

Hughenden Valley Residents Association

Minutes of the HVRA Executive Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 2nd February 2010 in Hughenden Small Village Hall at 7.30pm

Approved

- 1. Present:** Angus Idle (Vice-Chairman), Al Bowyer (Treasurer), Jill Armshaw (Secretary), Janet Idle, Jerry Morley, John Miller, Cllr Lin Smith (Parish Council), Andrea Hulley, Dory Morgan, Rosemary Hewitt, Geoff Wright, David Johnson, David Sharp, Janette Saville, Daphne Hicks, Sara Hamilton.

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Cllr and Mrs Pushman to the meeting.

- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Paul Cawte (Chairman), Christine Bowyer, Karen Dynes, Phil Gomm, Edna Parker.
- 3. Guest Speaker Cllr Richard Pushman:** Cllr Pushman thanked the committee for inviting him to discuss issues of concern to residents.

3.1 Evington. Cllr Pushman has asked WDC Planning Officers to investigate whether change of use planning permission is required at this property. Planning Officers have investigated and decided that currently neither parking nor the use of the property by 6 ambulance staff represents a breach of planning conditions. The parking of vehicles on the grass verge is a matter for BCC Highways.

3.2 Road conditions during snow. Highways engineers have assured Cllr Pushman that Coombe Lane is an emergency route and as such is gritted and maintained at all times. Members disputed the fact that Coombe Lane had been adequately gritted. Cllr Pushman stated that the recent weather was exceptional and that Highways had stockpiled 30% more grit and sand this year than last year. Cllr Pushman will ask BCC for extra treatment on steep hills such as Coombe Lane and Cryers Hill in future so as to keep public transport services running. He also noted the need for more salt bins. Cllr Pushman stated that this year's winter weather had been exceptional; members reminded Cllr Pushman that there were problems with snow and transport in February 2009 resulting in vehicle accidents on Coombe Lane. Jerry Morley stated that lack of adequate gritting cost residents and businesses time and money.

3.3 Pot Holes. Cllr Pushman stated that, "*roads have not been maintained adequately for the past 10 years due to cuts in spending. Pot holes are the result of neglect over many years – we have been caught out by the extreme weather, it is a question of resources and finances and judgements have to be made*". Cllr Pushman read a report from a BCC Highways Officer, dated 22nd January 2010, which stated that damaged road surfaces on priority routes were currently being repaired. Repairs would then be undertaken on secondary sorting routes then minor roads. The fixed period rule of 24 hours for reporting damage to a vehicle due to road surface has been relaxed £2,000,000 is to be spent immediately to repair pot holes. Janet Idle read extracts from a letter by Paul Cawte in which he described damage caused to his car by hitting a pot hole and he complained about the state of roads locally.

3.4 Bryants Bottom Road. Members highlighted the problems and danger caused to road users by potholes on Bryants Bottom Road. Members also raised the problems caused by surface flooding during heavy or prolonged rain resulting in driveways and garages flooding and described how the road becomes a river with no where to drain causing a 'lake' to form across the road half way between Bryants Bottom and Hughenden Valley. This 'lake' is a danger to road users and lethal during icy conditions. Cllr Pushman agreed to investigate the issues raised concerning Bryants Bottom Road.

3.5 Road safety on Coombe Lane/Burnham Road. A discussion considered various proposals to improve road safety, specifically at the junction of Coombe Lane with Burnham Road. Cllr Pushman agreed to investigate whether an archer device could be positioned on

Coombe Lane to monitor and record traffic speed. This information would then inform future decisions about road safety. Jerry Morley stated that surface drainage was causing problems to road users on Coombe Lane due to blocked drainage channels. He also pointed out that only road traffic accidents involving personal injury are recorded by Thames Valley Police therefore, the statistics do not reflect the actual number of vehicle accidents. Cllr Pushman agreed that all road traffic accidents should be recorded.

3.6 Country Supplies. Members expressed concern that noise and associated traffic problems would increase in the spring and summer months. Cllr Pushman encouraged concerned residents to keep a diary recording instances of nuisance and inform WDC Planning Officers. PC Turnham and colleague arrived during this item at 7.55pm; Cllr and Mrs Pushman left the meeting at 8.50pm.

4. **Guest Speaker PC Lee Turnham:** Hughenden Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) have produced a questionnaire to be delivered to all households within the Parish to establish the top three priorities for the Neighbourhood Police Team and its partners to address in the next year. PC Turnham asked HVRA Committee members to deliver the questionnaires before the end of March 2010. Action: PC Turnham to liaise with Angus Idle to arrange distribution.

There is a Safer Homes Project offering essential security equipment free of charge to those residents who meet necessary criteria. The scheme runs until March 2010. Telephone 01628 526367 for information.

A Have Your Say meeting will be held in Hughenden Valley in April 2010. This is an opportunity for residents to discuss issues of concern with the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Information about the NAG and Neighbourhood Policing is available on the Thames Valley Website and the Hughenden Valley Website.

PC Turnham and colleague left the meeting at 9.05pm.

5. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 1st December 2009.**

These were RESOLVED as a true record of that meeting and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

6. **Matters Arising.**

8.3 Parish Council. The Services Committee has resolved not to place a dog bin at Hughenden Valley allotment area. Cllrs Smith and Konieczny were against this decision.

9. Road Safety. In response to correspondence from HVRA regarding a meeting on highways issues at Coombe Lane, Parish Council Minutes from the meeting held on 21st January 2010 record that *'the Clerk gave information that residents have already been informed that there is nothing that can be done in this location that is not already being done and therefore no meeting will be scheduled'*.

7. **Treasurer's Report.**

Total as at 2nd February 2010; Deposit Account £5,048.66, Current Account £2,397.24, cash & cheques in hand £58.04, total overall funds £7,503.94, uncleared cheques £1,420.17, uncleared payments in £225.00, available funds £6,308.77. Subscription fees received to date £1,800.00, advertising revenue received for 2009/2010 is £2,669.00.

8. **Events.**

8.1 Senior Citizens Evening. The entertainer has double booked the evening, which was arranged for Saturday 22nd May 2010. The event and entertainer have now been rescheduled to Saturday 15th May 2010.

8.2 AGM, 1st June 2010. The Earl of Buckinghamshire is confirmed as guest speaker and will give an illustrated talk.

8.3 Potter Cup Quiz, 9th October 2010. A meeting will be arranged to consider feedback from the previous quiz and brainstorm new ideas. Action: Al Bowyer.

9. **Communications.**

9.1 Hughenden News. Copy deadline 14th March 2010.

9.2 Website. A meeting will be arranged of the Website Sub-committee with Tony Konieczny to agree how HVRA Minutes will be displayed on the village website. Action: Jill Armshaw.

10. Reports.

10.1 Road Representatives.

10.1.1 Bryants Bottom. A resident has purchased approximately four acres of land in the field on the south west side of Bryants Bottom. The owner intends to return the land to agricultural use. This land had previously been subdivided into plots and marketed as speculative land for sale. The land is subject to Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning Order 1995.

10.2 Planning Sub-committee. An application has been submitted to WDC proposing to convert the Methodist Chapel in Bryants Bottom to a 2 bed dwelling. The Chairman of the Planning Sub-committee has written to WDC expressing concern that the space allocated for the parking of 2 cars is insufficient; also that the introduction of additional windows and a side door would compromise the privacy of neighbours.

10.3 Parish Council. Cllr Smith asked if HVRA would deliver leaflets on behalf of Hughenden Parish Council concerning an open meeting to be held in March. The Committee agreed this request. These Minutes record that HVRA was only made aware that the leaflets proposed Rural Affordable Housing on Warrendene Road on receipt of the leaflets on Monday 22nd February 2010.

The Clerk has confirmed that the land referred to as Little Burnham Wood has always been known by this name.

10.4 Neighbourhood Action Group. No report.

10.5 Village Hall Committee. It was noted that planning permission is required for the proposed new notice board and Village Hall/Community Shop sign. Plans for the new kitchen are well progressed.

10.6 Community Shop. No report.

11. Road Safety. No report, road safety discussed under items 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 6.9.

12. Any Other Business. None

13. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd March 2010 commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.40pm.

Chairman:

Secretary:

Date: