



Craven Vale Community Association

Minutes of Open Meeting

May 13th 2016, 7.00pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee Members: Grant Scott (Chair), Alan Cooke, Betty Field, Ian Simpson, Clive Taplin, Geoff Willcock, Nick Wood; Residents: Gen Applebee, Patricia Bartley, Rosemary Dugay, Rosemary Johnson, Reza; Others: Cllr Gill Mitchell, Cllr Warren Morgan, Karen Lord (BHCC Neighbourhood Officer), Carol Manton (PCSO), Amy Allison (TDC)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Karen Barford, Cllr Daniel Chapman, Cllr Adrian Morris, Keely McDonald (RIO BHCC)

2. Minutes of the February 10th Open Meeting.

The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

- a) *Road signs in Queensway.* This is in hand, but nothing will now happen until after the public consultation on car parking.
- b) *Lighting by garages.* All faulty streetlights have now been repaired.
- c) *Notice Board* at the top of Hadlow Close. This is due to be replaced shortly.

4. Correspondence

- a) A letter from Hannah Barker on behalf of the Resident Inspector's team offering speakers to attend a future meeting to discuss issues and how best to improve aspects of the Mears' work on tenants' properties. The secretary was asked to invite them to attend our Annual General Meeting.
- b) A message from David Perkins of Craven Road suggesting that the kerbs on Queensway be raised so as to discourage vehicles from mounting the verges and damaging them. Following discussion it was agreed that the secretary write to Mr Perkins and explain why it was felt that this might solve one problem but cause another in preventing vehicles from getting themselves out of difficulties.

5. Finance

At March 15th, the Vale account held a fraction under £3,000 and the Association account around £2,600. Most of the Association Account is held in trust for activities funded by the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund; only some £200 is available for community association activities, but this is sufficient.

6. Estate Development Budget

At a meeting the following evening, the four remaining bids by the association for Housing department funds will be voted on – a new tarmac path from Hadlow Close to the Queensway / Craven Road junction; eight more fruit trees to line this new path; a

replacement light by the door to the Vale Community Centre; and a larger replacement notice board for the Queensway / Craven Road junction, with the current one being repositioned at the top end of Craven Road. The earlier decision to apply for another short path from 5-15 Queensway to the pavement was withdrawn due to objections raised by three residents.

All the major bids for previous years have been completed, except for the feasibility studies for a possible play area at the far end of Parham Close and the rehabilitation of the disused storage building behind Southwater Close. These are now due to be undertaken later in the spring.

QuickBids are for small repairs and improvements costing less than £750. The request for a repair or replacement of the notice board at the top of Hadlow Close has been agreed. An earlier request for the replacement of the remaining chairs in the Community Centre is due to be heard at the next meeting at the end of April.

It was agreed that the Association would also submit QuickBid applications as soon as possible for an extra light on the wall of the storage area between 131 and 133 Craven Road, and for a cigarette-end bin on the wall by 99 Craven Road (Cllr Morgan suggested that this could perhaps be free-standing, to minimise fire risks).

Grant agreed to examine the drainage problems at 111 Craven Road with Gen and Reza to see if they could agree on a method of solving flooding of the path, with the intention of raising it with Housing or submitting a further QuickBid.

Rosemary Johnson sought an assurance that none of these bids would cause any extra cost for leaseholders – the secretary advised that no current bids would cause any cost for leaseholders if approved, and that no future bids could be made without the prior agreement of any leaseholder affected.

7. Updates on projects and activities.

Amy updated the meeting with a report on all future activities, all at the Vale Community Centre:

- a) Tea Party for the Queen's 90th birthday, 2-4pm, Sunday June 12th with strawberries, cream and cake. Free.
- b) Summer event, 12-4pm, Saturday July 23rd – 'Olympics'-theme, with fun and games, a samba band, and other activities for all; and an invitation to dress up as an athlete or in Brazilian carnival costume.
- c) Fifty-Plus group, 10-12 am, last Thursday of every month, with a range of activities – plus free tea and cakes of course! Please advertise this to any of your neighbours who might benefit.
- d) Weekly drop-in and café every Wednesday 10:30 to 12 for cheap cooked breakfasts, teas and coffees.
- e) Food bank for residents of Craven Vale, Baker's Bottom and Queens Park estate, every Friday 12:30-1:30pm – open to all residents, no referrals needed.

8. Any Other Matters – Community Association

- a) *Communal bins.* A request was made to replace at least one of the bins by 109-119 Craven Road – one has no lid, the other has lost its foot-bar. Cllr Mitchell was hopeful that one or more replacement bins could be made available for the Estate, including some of an improved design.
- b) *Fly-tipping.* Cllr Morgan explained the new system whereby a contractor is now able to issue fixed penalties of £75 to anyone found fly-tipping. Some 50 penalty fines have already been issued. The use of covert CCTV to catch offenders is unlikely to be agreed by the Council. A suggestion was made that the Council reduce the fees to

residents for taking away furniture etc as £15 was too much and encouraged fly-tipping. Cllr Mitchell said that the Council website gives details of Freecycle, and there are other organisations such as Martlets and Shabitat that will take most items.

- c) *Dog fouling*. Clive raised the problem of an increase in fouling in Baker's Bottom. Cllr Morgan advised that this was a city-wide problem which was increasing – the new enforcement teams can issue tickets to offending owners.
- d) *Syringes*. Jen asked how she should report syringes found during out-of-office hours. 101 can be used and the staff are able to forward critical issues to a small council team available 24/7. It was suggested that all emergency numbers be placed on the notice-boards.
- e) *GP availability*. Reza raised problems experienced in arranging visits to his GP as a shift-worker unable to make appointments at 8am. He was advised to contact Healthwatch or use the walk-in GP service by Brighton Station.
- f) *Uneven pavements*. It was noted that all uneven paving-stones in Queensway had been repaired earlier that day.

9. Any Other Matters – Tenants Association

Nick asked once more if there were any plans to replace windows on the Estate but was told that there is nothing planned for Craven Vale in the Council's running five-year plan.

10. Any Other Matters – Local Action Team

Carol Manton advised the meeting that, after ten years as our PCSO, she has decided to resign rather than re-apply for the new position. In the last few months, with an overall reduction in PCSOs across the City, and with Laura Hall already having retired, Carol had only been able to visit Craven Vale about once a fortnight. Concern was expressed that we would now have no patrols of any kind. The meeting expressed its thanks to Carol for the great work she had done in helping to keep the community safe and friendly.

Cllr Morgan explained that the Council was considering the possibility of setting up a Neighbourhood Committee which would try to arrange for a presence in every neighbourhood to co-ordinate the work of all utilities such as the fire, police and ambulance services.

The meeting ended at 8:10pm

Next meetings – May 11th (committee members only), at 7pm; and June 8th (Annual General Meeting), 6:30 buffet for 7pm start