



Craven Vale Community Association

Minutes of Open Meeting

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

Present : Committee: Alan Cooke (Secretary); Betty Field; Ian Simpson. Residents: Gen Applebee; Dene Kelly; Lauren Kelly; Eva Knebloch; Reza; Bob Ripley; Ruth Sennett. Others: Cllr Daniel Chapman (Queens Park Ward); Cllr Gill Mitchell (East Brighton Ward); Keely McDonald (Resident Involvement Officer, BHCC).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Bill Duff, Grant Scott, Clive Taplin, Geoff Wilcock and Nick Wood.

2. Minutes of the October 14th Open Meeting

The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record. Copies of the Minutes are available on the website and on the noticeboard at the top of Hadlow Road.

3. Matters Arising

- (a) Car parking consultation - this will now start in Spring 2016.
- (b) Road signs in Queensway - **ACTION Alan** to write to Highways again.
- (c) Estate Development Budget – in priority order the 2016 EDB bids will be:
 - A paved footpath at Hadlow Close;
 - Steps and footpath between 3 and 5 Queensway;
 - A sensor-operated light at the entrance of the Vale Centre;
 - Fruit trees planted along the new Hadlow Close footpath;
 - Larger noticeboard, with current board relocated to Craven Road,
 - Secure shed panels.
- (d) Healthy Neighbourhood Fund – anticipated 2016 funding will be around £2,500, still to be confirmed. Around £2,000 remains to be allocated.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence has been received since the last meeting.

5. Finance

There has been no change since the last meeting.

The cost of insurance has now risen to £600 a year. There was a suggestion that Zurich Municipal might offer a competitive quote.

6. Projects and Activities

A Christmas wreath-making session will take place on Thursday 10th December at 6 pm
The Craven Vale Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 12th December, between noon and 4 pm.

7. Any Other Matters (Community Association)

Members reported that:

- (a) A burglary recently occurred in a flat in Craven Vale, where the thief pulled open the front door of the block and climbed through an open inside window into the front hall of the flat. Residents can protect against this by keeping windows closed when they are out and not keep keys in the hallway. Action: Keely to check if there are any plans to upgrade the front doors; CVCA to consider producing a poster and/or flyer on security.
- (b) Lights are not working at the sheds by 121/123 Craven Vale and the footpath to the Vale Centre. Residents should phone Repairs Service on (01273) 294409 to report or chase up faulty lights, and Keely stressed the need to get a job number when reporting faults. The council has a target of 95% replacement of light bulbs within three days.
- (c) Lighting by the garages needs to be improved because there is an area in shadow. **Action: CVCA** to consider quick bid for a security light.
- (d) Communal bins have still not been replaced. Cllr Mitchell explained there is a council-wide replacement programme. She has highlighted Craven Vale as an area in need of new bins, but budget constraints are slowing replacement. Residents noted that the bins should face the pavement.
- (e) Fly tipping continues to be a problem. The Council will be employing a private company to investigate incidents of fly tipping. There was a suggestion that CVCA consider using a Facebook page to encourage recycling of furniture in the area. **Action: CVCA** to include a newsletter article on the new fly-tipping service and explore a recycling swap page.
- (f) The issue of grass cutting was raised at East Brighton Panel. The current agreement is for estate grass to be cut 10 times a year, but the Council reported it was only cut six times in 2015. Keely said that the City Parks department claim they have not reduced the service to estates, and that the council will be looking at the department's charges for this work.
- (g) There were complaints about electricity works which are blocking pavements and churning up grass verges. The electricity company should replace and re-seed the verges after the work. **Action: CVCA** to contact the liaison officer for these works.
- (h) The Council plans to cut the number of rangers from nine to three as part of its budget cuts. Conservation, rights of way and volunteering will still be supported but other areas of work will be at risk. A petition to save the posts is available online at www.gmb-southern.org.uk/brighton-rangers

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm

The next Committee Meeting is on Wednesday January 13th at 7pm

The next Open Meeting will be on Wednesday February 10th at 7pm