



# Craven Vale Community Association

## Minutes of General Meeting

September 14<sup>th</sup> 2016, 7.00pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

**Present:** Committee members: Alan Cooke, Betty Field, Christine Harrop, Rosemary Johnson, Grant Scott, Ian Simpson, Clive Taplin, Nick Wood; Residents: Alton Bejz, Patricia Bartley, Carole Bell, Tricia Belton, Jenny Bonnoj, J. Ross, Mrs J. Ross, Sally Slater; Others - Cllr Gill Mitchell, Cllr Lloyd Russell-Moyle, Sgt. Chris Durrant, Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities), Ruth Sennett (non-resident), Stuart Bailey (Debt Advice Team Manager, Southern Water).

### 1. Apologies

Geoff Wilcock, Keely McDonald and Cllrs Barford, Chapman and Morris sent apologies.

### 2. Minutes of the General Meeting of April 13th 2016

The Minutes were agreed as accurate.

### 3. Matters arising

- a) Two new road signs have now been installed at the top of Queensway.
- b) New communal bins have been ordered. The Council's Environment Committee will consider a proposal to install CCTV at fly-tipping hotspots on 11th October.
- c) The Queen's Birthday Tea Party was a success, but the Summer Event had to be cancelled because of lack of support from local organisations.
- d) The Food Bank will change back to Friday sessions at the end of the month.

### 4. Correspondence

The Council has sent notice of a restructuring of housing staff. An East Brighton housing team will cover estate inspections, anti-social behaviour and other estate issues. Contact details are unchanged. Details will appear in the next edition of 'Homing In'.

### 5. Finance

The Community Association currently has £4,000 in its bank account. Around £3,600 of this money is earmarked for Healthy Neighbourhood Fund projects.

The Vale Community Centre account has £3,600. Some of this could be used for estate improvements, but CVCA takes the view that these are a Council responsibility.

### 6. Policing and anti-social behaviour

Sergeant Durrant explained that PCSOs' work will now be "demand-led", focusing on those neighbourhoods experiencing high levels of crime.

This means it is more important than ever that everyone reports all incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour to the police. Reports can be phoned on 101 or submitted on the Police website at <http://sussex.police.uk/contact-us/report-online>.

Local Neighbourhood Watch schemes still exist, but they need a local resident willing to act as a co-ordinator. Alternatively, the Vale Centre could act as a reporting centre for people who do not want to contact the police directly.

Members pointed out that six blocks of flats do not have security doors. There were also reports of anti-social behaviour by some local children.

**ACTION:** Consider a suggestion that anti-social behaviour reporting cards should be produced and distributed to all residents by CVCA (**Committee**).

**ACTION:** Ensure police contact and reporting details are on all notice boards (**CVCA**).

## 7. Southern Water

Stuart Bailey described Southern Water's schemes for people struggling to pay:

- (i) Essentials: cap for any household paying more than 3% of its income on water;
- (ii) WaterSure: for households on benefits with 3+ children or some medical needs;
- (iii) NewStart: matching repayments for those with arrears of more than £500, and
- (iv) WaterDirect: small deductions from benefits for those with arrears over £50.

More details are available from his team on 0800 027 0363 and application forms can be completed at [www.southernwater.co.uk/difficulty-paying-your-bill](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/difficulty-paying-your-bill)

Stuart also demonstrated devices to save water when flushing toilets and stressed the importance of collecting used fat for safe disposal rather than pouring it down the sink.

## 8. Estate Development Budget

All last year's EDB bids have been approved and we are waiting for start dates. Work on repairing the bird's-mouth fencing in Queensway and a cigarette bin has begun.

For the coming year's applications, a member suggested that a path could be built to serve 65-99 Queensway with an external light in the middle of the block. Another suggestion was for steps linking the parking area at Parham Close with the path to Craven Wood; this would also deter parking on the grass at that car park.

These, and any subsequent requests, would be considered at the next Committee Meeting and brought back to the next General Meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

There was also a written suggestion that bollards be placed on the Queensway grass verges, but as this is Highways land, it is not covered by the EDB scheme. This proposal had been rejected by the Highways Department following earlier requests and discussions.

There were complaints that the wild flower garden looks untidy now the flowers have died back, that the ragwort needs cutting back and that dogs are fouling the overgrown area.

Community Payback will not be invited back to finish painting yellow edges on estate steps. The paint is still at the Vale Centre & CVCA's liability insurance will cover painting by residents.

**ACTION:** Paint remaining steps as time and weather allow (**Christine & Ian**).

## 9. Healthy Neighbourhood Fund

Members agreed that the following proposals are suitable and should be taken forward:

- a) A request for funding from the Queens Park Run-A-Mile Group run by a resident in Hendon Street. A £50 grant could fund stickers and publicity, while £500 could help fund end-of-year celebration to reward children who attend regularly.
- b) A request for funding for a new Chess Club based at the Vale Centre to pay for equipment and initial hire of the Centre.

It was felt there would not be sufficient demand for a First Aid course on the estate but CVCA should publicise courses held in central Brighton.

## 10. Any Other Business

None.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

The next Committee Meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup>

The next General Meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup>