



Craven Vale Community Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting

January 8th 2014, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

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

1. Apologies: None

Jane introduced Sharon as her replacement from February 1st. Sharon has moved across from the Council's Communities and Equalities Team and has had lengthy involvement with both charities and community organisations.

2. Minutes of Meeting of November 13th and December 11th 2013: These were agreed.

3. Matters Arising: Craven Vale Resource Centre - Alan and Amy will visit to get update on plans.

4. Correspondence: None.

5. Finance: Alan reported that accounts were still healthy although they are now getting very complicated. Amy recommended discussing accounts packages with The Resource Centre.

6. Estate Development Budget:

- i) EDB 2014/2015. It was agreed that a sixth EDB bid for 2014/15 be prepared, for some £1,000 for high quality yellow masonry paint to be provided to Community Payback to re-paint half of the steps on the Estate, starting with the more critical areas. This would become CVCA's 'second' priority, with the request for carpeting in the Vale moving from 'second' to 'fourth', the new bench from 'fourth' to 'fifth', and the stairwell in Hadlow Close from 'fifth' to 'sixth'. This additional application needs to be submitted quickly, stating that it would be subject to ratification by the next Open Meeting, on February 12th.
- ii) EDB Under £500 Quick Bids. An application for a replacement notice board at The Vale Community Centre has been agreed and it will be provided at some future date. A second application has been submitted for plastering the areas of new bare plasterboard in the Community Centre, following completion of the construction of the kitchen, toilet and wall cupboards – this will be voted on early in February. It was also agreed that a third application should also be made (urgently) for the replacement of the small hand-basin in the 'office' section of the Little Vale by a mini hand-basin in the adjoining toilet – this would release valuable space in the office.
- iii) EDB 2013/2014. Gordon Stanford has asked for detailed locations for the proposed cycle-racks in Craven Road – Gordon has recommended two locations, each providing three U-shaped hoops. Grant is to recommend locations, and note whether they should be on existing grass or surfaced land. In addition, it has been agreed that

the Council will supply two rolls of weed membrane and a cubic metre of pea gravel, but needs to know where and when they are to be delivered. Grant and Amy agreed to contact Amanda to obtain preferred dates and locations. It was also noted that the electrical work was still incomplete in the Vale Community Centre – the replacement (single-phase) oven will need to be plumbed in when it arrives, as well as the associated extractor fan, and there are still loose (but dead) wires in the toilet.

- iv) EDB 2012/13. There is one small item still outstanding – the provision of a tap on the inlet water supply pipe close to the door of the Little Vale. Although not urgent, this is now a long-standing request. Although much delayed, the successful installation of a 'health and safety' lamp on steps in Tilgate Close was noted and much appreciated.
7. Healthy Neighbourhood Fund: It was reported that all of the £2,500 grant from the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund for 2013/2014 had now been allocated to various groups and for a range of activities. Various ideas have already been put forward for grants if any HNF grant is received for 2014/15.
8. Community Payback: Grant and Alan reported on a meeting with Nick Aldwinckle (Housing Department) and Stephen Berry of Community Payback, where a range of potential activities were considered. The three most promising were:
- i) Clearance of paths and litter in the area behind 26-48 Queensway and 16-21 Tilgate Close, plus the construction of a set of wooden steps from the turning area in Tilgate Close to the boundary with land belonging to the Housing Trust responsible for The Causeway development. This would be at minimal cost to CVCA who would supply the steps from its current stock.
 - ii) Re-painting of all steps throughout the state with high-visibility, long-lasting yellow masonry paint, subject to CVCA paying for the paint, brushes and other materials. It was assessed that the materials would cost some £2,000 for the whole Estate, and that CVCA would seek funds over two years, with the more critical steps being painted in the first year.
 - iii) Re-decoration of the Vale Community Centre, once the necessary re-plastering had been completed – CVCA would fund the necessary materials out of current funds.
- The Committee agreed to proceed with all these proposals.
9. Updates:
- i) Kitchen Project. Amy updated the meeting concerning the re-development of the Community Centre – the re-organised toilet, the re-positioned cupboards and the enlarged kitchen. The project was all but complete, apart from the re-plastering and re-decoration referred to earlier, plus the provision of a child-resistant gate into the kitchen, and a purpose-built cleaner's cupboard in the toilet. The major problem related to the new oven which is not capable of being used in the Centre because of a mismatch in power supplies. The unused (and un-returnable) three-phase oven would now be offered to other community cafes in the area, and a replacement single-phase oven purchased – there was likely to be some loss incurred through this purchasing error.
 - ii) Friends of Craven Wood. Grant said that dates for future work sessions were awaited from the Ranger Paul. He requested permission to purchase a back-sprayer and sprays to combat aphids on the fruit trees in both the Estate and the Wood at a cost of some £65. This was agreed, and would be paid for from CVCA funds. On January 18th, some 100 small saplings would be planted around the Estate in association with Brighton Permaculture. These would be small shrubs and trees, and many would replace the hawthorns on the Estate which were at the end of their lives.
10. Any Other Business:

- i) Foodbank. Amy reported that discussions were being held with Fareshare on the provision of a weekly foodbank in the Community Centre on Fridays, to replace that which used to be run at the Haven. Seb (of Fareshare) and Sharon (for the Council) would both meet at the VCC on January 10th to assess the health and safety aspects of the operation and of the VCC as a whole. If passed as acceptable, the foodbank would start on January 17th, with Queens Park CA hiring the venue and Fareshare staff supervising the operation. At the same time, Sharon would discuss the new Council-Community Association room agreement, with a view to updating the current agreement.
- ii) Complaints to the Council. Bill raised several outstanding issues with the Council, namely: excess surface water on the flat roof of the store-room adjacent to the wild-life garden; and jagged edges to railings at the foot of Craven Path. It was also asked whether Highways could attend to poor guttering in the lower half of Queensway, and Highways and the bus company could improve the passenger experience at the southbound bus-stop at Freshfield Way – a built-out projection at the bus-stop (similar to that at Evelyn Terrace southbound) to enable passengers to safely join and alight at a well-used stop with a poor camber, and often blocked by parked and double-parked vehicles.

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm.

The next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

Wednesday **February 12th** (Full Meeting)

Wednesday **March 12th** (Committee Meeting)