



Minutes of Committee Meeting

March 12th 2014, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee: Alan Cooke, Betty Field, Grant Scott, Nick Wood; Others: Sharon Terry (Neighbourhood Involvement Officer), Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities)

1. Apologies: Bill Duff, Ruth Sennett. It was noted that the meeting was not quorate (five are needed by our constitution), and that efforts would be made to attract further committee members between now and the AGM on June 11th.
2. Minutes of Committee Meeting of January 8th and Open Meeting of February 12th 2014: These were agreed.
3. Matters Arising:
 - a) *Healthy Neighbourhood Fund.* There is as yet no news of any possible HNF funding for 2014/15.
 - b) *Community Payback.* One day's work has been done on scrubland at the top of Queensway, but all other offers of work will have to wait for funding being available.
 - c) *Foodbank.* This has now been in operation on Fridays for about a month and all has been going well.
 - d) *Fire Safety Works.* The Council is progressing with its update of fire safety in the stairwells around the Estate – the intention is to finish by the end of March.
 - e) *Car Parking Consultation.* Residents will shortly be leafleted about a new parking consultation for Baker's Bottom and Craven Vale. An exhibition will be held in the Vale Community Centre on April 2nd (1-5pm) and 3rd (4-8pm).
4. Correspondence: None.
5. Finance: The financial situation remains healthy despite significant sums being spent on enhancing the Community Centre. It was agreed to transfer £500 from the CVCA fund to the Friends of Craven Wood to cover the cost of information boards awaited for 'A Walk on the Wild Side' in the wood. This money was part of the 2011 Lottery award, which was still waiting to be spent, and enables that account to be closed.
6. Estate Development Budget:
 - a) *EDB 2013/2014.* All outstanding works were now completed, apart from the electrical and plumbing work in the Community Centre which had been delayed by the need for a replacement oven. It was hoped to be complete by March 31st.
 - b) *Quick-bids.* The bid for plumbing work in the Little Vale had been withdrawn as it was now covered by the main EDB bid for the Vale CC. The bid for plastering the new plasterboard in the Community Centre appears to have been refused, but

Sharon would check whether that too would now be covered by the earlier EDB grant for the Vale CC. A replacement notice board for the Community Centre has been agreed by the Quick Bid system, but was still awaited.

- c) *EDB 2014/2015*. Sharon and Grant have prepared the audio-visual information for the six requested bids. They will be reviewed with Gordon Stanford and Mears before March 28th, and voted on by delegates on April 9th.

7. Project Updates:

- a) *Vale Community Centre*. The cracked window would be repaired in the following week. The new cleaner's cupboard in the toilet area and the swing-gate for the kitchen area would be completed during March. The Mears electrician was away this week, but would be contacted again regarding connecting up the oven and the extractor fan, and tidying up the electrics in the toilet area. The plumbing sub-contractors would be contacted again to replace the wash-basin and tap in the Little Vale.
- b) *Kitchen Project*. People's Health Trust had awarded CVCA £5,480 for kitchen equipment, but there was still an underspend of £225. Amy and Nick offered to purchase a soup kettle, a microwave and two medium-sized tables to complete the expenditure. At the moment only £4,110 had been received from PHT; the remaining £1,370 would be released once the mid-term monitoring report had been accepted – probably during May.

Once the kitchen is fully-equipped, the Association wish to start: a weekly coffee morning on Wednesdays for everybody; a cookery course for youngsters organised by Claire of TDC; a bread-making course run by the Community Chef; and possibly a starter cookery course for adults.

- c) *Friends of Craven Wood*. Following a repayment of a loan to CVCA, the purchase of compost for the 18 fruit trees in the wood and the purchase of 50 new saplings shortly to be made into a hedge by the Brighton Conservation Team, the account currently holds £255. It was agreed that the Vale CC account would purchase a new wheelbarrow for use both on the Estate and in the Wood.

The next evening meeting of the Friends of Craven Wood would be held on March 24th at 7pm, and workdays were now settled as being the first Saturday of each month from 10am – 1pm.

8. Any Other Business:

- a) *Family Day June 14th*. It was agreed that CVCA would be represented at the Council's Family Day at the Level on June 14th. Sharon said that the city's neighbourhood teams would be hosting one marquee and would like to showcase CVCA and others – we would provide some before and after photographs of Craven Vale to show what a community association could achieve.
- b) *Central Area Meeting*. The next meeting would be on April 2nd which it is hoped Grant would be able to attend.
- c) *Dog Show*. The Committee agreed that this year's summer celebration would take the form of a dog show for the area, on Saturday June 7th. A starter sum had been awarded by the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund, and other donations were being sought from Sussex Police. It was agreed that this would form the main item on the next Open Meeting, when residents would be invited to join in the planning of the event. Amy would be in contact with the Dogs Trust and other potential organisations.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

The next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

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

Wednesday **May 14th** (Committee Meeting)

Wednesday **June 11th** (Annual General Meeting)