



Notes of Annual General Meeting

June 13th 2012, 7.00pm at The Vale Community Centre, Hadlow Close

Present: Residents: Grant Scott (Chairman), Nigel Bowie, Alan Cooke, Bill Duff, Betty Field, Lindy Holloway, Ewa Knebloch, John McGarrie, Roy Pennington, Gabriel Syverson, Penny Taylor, Geoff Wilcock, Nick Wood; Others: Cllr Gill Mitchell, Jane White (Community Participation Officer), Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities – TDC), Claire Burchell (TDC), PCSO Laura Hall, PCSO Carol Manton, Sami Raeburn (The Carers Centre)

1. **Welcome and Apologies.** Following a buffet from 6:30 pm onwards, Grant opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Apologies were received from Roger Carter and Merryl Fraser (Housing Officer).
2. **Chairman's Report.** Grant reported on the year, and gave thanks to members of the committee who had achieved so much over the past year, plus the sustained efforts of Amy and Claire from TDC, of Jane and other Council officers and of our Councillors.

Our lottery-supported work in Craven Woods creating A Walk on the Wild Side is all but complete. Together with the City's Park Ranger Paul and many groups of volunteers, we have improved large areas of sycamore scrub, constructed new sets of steps to improve access and (with a local carpenter) built a wild gym out of local materials. We have also continued to plant fruit trees around the Estate and to develop the wild-flower garden. More trees will be put in this coming winter.

His thanks went to all the volunteers for all their inspiration and hard work which made our Jubilee Street Party such a success ten days ago. Fund-raising enabled us to provide all the entertainment and activities for free, although generous donations were made by many residents. It was a most enjoyable and colourful occasion, which was well-covered not only in the Argus and other local publications but made national coverage in the Sunday Express and the Mail on Sunday. Craven Vale is being put on the map!

The Council continue to grant funds for small improvements on the Estate as suggested by residents, and since the last AGM we have had the rubberised surface laid down in the adjoining play area, and a number of new block signs to help visitors locate difficult-to-find addresses.

There have been good attendances at our regular open meetings during the past year and a wide range of subjects have been discussed, and problems solved. The Community Association continued to act as the Local Action Team for the area, liaising with Sussex Police to set agendas and targets for our area. The finances of both the Association and the Centre remain in very good shape.

3. **Minutes.** The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of July 13th 2011 were circulated and were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** The audited accounts were circulated. Separate accounts are held for the Community Association and the Vale Community Centre. At the end of March 2012 the CVCA held some £964.73 (of which around £400 will be spent on A Walk on the Wild Side), and the Vale CC some £4,584.46. The Committee are putting aside up to £2,500 to ensure that the kitchen project is completed during the coming year. The meeting adopted the accounts as audited by the Resource Centre.

5. **Presentation by Sami Raeburn of the Carers Centre**

Sami gave a short presentation on the activities of the Carers Centre in Bedford Place supporting unpaid carers, and asked that those present let others know of the facilities provided for up to 20,000 carers across the City, including legal advice.

6. **Projects for 2012/2013**

Four major projects are about to be commenced by the Association over the coming year.

- a) The Kitchen Project. Amy explained that, in order to provide a mid-week café and to host a FareShare morning (when surplus supermarket food is made available to those in greatest need), the existing kitchen area in the Vale Community needs to be doubled in size, the existing disabled toilet needs to be re-organised, with its door not leading on to the kitchen area, and the old gardener's shed needs to be redecorated to take over the office function of the Association and also of TDC. Already £2,000 has been raised towards the cost, and Jane was helping to search for Council funds to help pay for the changes to the disabled toilet. It is hoped to be complete by the Autumn.
- b) The Friends of Craven Woods. Grant said that CVCA was aiming to set up a separate 'Friends' organisation to assist with fund raising, and to carry on the good work supported by the Lottery last year.
- c) History Project. Alan said that the Association was aiming to publish a free booklet next June to celebrate 60 years of life on the Craven Vale Estate. It would cover the history of the area before housing was built.
- d) Website Project. Grant and Roy would lead work to set up a website for the Association, which would enable more people to be aware of its activities.

7. **Presentation by John McGarrie of the Stop Smoking Service**

At short notice, John gave a short presentation on the Stop Smoking service provided in the City by the NHS and based in Robert Lodge, Whitehawk.

8. **Election of Committee.** Jane thanked the committee for all their hard work over the past year and then asked for people willing to put themselves forward as committee members. The following were unanimously elected:

Chairman – Grant Scott; Secretary and Treasurer - Alan Cooke; other committee members – Bill Duff, Betty Field, Roy Pennington, and Nick Wood. If he is willing, Roger Carter would be co-opted on to the Committee at the next Committee meeting.

Grant Scott was appointed as the Area Panel Representative, with Alan Cooke elected as his deputy.

The next committee meeting was set for July 11th at 7 pm.

7. **Any Other Business**

- a) Bill Duff reported that two road signs (at the junctions of Queensway with Craven Road and with Hadlow Close) were in need of repair. Cllr Mitchell agreed to pass this on to the Highways Department.

The meeting closed at 8:15 pm.