

## HUGHENDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of the HVRA Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 in Hughenden Small Village Hall at 7.30 pm

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#### **APPROVED**

**Welcome & Introduction:** The Vice Chairman welcomed Lin Smith (Hughenden Parish Council) and Councillor Bill Bendyshe-Brown (Chairman of Wycombe District Council) who introduced himself to all committee members. See appendix for summary of his comments.

**1. Present:** Angus Idle (Vice Chair), Al Bowyer (Treasurer), Dory Morgan (Stand in Secretary), Sara Hamilton, John Miller, Janet Idle, Edna Parker, David Sharp, Andrea Hulley, Geoff Wright, Daphne Hicks, Alison Burnham, Lin Smith (HPC), Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown (WDC)

**2. Apologies for Absence:** Paul Cawte (Chairman), Christine Bowyer, Doreen Bryant, Phil Gomm, Rosemary Hewitt, Anna Burniston, Carole Palmer

The Chairman sent best wishes to all for a Happy New Year.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010:** Minutes approved and signed by the vice chairman Angus Idle as a true record of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Funds currently stand at £5031.68 and there are concerns this is down £1500 over the year. To be discussed at future meetings.

**6. Events:**

**Senior Citizen's Evening:** All in place for 14 May 2011.

**AGM 2011:** Jim Foy, General Manager for the National Trust, is to be guest speaker. There will be an exhibition of the history of the area. Cllr Richard Pushman to be approached for help from the Community Fund for exhibition boards for HVRA.

*Action Point : Janet to obtain estimate for boards, find out about storage and request funding*

*Action point : Janet to determine if main Village Hall an option for the AGM)*

**7. Communications**

**Hughenden News:** Deadline for contributions is now 14 March. Magazine costs use up most of HVRA funds (HPC makes a contribution). Discussion ensued re how to reduce costs e.g. limit use of colour, change format to A4, set up a more co-ordinated approach to advertising etc.

Action Point: Al, Janet & Angus to liaise on the set up of an advertising management plan

Action Point : Road reps to advise Al if they become aware of future advertisers

**HVRA Website:** Some residents wanted to congratulate HVRA on its new look website at <http://www.hughendenresidents.org/> . They thought it simpler to access and aesthetically pleasing to view. The committee members agreed and will do what they can to draw residents' attention to the revamped website, as it is considered an asset to HVRA and its potential should be optimized. All archived material about on-going matters such as rural affordable housing, HS2, Oakleaf Farm etc, is to be transferred to the website. The facility for road reps. to contact residents in their roads direct has been withdrawn as it was little used. Derek Armshaw has kindly agreed to carry on as Webmaster until a replacement volunteer is found. The Hughenden section of Community News in the Bucks Free Press will be included in the website in future.

*Action Point: Derek to show committee members (Dory and Carole) how to update the website*  
*Action Point: Janet to pass What's On information to Derek to include on website*

**HPAG Website:** Some residents campaigning against rural affordable housing on Green Belt, AONB land have set up a website at [hp-action.org](http://hp-action.org) with the aim to have sufficient people stand at the next parish council elections so all residents have the possibility of voting. They intend to leaflet drop all houses in the parish.

**Correspondence:** Nothing to report.

## **8. Reports:**

### **Road Representatives:**

**Cryers Hill Rd:** There were 13 shed break-ins late evening on 19th January. A hedge cutter and trimmer were the only items taken. Scene of crime officers attended but case now closed due to lack of evidence. Access thought to be from fields at the back of all the properties.

See Neighbourhood Action Group regarding a Litter Pick Up.

Some nuisance is being caused by bonfires. Its recommended records be maintained by residents if this is an issue.

Gas pipeworks due to start again this month.

Parking for Gt Kingshill School is worsening. Verges being churned up on the north side of the hill and impacting on the state of the footpaths.

**Magnolia Park:** Landscape gardeners have been seen dumping waste outside of the premises, over the fence and on to the path.

**Frogmore Close:** A rotovator and old wheelbarrows were stolen from the allotments on the same night as the shed break-ins on Cryers Hill Rd.

**Burnham Rd:** There were two burglaries from a garage: one on 17<sup>th</sup> and one on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Bryants Bottom:** The worst pot holes have been filled but many still to be dealt with. The movement to obtain village green status on a section of land is continuing. All in the village are aware and have been spoken to. The Village Trust is with solicitors at present. statements. There is a keenness to join together as a community.

**Hughenden Parish Council:** HPC may be able to help with funding for directional road signs to Hughenden Valley. The results of the HPC rural affordable housing survey are due mid February 2011.

## **Planning Sub-Committee:**

**Greenacres, Cryers Hill Rd:** An amendment to an application has been made for dormer windows. Residents, HPC and HVRA have all objected.

**Hatches Farm:** Applications submitted to convert some barns to residential use and others for light industrial use. Highways Dept objected on grounds of access and traffic as there would be more extensive vehicular access from the industrial units, as well as farming continuing. There is already B1 status on some of the outbuildings so a level of light industrial use is already permitted. HPC and HVRA have objected. Details found with the WDC planning applications and on the HPC website.

**Warrendene Rd:** Amendments to planning applications on two semi-detached cottages have been applied for. Part approved but a new planning application required for remainder. Building has commenced on the new property within boundaries of The Harrow

**Village Hall:** Hire charges to increase. The disco on 12th February has been cancelled but there will be a charity quiz night in April.

**Community Shop:** Planning permission granted for a temporary structure up until 2016. Feedback from survey was for the shop to stay in its current position. AI co-opted on to the working party between Village Hall and the shop.

## **Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG):**

**Thames Valley Police (TVP) Community Speedwatch :** Six volunteers required to take down information if a speed watch is carried out in Hughenden. There will be a one hour (at least) session per week and each of the four wards to have a session. A PC/PCSO will always be in attendance and they will be carried out in good visibility conditions only. Data for each ward to be downloaded on to TVP computer at Hazlemere Police Station. About ½ an hour per week is required for this, plus a ½ day's training at Kidlington. If interested contact Lin Smith on 01494 562533 or at [linsmith38@btinternet.com](mailto:linsmith38@btinternet.com) To be advertised in Hughenden News.

**Vehicle Lights:** Defective and misaligned headlights continue to cause problems. These can be reported to NAG if registration numbers taken.

**AntiSocial Behaviour:** Not a major concern at moment. However mini motorbikes have been heard in King George's Field and golf balls found there too. Hitting golf balls on the field is against the bye-laws and a reminder will be put in the next magazine.

**Litter:** NAG has organized a litter pick up on 5<sup>th</sup> February for Cryers Hill Rd. All believed a Litter Action Day throughout Hughenden would be beneficial. H&S concerns re involving children.

**Community Contingency Planning Group:** Plans being prepared to deal with emergencies within local communities, using a three tier system, linked into the borough and county councils. For Hughenden the top tier would be the NAG/Parish Council, second tier would be the village or ward and third tier would be the street. It was suggested HVRA road reps to act as street co-ordinators, whilst a co-ordinator and two deputies would be set up at the second level. Aims would include harnessing local skills and taking care of the vulnerable

### **Anti-theft Devices**

HVRA has marker pens if residents need one. Geoff Pegg the NAG Co-ordinator has a range of anti-theft products available for sale and if interested for more information, contact him on 01494 523649.

**Road Safety:** The installation of a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Coombe Hill is being researched, again. Highways Dept turned this down because of the gradient of the hill, the vicinity of driveways and the roundabout, and vision issues. All these points are being queried.

## **9. Any Other Business:**

**Subscriptions:** to be discussed at next meeting.

**Parish Council Elections:** Hughenden Parish has seats for fifteen councillors: Gt Kingshill (3), Naphill/Walters Ash (4), Widmer End (4), Hughenden Valley, North Dean & Bryants Bottom (4). The committee agreed road reps could help deliver leaflets from HPAG (Hughenden Parish Action Group), who are campaigning regarding the forthcoming parish council elections on 5 May 2011. More information is on HPAG's website at [hp-action.org](http://hp-action.org) ). Residents can vote only for their own ward and if not sufficient people standing for election, councillors can be co-opted on. It was advised that it could be a rewarding job and that not too much time commitment is required.

**Traffic Scams:** Residents to be aware of the scam whereby a driver stops suddenly so as to deliberately cause an accident and then claim excessive injury/damage. Incidents have occurred locally e.g. on Hughenden Rd.

**Sports Stadium:** A statement from GASP (Group Against Stadium Proposals) was read out. A link to their website <http://gasp-no.org>. will soon be on the HVRA website.

**10. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.05pm.

**Chairman:**

**Secretary:**

**Date:**

## **Appendix :**

### **Presentation by WDC Chairman - Councillor Bill Bendyshe-Brown**

#### **Introduction**

The Councillor is visiting all 27 parishes and the 3 town councils within Wycombe District by May 2011.

**Directional Road Signs to Hughenden Valley :** HVRA's request for road signs can only be obtained via the parish or county councils. WDC has contacted Cllr Richard Pushman and Val Letheren of Bucks CC Highways on HVRA's behalf. Perhaps HVRA could approach HPC, as this could be a 'small cost' item HPC could obtain funds for.

**Feedback re Parish Councils:** WDC has found the size, standards and work parish councils cover vary greatly. They are also autonomous, whereas WDC has to account to the Ombudsman. WDC does have a responsibility to handle any complaints against parish councils though. WDC has written to Eric Pickles to point out this anomaly and request change but per the Localism Bill, the Government prefers matters are settled locally so no change to governance is likely.

**Wycombe Air Park :** A member of the committee requested the air park should remain as it is, for future generations and suggested WDC was being guided by large business considerations. The Councillor said he wasn't aware the status of the air park would alter, that safety was not considered a major concern even if houses were built there and that no decision had been made re the stadium yet anyway. He added that the status of using gliders, light aircraft and helicopters would remain as it was.

**Handy Cross Coach Park:** It was asked whether there was a Plan B for the area where the coach park had been planned but the Councillor said nothing had been decided.

**The Stadium:** The Councillor said he'd not yet seen plans for the siting of a new stadium and as far as he knew, a decision had not yet been made to move from Adams Park. No planning application has been received. It was suggested there was a military covenant on the airfield and the Councillor said The Improvement Review Committee have called in the investigating further of Booker Airfield and will include this aspect in their review. He said this is democracy in action and a good thing. However as the civic head of WDC he has to be impartial and cannot comment.

**Wycombe's Commercial Centre:** The Councillor said WDC's aim is to raise the profile of the area and bring jobs and businesses into the locality. Of the 164,000 residents, 93000 are employed with another 7000 employable. 77% of jobs are now highly skilled. There has been a loss of manufacturing and low skilled jobs though. This is causing a problem as there are literacy and numeracy problems which WDC is trying to address. There is an extensive small and medium enterprise base with 90% of the area's 9,500 companies having less than 10 staff. The knock on effect of Eden on local shops is recognized and changes to reduce planning constraints in certain areas is going through to aid regeneration. There are no plans to relax licensing laws on the setting up of lap dancing clubs etc though. WDC is also holding business breakfast meetings, setting up skills centers, using volunteers' expertise etc.

**HS2:** An alternative 'alternative' high speed rail route had been published a few days previously and this was considered by all a bad route as it would use the corridor through Wycombe and Princes Risborough to Heathrow. WDC and all Chilterns MPs have made strong representations to the Government about HS2. Chilterns Line upgrade will improve journey times anyway. Some local Conservative party groups have been voting to cancel contributions to their party and Baroness Warsi has been contacted. The Councillor said the pressure against the Government must be kept up. Various action groups along the route are now coming together.

BB said finally, if invited he will attend HVRA again and all have an open line of communication with him.