



Craven Vale Community Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting

September 9th 2015, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee: Grant Scott (Chairman), Alan Cooke (Secretary), Betty Field, Geoff Wilcock, Nick Wood; Others: Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities)

1. **Apologies:** Bill Duff, Kate Hale, Ruth Sennett, Keely McDonald (Resident Involvement Officer)
2. **Minutes of Committee Meeting June 10th 2015.** These were agreed.
3. **Matters Arising.**
 - a) *Car Parking and Verges.* The unofficial survey of Craven Vale Residents attracted a response rate of 29%, with 76% requesting another City Council survey, and a majority for each post code. The Council will be raising it again at a meeting in October and there is every expectation that they will agree to a new survey some time in 2016. Alan and Grant also raised the problem of verges and passing places at the East Brighton Area Panel for Housing, but these problems are in the hands of the Highway Department, and they hold out little or no chance of improvements in Queensway and elsewhere due to budgetary constraints.
 - b) *Blocked gutters.* Mears said on May 15th that they would seek a price to clear all gutters and would authorise their clearing; but nothing has yet happened.
 - c) *The Cuthbert.* No update had been received on the progress of the attempt to stop the current requested redevelopment or the wished-for community facility.
 - d) *Craven Vale Fun Day, July 11th.* This was very successful and raised almost £400 for the Tantrum Dance Group.
 - e) *Music Group.* Despite every attempt to drum up enthusiasm for this youth project, it was very poorly attended and ceased after just two sessions.
 - f) *Dawson Terrace.* The building work at the rear of Dawson Terrace was reported to the Council's Planning Department which was unaware of the work and would be investigating. No outcome has yet been received.
4. **Correspondence.** Grant and Alan had received the latest newsletter from the Resident Involvement Team, plus a recommendation from Keely that CVCA should update its constitution to incorporate various word changes, subject to the approval of a General Meeting.
5. **Finance.** The finances remain healthy.

6. **Healthy Neighbourhood Fund.** An application had been made for a grant for 2015/2016, and it was hoped that last year's grant of £2,500 would be repeated. It was agreed that the HN Panel be reconstituted, with four members being invited – Grant, Alan, Nick and Ruth, with Amy in attendance. It was agreed that applications for the first round of grants be made at the next full meeting on October 14th with decisions made in November. A call for grant requests would be made in the leaflet advertising the October meeting.

7. **Craven Vale Community Association Constitution.** A number of changes proposed by Keely on behalf of the RIOs were discussed. In general the committee were happy with the proposed changes although the requirement to get prior approval from all nine committee members before committing to any significant purchase or contract was believed to be unworkable, and other options were discussed. It was agreed to seek further clarification from Keely on what was meant and included by the following sentence in Section 9 of the recommendations: *As part of its function the Residents Association will be responsible for the monitoring of all financial transactions for and on behalf of the members.* A re-draft of the Constitution will be put before the November committee meeting and the final agreed text will be placed before the Annual General Meeting in June.

8. **Estate Development Budget 2016/17.** Applications for grants need to be sent to the RIOs by November 13th, two days after the next committee meeting. It was agreed that a call for ideas would be included in the next leaflet to all householders, to be raised at the next Open Meeting on October 14th, for further discussion at the November Committee Meeting. Some initial ideas were put forward for consideration: replacement wire netting for some of the bin stores; a new tarmac footpath from the end flats in Hadlow Close to the Craven Road / Queensway junction; a new tarmac path and/or steps from 5-15 Queensway to link with the path serving 1-3 Queensway.

It was noted that the following items remained outstanding from the 2015/2016 EDB awards – new fencing for Hadlow Close; 25 stackable chairs for the Community Centre; and a feasibility study of the disused bin store in Southwater Close. A similar feasibility study of a proposed play area at Parham Close was still outstanding from the 2014/2015 awards.

9. **Any Other Business**

a) **Newsletter.** It was intended to start preparing for an October QPCV Newsletter within the next week or two. It was decided to seek quotes for a full-colour gloss-paper Newsletter for the Spring edition.

b) **Garden Strips Fronting 111 Craven Road.** A request for a grant of £200 has been received from Reza Fereidouni Jamalzadeh to replicate the work undertaken by Amanda elsewhere in Craven Road. It was agreed that this request would be forwarded to the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund Panel.

c) **Anti-Social Behaviour by Youngsters in the Vicinity of the Vale Community Centre.** Several complaints had been received about a group of out-of-control youngsters (approximately 12-14 years of age), including very abusive language to residents. On occasion they appeared to be being encouraged by a middle-aged dog owner. Members were asked to try and obtain names and addresses of the youngsters so that they can be passed to the police. It was noted, in passing, that none of the Committee had seen any PCSO visit Craven Vale since the Fun Day on July 11th and would greatly welcome a higher profile in order to seek to end this behaviour.

d) **Communal Security Doors.** A complaint has been lodged with the committee about people wedging open security doors at the entrance to blocks, and asked whether official signs can be put up.

- e) *Feeding of Seagulls.* A complaint was aired about those residents encouraging seagulls to congregate at certain blocks in the knowledge that they would be fed regularly. Could anything be done about this?
- f) *Ant Infestation at the Vale Community Centre.* Nick was asked to contact the Council to see if they could block up some channels in the skirting of the toilet where ants had been entering from outside on occasion.
- g) *New Lighting.* There was general approval concerning the new lighting being installed inside and outside flats. However, the timing on the 14-24 Queensway block appears to have been wrongly set, as the external lights are on all night for the first time.
- h) *Communal Bins.* Grant raised the question once more of when we could expect to see replacement bins for the many broken ones in Craven Road and Queensway. It is believed that the Council will find money to replace some in the City, but not all, probably in the next financial year.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

Open Meeting, for all residents – Wednesday October 14th, Vale Community Centre, 7pm

Committee Meeting – Wednesday November 11th, Vale Community Centre, 7pm

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.