

HUGHENDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Approved Minutes of the HVRA Executive Meeting held at 7.30pm on 7th December 2010 in the Small Village Hall

1. **Present**

Paul Cawte (Chairman), Angus Idle (Vice-Chairman), Rosemary Hewitt (Acting Secretary), Anna Burniston, Alison Burnham, Sara Hamilton, Daphne Hicks, Andrea Hulley, Janet Idle, Dory Morgan, John Miller, Jerry Morley, James Perkins, Geoff Wright, and Cllr Lin Smith.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Cllr Smith and the new Committee members, Anna Burniston from South Maundin, James Perkins from Bryants Bottom and Alison Burnham from Cryers Hill Road.

Paul invited Dory to announce her recent selection as a Conservative District Councillor to take over from Richard Pushman who is stepping down. If selected in May she hoped to replace him on the Planning Committee at District but would have to relinquish being Chair of the HVRA Planning Sub-Committee. Rosemary would take over alongside Paul Cawte and John Miller who will be joining because of his interest in road safety issues, and she would have to take a back seat. Dory hoped to continue as a Road Rep, attending and helping at functions. She stressed that if she did have a Planning position she would have no view on applications until they had been brought to the Council Planning meeting as it would be a conflict of interest.

Paul congratulated Dory and everyone added their praise and applause.

He was sorry that Dave Johnson, Road Rep for Orchard Close, had resigned due to business commitments and had written thanking him for all his help in the past. Dave had recently offered to help with the advertising side of the magazine and if anyone is interested in taking over please contact Janet and Angus who will provide training.

Paul reminded everyone that due to increasing outside commitments he was stepping down at the AGM in May, having been Chairman for the past 8 years,

2. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Al Bowyer, David Sharp, Phil Gomm, Doreen Bryant and Karen Dynes.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting** It was proposed by Angus Idle, seconded by Daphne Hicks and voted unanimously that the Minutes were a correct record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising** None

5. **Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Paul reported that to date advertising revenue received amounted to £2,118.60 and subscription fees £1,948.00. Funds of £3,051.26 were held in the Deposit Account and £2,767.15 in the Current Account, making an overall total of £6,029.62, with available funds of £5,936.90. £300 was outstanding for the cost of the Christmas lights as were some subs, advertising revenue and payments from Walters Leisure (Magnolia Park). He was pleased the accounts were in a healthy position as there could be the possibility of mounting a campaign to protect the GB and AONB in the future.

6. **Events**

Tombola - Paul thanked Sara very much for organising the tombola which raised £275 and everyone who had helped to make it a success.

Senior Citizens Evening 2011 – Rosemary confirmed that Sue Coombs will sing for us on 14th May.

AGM – 17th May – Janet had written to John Craven but was disappointed that he is not doing any speeches next year because he has a busy TV schedule. (He will cover HS2 again on Country File).

Alternative speakers were suggested - Fern Britton who lives locally, the Provost of Eton and Jim Foy, the General Manager of the National Trust who was favoured. The NT is going through big changes and Jim has been very helpful in providing maps of walks around Hughenden Manor for the HVRA magazine. Paul to make enquiries and Janet suggested combining the AGM with the History Exhibition, and holding it in the large Village Hall.

7. **Communications**

Hughenden News – Paul thanked Janet and Angus for the new edition which contained an excellent mix of articles from a variety of sources, including a feature on the history of Cryers Hill.

HVRA Website – The hit rate has declined since launch and is disappointingly low. Ideas were sought on ways to improve it and Angus suggested that Hughenden Surgery should have a link. Also, Road Reps could pass on interesting information relating to their patch to Derek Armshaw for posting on a road-by-road page. It is an information portal for villagers and Derek has agreed still to act as administrator of the website.

Tony Konieczny's village website enjoys a much higher hit rate with its up-dated daily blogs, information and various links to other websites.

Correspondence

- Dory had received a letter from Derek Ransom, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, thanking the HVRA for their support in running the Christmas Bazaar tombola which helped towards the overall profit of £1,112.75.
- Janet had received a letter from the Chiltern Society asking if we wished to use some of their photographs in our magazine provided they got the credit. She expressed interest and would keep in touch.
- Angus is now awaiting a reply from Cllr Val Letheren with regard to signs pointing to Hughenden Valley.

8. **Reports**

a) **Road Representatives**

Bryants Bottom - A lot of interest and discussion by residents over the 2 fields that had previously been sold off into plots in 2004. They wish to form a Trust for Bryants Bottom and try and buy back some of the plots that are selling at considerably less than they were bought for. They are also investigating the possibility of acquiring "Village Green" status because they had heard the land could qualify as they wish to protect it from being developed.

Rosemary mentioned the Grange Action Group's unsuccessful attempt to obtain Village Green status on the Widmer Fields that had been left unused for 20+ years, and Dory explained the benefits of the Article 4 that has been placed on the Bryants Bottom fields.

Cryers Hill – No prospective buyers for Greenacres and some contentious issues still remain.

Valley Road – Numerous complaints about the increased number of posters and notices that have sprung up around the village. Highways will only deal with notices that cause an obstruction on the footpaths and will turn a blind eye to those on the verges/posts that do not. It was agreed that a balanced approach be adopted as responsible organisations need to advertise their events.

Boss Lane – A burglary was reported and it was advised that all sheds be locked as tools were stolen.

Friars Gardens – Skip in front garden has now been removed but situation is being monitored.

Salt/Gritting – After some discussion it was agreed that a cap of £200 to £300 be allowed for the total cost of Road Reps buying bags of salt/grit. Please submit receipts to the Treasurer for reimbursement. Paul suggested using it sparingly e.g.: clear two tracks for the car's wheels, grit and keep clearing for maximum effect. Not to be used for personal drives but only on hilly side roads.

Green signs – Disappointment expressed that we were bottom of the list although the green signs had been installed in other villages and that a contribution in support had been suggested by Cllr Pushman but the committee didn't think this was fair unless other organisations had to do so.

Post-box - Angus queried whether it could be moved to the other side of the road now that we have the Community Shop but most members believed it was in the right place by the lay-by, and the shop is temporary.

b) **Planning Sub-Committee**

Marien, Cryers Hill – As windows in the roof would not be in keeping with the street scene and inappropriate in GB2 a second letter of objection has been sent to WDC. Cllr Pushman has called it in.

Woodsyde, Warrendene Road - Amended plans for brick & flint front elevation in place of traditional brick but as it is considered contentious and a major change a letter of objection has been sent to the Planning Officer.

Cllr Smith complained that HPC are not always advised of minor amendments.

HS2 - Dory referred to her recent email to Road Reps about David Cameron's support of HS2 prior to public consultation and Steve Roddick's letter encouraging everyone to respond. Accordingly, she sought approval from the Committee to write to David Cameron.

Dory proposed, seconded by Rosemary Hewitt and all voted unanimously in favour.

New Sports Stadium/GASP – 13,000 protesters have merged together to form a coalition group to fight the controversial plans – 16 associations, parish councils and interested groups. As Adams Park has just been taken out of the Green Belt and now a prime Brownfield site and the Booker airpark is in the GB, Dory asked members if they wished to join.

She proposed, seconded by Janet Idle and all voted unanimously in favour.

- c) **Parish Council** – Please contact Cllr Smith if you wish to raise any issue with her. Paul offered sincere thanks for what she is doing for the community.

d) **Village Hall Committee (VHC)**

Dory reported that the AGM was held last night. The Bazaar was well attended and made £1,112.76, £100 more than the previous year. The Christmas lights had been installed over the weekend by Philip Morgan but he experienced difficulty when using the *cherry-picker* to drape the lights, which will remain *in situ*, and had to string them up and down. The VHC has a new Constitution and two Lifetime Vice-Presidents, Hugh Steel and John Vesey.

- e) **The Community Shop** has submitted an application to extend the use of the temporary portacabin that runs out in February and the temporary site runs out in May. A request was made that the VHC negotiates with the Shop Committee to allow the extension. HPC has no objection to the application.

f) **Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)**

- Cllr Smith reported that NAG has been asking where to put the 9" square "camera" signs. As a GB and AONB village we must be selective about additional signage and it was agreed to have them where cameras are situated only if legally necessary,
- 6 burglaries up to 26th November. Please contact Cllr Smith for £10 shed alarms. (Jerry suggested *Smartwater* which carries a code that is put on valuable items.)
- NAG has been looking to develop Emergency Contingency Plans e.g. if we are snowed in, suffer terrorist attack or any other disaster, and to have a village by village approach with an overview from the Parish. Although in its early stages, if anyone is interested in coming on board please let Cllr Smith know. Paul suggested having a list of all first-aiders.
- She asked for another person to join NAG and Rosemary expressed interest and will join her on 15th December.

g) **Road Safety**

Pedestrian Crossing Up-date

John Miller said crossing the road at the bottom of Coombe Lane is dangerous and that an accident is waiting to happen especially as we have the Community Shop and all the activities at the Village Hall. Ken Moloughney to be contacted about the progress of the pedestrian crossing here.

Now that Hughenden First School is also a Primary school many children who walk to school on their own have nowhere to cross the road safely. It is precarious as cars travel above the speed limit. He has found a suitable place for a pedestrian crossing by Deeters in Valley Road which would assist children from Friars Gardens and South Maundin, as well as those from the other end of the village. The Bucks Team have agreed that this is a suitable crossing point but there is no money to conduct research, let alone a crossing. A vehicle survey was carried out a year ago and a pedestrian survey is needed to make an assessment but we have been asked to provide £250.

As the *Safe Route to School* is still a priority, Paul said HVRA should argue for a safe crossing for all the children as well as seeking support from the Parish Council. Geoff Wright queried whether the lack of street lighting

would be a problem and John mentioned some alternatives such as a lollypop person and a central reservation with keep left bollards.

After some discussion it was proposed by John Miller, seconded by Dory and all voted unanimously to pay £250 for a pedestrian survey although Cllr Smith said a similar survey conducted recently at Widmer End showed a lack of footfall.

Jerry said vehicle registration numbers should be taken if drivers fail to stop at pedestrian crossings.

Janet believed the island at the bottom of Coombe Lane is dangerous and asked if it could be improved and was assured that it is frequently reported to NAG.

30 mph Wheelie Bin Stickers

Cllr Smith said that Gt Kingshill Residents Association can provide the stickers so that at least once a week there is a clear reminder of the speed limit for drivers passing through residential areas. It was agreed, on the basis that individual residents made a personal decision to have them on their bins, and that 600 be ordered. A donation from HPC would be welcome and HVRA to pay the rest. The Committee favoured *Hughenden Parish NAG* being printed on each sticker. It was proposed by Dory, seconded by Rosemary and all voted unanimously in favour of 600 being ordered.

9. Any Other Business

The next meeting is on 1st February when Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown, Chairman of WDC, will be joining us.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm and the Chairman wished everyone a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year.