



Minutes of General Meeting

September 10th 2014, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee: Alan Cooke, Betty Field, Grant Scott, Clive Taplin, Geoff Wilcock, Nick Wood; Residents: Patricia Barclay, Christine Harrop, Ewa Knebloch, Manda Whittaker, Paul - -; Others: Sharon Terry (Neighbourhood Involvement Officer), Keely McDonald (Trainee Involvement Officer), Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities), Police Sgt Donna Gibson, Rob Jewiss UK Power Networks, Dave Cox (The Edge Residents Association).

1. Apologies: Cllrs Chaun Wilson and Stephanie Powell, PCSOs Laura Hall and Carol Manton.

Sharon Terry introduced Keely McDonald as a trainee Involvement Officer, who will be looking after Craven Vale CA on a day-to-day basis, reporting to Sharon. Keely has been seconded from the Property and Investment team.

2. Minutes of Open Meeting of April 9th 2014: These were agreed.

3. Matters Arising:

a) *Car Parking Consultation.* This has now been concluded and the Council is considering the responses to its planned introduction of parking restrictions in Hendon Street, Bute Street, Rochester Street and Livingstone Street. A final decision is expected in October.

b) *Dog Show.* Following a postponement of the original event on June 7th due to an adverse weather forecast, the first Craven Vale dog show was finally held on August 16th. Around 70 residents and others attended along with some 14 dogs. Thanks were expressed to all who were involved in putting on the event.

c) *Door entry times.* There had been no progress on re-setting door entry times across the Estate to help postmen and other deliverers. Sharon said that a six-month trial was being undertaken elsewhere and results were awaited.

4. Correspondence: The next meeting of the East Brighton Area Panel would be held on September 22nd at Robert Lodge.

5. Finance: The financial situation remains healthy. There is currently a dispute over cancellation charges with BT but it is hopeful that it can be resolved at minimal cost. The Association has been awarded £550 by Communities First to complete the purchase of necessary equipment for the kitchen.

6. Report from PCSOs: Police Sergeant Donna Gibson was standing in for Carol and Laura. Paul brought up the subject of residents in Hadlow Close making unnecessary noise at all times with off-road bikes – Donna would follow up on Carol's contacts with the family. Nick complained of the same family being responsible for leaving substantial amounts of litter in Hadlow Close, including disposing of some from an upstairs window, which Nick Aldwinckle has helped to clear up.

Geoff reported very obvious daylight drug-dealing at the bus stop by Hadlow Close, usually during the mid-morning. Donna advised that plain-clothes patrols will target this location.

The meeting confirmed that the three key priorities remained unchanged – drug dealing, unsupervised dogs, and off-road parking, especially on Queensway, and often by Council owned or sub-contracted vehicles.

7. UK Power Networks presentation. Rob Jewiss updated the meeting on what was being undertaken around the estate by UKPN – an upgrading of the national electricity supply network from the road to the electrical hub in each block of flats, and new cables from each hub to the electricity meter in each property. This was at no cost to either tenants or leaseholders, although they would need to allow the team to enter individual properties for around two hours. Rob also asked residents to choose between two options of bringing the new cables in from the road to each hub – questionnaires would be posted in the entry lobby of each affected block.
8. Funds available – Healthy Neighbourhood Fund. The Association has been given control of a fund of £2,500 to support any project in the area that would improve health of the community. A panel would select between competing requests. Ideas raised at the meeting included: yoga lessons; the monthly 50+ sessions; the monthly evening sessions; the QPCV Newsletter; cookery lessons for adults. Clive suggested searching for and paying an instructor to offer music sessions for youngsters. Further ideas were still being sought in advance of the first panel meeting on October 8th.
9. Estate Development Budget:
 - a) *EDB 2013/2014.* All outstanding works were now completed, apart from the plumbing work in the Little Vale.
 - b) *EDB 2014/15.* All six bids were approved – extra lighting for Southwater Close; a bench near the bus-stop in Hadlow Close; a replacement carpet for the Vale Community Centre; a feasibility study for a play area near Parham Close; the re-decoration of one particular stairwell in Hadlow Close; and a cash grant of £500 for step-painting in critical areas. None had yet been undertaken, although visits had been made to Southwater Close and the Vale CC.
 - c) *Quick-bids.* No decision was ever made on the bid for plastering the new plasterboard in the Community Centre, and the CVCA has gone ahead and had it done for £240. A replacement notice board for the Community Centre has been agreed by the Quick Bid system, but was still awaited.
 - d) *EDB 2015/2016.* Every resident had been asked to propose ideas for EDB monies next year, to be considered at the committee meeting in October, and presented to the next full meeting in November for ratification. Ideas put forward at the meeting were:
 - I. Replacement of the unsightly concrete bollards in Hadlow Close with birds-mouth fencing similar to that elsewhere on the estate
 - II. Marking up the car parking areas in Hadlow Close to encourage motorists to make best use of the restricted area. It was also requested that a similar exercise take place at the Parham Close parking area.
 - III. Investigate the conversion of some flat roofs over bin stores to become green roofs, with soil and plants.
 - IV. Additional stairwells to be re-decorated

It was also suggested that Community Payback be asked to take over the front gardens project of weed membranes and gravel to improve their look; and also the painting of certain hand-rails around the estate.

10. Updates on Projects:

- a) *The Vale Community Centre.* The kitchen area had finally been completed. The weekly food bank on Fridays is proving very successful, and a weekly café morning had now been started on Wednesdays between 10:30 and noon.
- b) *Friends of Craven Wood.* The Group was well-represented at the Whitehawk Big Dig community festival on August 23rd. Several new members joined the e-mail list. The workdays are now settled as being the first Saturday of each month from 10am – 1pm.

11. Any Other Business: There was none.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

The next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

Wednesday **October 8th** (Committee Meeting)

Wednesday **November 12th** (Open Meeting for all residents)