

Hughenden Valley Residents Association

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

Approved

1. **Present:** Paul Cawte (Chairman), Angus Idle (Vice-Chairman), Al Bowyer (Treasurer), Jill Armshaw (Secretary), Karen Dynes, Phil Gomm, Daphne Hicks, Andrea Hulley, Janet Idle, David Johnson, Dory Morgan, Jerry Morley, Janette Saville, David Sharp, Cllr Lin Smith (Parish Council), Geoff Wright.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Christine Bowyer, Doreen Bryant, Sara Hamilton, Rosemary Hewitt, John Miller, Edna Parker.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on Tuesday 2nd February 2010.**

The Chairman reminded the Committee that minutes are a written record of the proceedings of a meeting stating clearly and concisely the business transacted. They do not record what was said or record controversy.

The following changes to the minutes were submitted for approval:

3.2 Road Conditions During Snow. Line 3 to read; Members disputed the fact that Coombe Lane had been adequately gritted. Line 7 to read; 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 costs residents and businesses time and money.

3.3 Pot Holes. Line 7 to read; 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.

3.5 Road Safety on Coombe Lane/Burnham Road. Line 5 to read; 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.

10.3 Parish Council. Inclusion of the following paragraph; 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.

11. Road Safety. To read, no report, road safety discussed under items 3.2, 3.3, 4.3, 3.5, & 6.9. The minutes were then RESOLVED as a true record of that meeting.
4. **Matters Arising.**
 - 3.1 **Evington.** Residents are awaiting an update from Cllr Pushman following a meeting with BCC Highways concerning the parking of ambulances on grass verge at Cryers Hill. Road Representatives will attend the Have Your Say Meeting at Great Kingshill School on 26th March 2010 to discuss the matter with the Neighbourhood Police Team and establish the legality of parking on grass verge.
 - 3.3 **Pot Holes.** The chairman expressed concern about pot holes on Coombe Lane which he reported to BCC Highways 5 days ago. It was noted that Coombe Lane is an emergency route yet the pot holes have not been repaired. Members were reminded to report all pot holes to BCC Highways On Call, telephone 0845 2302882 (8.30am-5pm, Monday – Friday) or 01296

486630 to contact the Emergency Response Team out of office hours. Reports can also be made online at www.bucks.gov.uk and a reference number noted.

3.4 Bryants Bottom Road. A small number of pot holes were filled within 2 days of the meeting with Cllr Pushman. Many pot holes remained and new pot holes continue to develop. Following several vehicle accidents associated with pot holes, BCC Highways surveyed the road on 1st March and filled more than 50 category 1 pot holes the following day. The road surface remains in very poor condition and problems with surface drainage and flooding continue.

3.5 Road Safety on Coombe Lane/Burnham Road. Jerry Morley stated that in future this junction should be referred to as, 'the junction of Coombe Lane with Burnham Road and Wedgwood Drive'. The secretary duly noted this point. Members agreed that attaching reflectors to the crash barrier on Coombe Lane might improve road safety.

3.6 Country Supplies. A WDC Environmental Health Officer has requested that residents continue to keep diaries recording noise and activity. A member requested that attention not be diverted from problems at this site due to the recent proposal to build affordable houses on agricultural land on Warrendene Road.

10.2 Planning Sub-committee. An application to convert the former Methodist Church in Bryants Bottom to a two-bedroom residence has been amended and planning permission granted. Permission was granted despite there being no parking available at the former Church. Officers concluded that parking associated with residential use would be less than that associated with the current D₁ status.

5. Treasurer's Report.

Total as at 2nd March 2010; Deposit Account £5,048.96, Current Account £1,109.24, cash & cheques in hand £49.04, total overall funds £6,207.24, uncleared cheques £41.17, uncleared payments in £234.00, available funds £6,400.07. Subscription fees received to date £1,902.00, advertising revenue received for 2009/2010 is £2,669.00. The Treasurer has arranged for the accounts to be audited ready for the AGM on 1st June 2010.

6. Events.

6.1 Senior Citizens Evening, 15th May 2010. Due to the popularity of this event, it was agreed to limit invitations to members only. The Chairman agreed to be Master of Ceremony. Rosemary Hewitt, event organiser, will supply Road Representatives with invitations to deliver to members who qualify to attend.

6.2 AGM, 1st June 2010. No update.

6.3 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.

7. Communications.

7.1 Hughenden News. Copy deadline 14th March 2010. Members were urged to encourage contributions to the magazine. Target date for delivery of the next edition is 6th April 2010.

7.2 Website. The Chairman announced the launch of the HVRA website which can be viewed at www.hughendenresidents.org. The website has been created to allow fast and improved communication with members. The Chairman described the website, stressing that the current version is a prototype to test opinion. He requested that all Committee Members view the website and provide him with feedback and suggestions. The website and magazine will complement each other and share content. The Chairman thanked Derek and Jill Armshaw for designing and building the website. It was agreed that the website will be launched to members in the next edition of Hughenden News.

8. Reports.

8.1 Road Representatives. Angus Idle has contacted BCC Highways to report mossy footpaths in Coombe Gardens. Janet Idle thanked the Chairman for clearing snow from

footpaths. The Chairman stated that the HVRA policy on salt for gritting was that Road Representatives should buy salt, store in their own garage and use as appropriate. Residents should spread salt themselves to avoid health and safety issues. Road Representatives should provide the Treasurer with receipts for expenses to be reimbursed.

8.2 Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). Cllr Smith gave a report from the NAG meeting held on Thursday 25th February 2010. There is a box in the Community Shop for collection of completed NAG Questionnaires. Residents are urged to photograph graffiti and forward a copy of the photograph to PC Turnham or Lynne Turner at Hughenden Parish Council Office. This is to enable the 'tag' to be identified. There is a problem with litter on Cryers Hill. The next edition of Hughenden News will request that residents collect litter while out walking. Janet Idle reported that trees hang very low over the footpath on the north side of Cryers Hill. Janet Idle agreed to contact Great Kingshill School and WDC about the trees and Cllr Smith agreed to raise the matter with Hughenden Parish Council.

8.2.1 NAG Speed Reduction Working Group (SRWG). Hughenden NAG has formed a SRWG. Cllr Smith is the representative for Hughenden Ward on the sub-committee. The SRWG has requested that all four Wards within the Parish recommend a prioritised list of roads for speed reduction action. Members agreed the following priority list for Hughenden Ward: Warrendene Road, Valley Road, Coombe Lane, Bryants Bottom Road and Cryers Hill Road. Cllr Smith stated that the next BCC Speed Limit Review would be conducted in 2012. She has recommended that Cryers Hill Road be reduced from 50mph to 40mph and that Coombe Lane be 30mph along its entire length.

8.3 Parish Council. Cllr Smith read a statement to members on the proposal by Hughenden Parish Council, in partnership with the English Rural Housing Association to build ten affordable homes on land in Warrendene Road. Cllr Smith stated that the Clerk of Hughenden Parish Council had approved the statement. The statement is attached as appendix A. Following the statement Cllr Smith answered questions from members. Angus Idle asked how long the consultation period would last. Cllr Smith agreed to find out and report back to the Committee. The Chairman thanked Cllr Smith for giving a statement and Cllr Smith left the meeting at 9.30pm. Andrea Hulley left the meeting at 9.33pm.

8.4 Planning Sub-committee. The Chairman reminded members that HVRA Executive Committee would not adopt a policy on this matter until after the Open Day to be held on 10th March 2010, when more information would become available. The Chairman of the Planning Sub-committee then gave a presentation concerning the proposal to build affordable housing. Members were then invited to give their personal opinions on the matter if they wished to do so. HVRA Executive Committee agreed to make a statement to members concerning the Association's policy on the proposal to build affordable housing on agricultural land on Warrendene Road on Monday 15th March 2010. This would allow members to attend the Open Day and for HVRA Executive Committee to gauge opinion so as to represent the majority view of its membership. The Chairman stated that, with the exception of Hughenden News, all non-essential expenditure is suspended. The Chairman read a draft letter he had written to the Chairman of Hughenden Parish Council concerning affordable housing. A discussion followed. Al Bowyer agreed to review the letter and discuss with the Chairman the following day. Karen Dynes left the meeting at 10.10pm and David Johnson left at 10.20pm.

8.5 Village Hall Committee. The Village Hall Committee has agreed to consider a new scheme for redesigning the existing kitchen. This new proposal will be less expensive than the previous proposal and will allow the Committee Room to remain intact.

Due to the lateness of the hour it was agreed to close the meeting at 10.30pm and refer remaining items on the Agenda to the next meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 6th April 2010 commencing at 7.30pm.

Chairman:

Secretary:

Date:

Appendix A

Statement read by Cllr Smith (Hughenden Parish Council) concerning the proposal by Hughenden Parish Council, in partnership with the English Rural Housing Association to build ten affordable homes on land in Warrendene Road, Hughenden Valley.

I am not here to try to persuade you to support the proposed Rural Affordable Housing development. I will however defend the correctness of the Parish Council to initiate a debate about whether we should consider one, based on the results of the Village Appraisal 3 or 4 years ago which identified a possible local need.

A great deal of time and care has been taken in selecting a site, it had to be acceptable to the District Council, the Rural Housing Association, and have an owner who was willing to sell. We were informed that the only site in the Parish, which met all of these criteria was the Warrendene Road site. The history of this process should be available on the open day on 10th March.

We were very careful in our choice of Rural Housing Association. English Rural Housing deals only in Rural Affordable Housing developments, and seems very sensitive to the concerns of residents' who may be affected by their developments.

What we have here is just a proposal, and what we now need is your response.

I cannot emphasise strongly enough how important it is for everyone to get to the Open Day at the Parish Council Offices on 10th March. Representatives of the Rural Housing Association will be there, as will Tony and I and some of my fellow Councillors and the Parish Clerk.

There will be people there better qualified to answer your questions than I am.

I can appreciate that some, maybe many of you will have very strong opinions about this proposal, and you will have the opportunity to lobby against it to the District Council when and if it becomes a planning application. But for your objections to carry weight at all, they must be based on facts and planning matters.

I have been asked if this could be the thin edge of the wedge and create a precedent. Development on an exceptional site cannot be used as an example by any other type of developer, similarly should any other exceptional site be required the whole procedure would have to begin again and would need the support of the Parish Council, who might well feel that Hughenden Ward had made a sufficient contribution already and should not be used again, but that is only my personal thought.

Having initiated this debate the Parish Council now has little input in it until the planning application is made when we have the opportunity to make recommendations in the usual way. Should it reach this stage I would appreciate being copied in to any comments and representations you make to District, so that I may accurately reflect local issues in my comments to the Parish Council when we discuss the application.

Should the application be made and be allowed, the Parish Council will have some input into the design and materials to be used and then to the consideration of who should be accepted as part-owners or tenants.

But that is further down the track. For now the most important thing you can do is to go along to the Open Day and encourage all your neighbours to go to get as much information as you can.