set up a Direct Debit. Alan is hopeful of a speedy resolution.
 - The Resource Centre has invited us to attend their AGM: Alan represented Craven Vale last year.
 - Becky Purnell provided guidance for this year's Estate Development Budget procedures
5. Finance: The financial situation is still very healthy, although complicated by the number of grants received during the past year. CVCA has received a further £2,500 from the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund to be distributed to local groups and individuals.
6. Updates on current projects: Jane White is standing in for Peter Mustow who is on a temporary placement elsewhere for at least three months. Although Jane was closely involved with CVCA a few years ago, much has since changed.
 - a) The Kitchen. The sequencing of the kitchen project was explained and shown to Jane – the redevelopment of the gardeners' shed into the Little Vale and the move into it of all office functions for both CVCA and TDC from the Community Centre; the re-ordering of the disabled toilet; and the construction of the new kitchen which was well under way and due to be completed during September. Alan explained the sources of the funds for all this work, and of the small outstanding works still needed from Mears.
 - b) The Diamond Jubilee Book. This had been received well and is likely to lead to closer contact with St John the Baptists Primary School.
 - c) The Web-site. The web-site (cravenvale.org.uk), developed by Grant, has recently been upgraded to offer audio capabilities, and has been well-received.

- d) The Friends of Craven Wood. This is now a well-established group, having been split away from CVCA so that it can attract others who do not live in the immediate area. Monthly work sessions have been arranged for the next few months.
7. Projects for 2013-2014. The main project for the coming year will be developing the usage of the new kitchen. Grants have been obtained to provide cookery lessons for youngsters; a weekly coffee morning is planned for later this year; and plans for a food bank are still under consideration. The other project is to further increase the number of (non-fruit) trees planted on the Estate, in co-operation with Brighton Permaculture – a working session is also planned for September 25th with Brighton College to add compost to the existing 66 fruit trees. Jane considered that this was sufficient activity for CVCA for the coming year, following the hectic year 2012-2013.
8. Healthy Neighbourhood Fund. It was agreed that the next CVCA leaflet, to go out around October 5th, would advertise the existence of this fund and ask for groups and individuals to come forward with schemes that meet the requirements of the fund. Currently we are expecting to receive applications from the Yoga Group, the Gardening Group and Friends of Craven Wood, but there would still be room for other organisations. Amy asked whether it would be possible for Laura Buckley to remain a committee member yet ask for a share of this fund for her art project. Jane said that that was normal practice elsewhere, but that Laura would not be able to vote on that application.
9. Estate Development Budget. The October leaflet would also ask residents to come forward with ideas for improving the area – Craven Vale normally receives around £3-5,000 of funds each year for suitable projects. These would be put forward on October 13th, considered at the November committee meeting, and submitted to the Council after the December (full) meeting. At the moment, there are few ideas under consideration – there is believed to be a requirement for improved block lighting in Southwater Close, and the committee would propose new carpeting for the Community Centre. The need for a new notice-board outside the Vale CC could be met by a ‘quick bid’ as the cost would be less than the £500 limit. Jane asked what the situation was regarding outstanding EDB work for 2012-2013, and Alan will copy her in to recent correspondence with Gordon Stanford, particularly in relation to the on-going saga with the streetlight in Tilgate Close.
10. Any Other Business. Amy announced that TDC had been awarded a grant of £100 to arrange an event in connection with Older People’s Day in the City on October 1st. It was agreed that a coffee morning for older residents be held on Thursday September 26th at which a variety of activities for older people could be advertised. Those who contributed to the book of reminiscences would all be invited.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

The next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

Wednesday **October 9th** (Full Meeting)

Wednesday **November 13th** (Committee Meeting)