



Minutes of General Meeting

April 9th 2014, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee: Roger Carter, Alan Cooke, Bill Duff, Grant Scott, Nick Wood; Residents: Patricia Barclay, Shirley Blount, Rosemary Johnson, Roy Pennington, Bob - - ; Others: Cllr Gill Mitchell, Sharon Terry (Neighbourhood Involvement Officer), Sue Bowes (Community Safety Officer), Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities), PCSO Laura Hall.

1. Apologies: Grant Scott, PCSO Carol Manton.
2. Minutes of Open Meeting of February 12th 2014: These were agreed.
3. Matters Arising:
 - a) *Fire Safety Works.* There is as yet no news of a finishing date, and questions were asked about painting any new bare wood on doors and window frames.
 - b) *Roadside bins.* Cllr Mitchell advised that all damaged bins will be replaced at some time.
 - c) *Repairs.* Shirley Blount advised that Mears have agreed that chimney repairs are needed to prevent water entry into her flat, but that the work itself is still awaited.
 - d) *Car Parking Consultation.* Residents are reminded that the consultation closes shortly.
4. Correspondence: None.
5. Finance: The financial situation remains healthy despite significant sums being spent on enhancing the Community Centre.
6. Report from PCSOs: Laura Hall reported that the estate is currently very quiet, with only five complaints made since the last meeting, concerning cannabis dealing, noisy mopeds, and disturbances in Craven Path. Problems caused by a new family in the area were raised – the police are aware and have made calls on them already.
7. Proposed Dog Show, Saturday June 7th: Amy advised that an initial planning meeting had taken place, and further ideas were invited. There would be 'fun' categories for dogs, and a number of stalls for the Dogs Trust, the local vets, the PDSA and others. It was suggested that it could also include a dog agility session, and mobile dog-groomers could be invited. A catchy name for the event was still sought, as well as a celebrity to attend. It was noted that there would be a much larger 'Bark in the Park' in Queen's Park eight days later.
8. 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. Further delay has been caused by the resignation of Gordon Stanford from the EDB team, and there is still no date for the work to be completed.

- 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 Keith Dadswell (Gordon's replacement) was trying to determine the status of that bid. A replacement notice board for the Community Centre has been agreed by the Quick Bid system, but was still awaited.
- c) *EDB 2014/2015*. The six bids from Craven Vale would be voted on the following Monday, April 14th.

9. Project Updates:

- a) *The Vale Community Centre*. The new cleaner's cupboard in the toilet area and the swing-gate for the kitchen area would be completed shortly. The weekly food bank on Fridays is proving very successful. A computer was now provided with full internet access for all users.
- b) *Kitchen Project*. Once the oven has been connected, 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*. The workdays are now settled as being the first Saturday of each month from 10am – 1pm, and there would be an extra session on Thursday April 17th.

10. Any Other Business:

- a) *Hadlow Close bollards*. Anti-social behaviour by new residents of Hadlow Close was noted, whereby cars were being driven over the grass to park under the windows, as a result of bollards missing at the top of the Close. Nick would take this up with the Council.
- b) *Door Entry Timings*. There appears to be no consistency on traders' times for delivering articles to flats, affecting postal deliveries etc. Sharon agreed to raise this with the Council.
- c) *Sutherland Road bus stops*. Bill complained about the difficulty buses face when stopping by Freshfield Way southbound because of inconsiderate parking, and a poor camber, especially for passengers alighting to make their way to the Hospital. It was suggested that the bus-stop be built out into the road to combat these problems. Alan to write to the bus company. Similarly, a complaint letter should be sent to Brighton College regarding the problems caused by double-parking of coaches.
- d) *Community Safety*. Sue Bowes advised that a repeat audit would be made of Southwater Close and 5-99 Queensway before the end of the month.
- e) *Litter, blocked gutters etc*. All residents were reminded to make any complaint on any matter direct to the Council on 293030 and ensure they received a Reference Number.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

The next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

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

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