

HUGHENDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE HVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 JULY 2012 IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL

CONFIRMED

Action

1. PRESENT

Lin Smith (Chairman), Angus Idles (Vice Chairman), Al Bowyer (Treasurer)
Claire Atkinson, Heather Dempsey, Sara Hamilton, Rosemary Hewitt, Daphne Hicks, Janet Idle,
Dory Morgan, Jerry Morley, David Sharp, Geoff Wright and David Johnson (Community Shop)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Chris Bowyer, Alison Burnham, Anna Burniston, Karen Dynes Jo Holt, Andrea Hulley and James Perkins.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 MAY 2012 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

10g Dory explained that the HVRA was set up to fight and protect the Green Belt and AONB, and that it is helpful to her and fellow Ward Councillors when Residents Associations make representations. Comments are rarely made on residents' applications and if they are, then it is usually a developer and only if the proposal is contentious or against Policy.

She believed item 3) of the Constitution enables the Planning Sub-Committee to make comments/representations. The Residents Associations of Naphill, Gt Kingshill and Widmer End all make comments but the HVRA stands alone in having representation in the community via its Road Reps who also sit on this Committee. It would be wrong and ill-advised if this procedure was stopped. The recent Rural Affordable Housing saga is an example of why we need to be vigilant and keep the Green Belt and AONB safe. In most cases Planning Officers have delegated powers but if there are letters of objection from the Residents Associations and the Parish Council then Ward Councillors become aware of concerns and can request that the application is "called in" to the Planning Committee so that a wider discussion can take place. It also helps when there is an Appeal, Formal Hearing or Public Inquiry because you have the right to speak.

The 2004 Parish Plan and Hughenden Parish Council's 2010 Housing Needs Survey clearly demonstrated that a huge majority of residents wanted the Green Belt and AONB protected from inappropriate development. After further discussion it was agreed that the HVRA Planning Sub-Committee continues to make representations.

RH

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

There are available funds of £5,970. So far received - advertising revenue of £3,089 and subs £558.

At last night's Village Hall meeting it was recommended to Treasurers of Clubs/Societies/Associations that there should be regular formal audits of accounts with reconciliations each month. Lin added that the Clerk of Hughenden Parish Council (HPC) now reports to the Chairman and Chairman of the Finance Committee each month, going through the bank statements with detailed explanations, and she is happy to look at the HVRA accounts in a similar way.

LS & AB

The Treasurer reported:

CONTINUATION OF BANK MANDATE WITH HSBC BEACONSFIELD

The following were agreed:

- The name Hughenden Valley Residents Association (HVRA) remains the name of the Association.
- HVRA requires to continue with HSBC Beaconsfield as its bank.
- The authorised signatories will be the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Vice-Chairman.
- The Society has a separate identity from its members and no individual has the right to be paid or benefit from any earned interest.

6. EVENTS

6a HVRA AGM (Review)

The AGM was well attended and everyone enjoyed the guest speaker, Steve Cohen of the BFP. Although a great success, there was criticism that some people at the back of the hall could not hear and as this problem has occurred at other events recently, e.g. HAGA and Senior Citizens Party, it was agreed that Geoff Wright's contact, Nick Hutton, should get in touch with Bev Beveridge and Derek Ramsom with a view to upgrading the sound system and to try and improve the acoustics in the Small Hall. Rosemary was thanked for providing a wide variety of cheeses for the event.

GW

6b Senior Citizens' Event (Review)

Ninety-four attended, many more than expected. The hall looked patriotic with union jack bunting strung across the stage and tables decorated with matching serviettes and plants to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The buffet was plentiful but quickly consumed. The entertainer, Sue Coombs, sang beautifully and the small team of helpers worked very hard throughout the day to make the event a great success.

6c Jubilee Picnic (Review)

Another very successful event with approximately 250 turning up for a relaxing afternoon in the warm sunshine. Many brought games to play and the music over the sound system was most enjoyable. The cream teas from the Community shop were lovely and the exhibition of memorabilia in the Small Hall was excellent and greatly impressed Commander Heffron from RAF Strike Command who had paid a special visit as he had seen the event advertised.

Bryants Bottom's Jubilee celebrations were also very successful. Their table-top sale, plant stand and tombola raised £700 and with £200 costs their profit of £500 was split equally between the Bryants Bottom Trust and Scanappeal. The Gate public house continued the festivities during the evening.

6d Village Day 2012

AI reported back from last night's Village Hall Committee that everything is organised, including a car boot sale for up to 30 cars. There will be a large marquee for the Barn Dance in the evening when everyone is welcome, and good weather is prayed for.

It was queried why Village Day has not been advertised around the village or on the HVRA website but we were assured that every household will shortly receive a leaflet about Village Day and a huge banner advertising it will go up by the Village Hall next Sunday.

Please pass all tombola items and raffle money to Claire Atkinson.

All Road
Reps
LS,AB,
SH, RH
& DM

Bucks Fizz Stall – A Working Party will meet at Lin's on Monday, 9th July at 7.30 pm to finalise the arrangements. A help-list was circulated and tables, chairs & umbrellas were requested.

6e Potter Quiz – Saturday 13 October 2012

AI has prepared a briefing note for the same team of helpers as last year.

AB

6f Climbing Wall

This event has been organised for Saturday, 15 September 2012 but AI has not yet received confirmation that the car park is free. As the climbing wall is suitable for 8+ year olds it was suggested that we also have a Bouncy Castle for the younger children (the extra cost is unknown). Committee members to give it some thought and report back at the September meeting.

All Cttee
members

7. COMMUNICATIONS

7a Hughenden News

It was decided to wait and go to print after Village Day so that photos of the event and the Senior Citizens Party can be included plus extracts from "thank you" letters etc. Heather to submit a report and photos of the Jubilee celebrations in Bryants Bottom. Janet would also welcome programmes of future events.

AI,
RH
HD

	It was agreed to go ahead with Janet's proposal to put Hughenden News forward for a Village News Magazine Competition.	Jl
7b	Website Nothing to report but please forward items of interest to Derek for inclusion on the website.	All Road Reps
7c	Correspondence	
7c1	Bucks County Council (BCC) - A disappointing response to Jerry's concerns that after inspection by a technician there were no Category 1 defects/potholes on Coombe Lane, but if there were they would be repaired within 24 hours.	
7c2	Angus had contacted Cllr Pushman and Sy Khan of BCC and a site meeting with Rob Sumner was held to discuss his concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A whole section of Coombe Lane needs new cats eyes but the road is due for re-surfacing.• A gully at the bottom of Cryers Hill is blocked and ponding also occurs in a depression in the road surface of the round-about.• Valley Road – from Hitchenden Farm to the entrance to the Manor – there are 5 to 10 metres of defective cats eyes but the centre-line of cats eyes is due for another survey shortly.	
	Angus to email Dory with the details so that she can speak with Ian McGowan at BCC.	AI & DM
7c3	Request from Angus - Would HVRA be in favour of writing to the Queen congratulating her on her Diamond Anniversary and praising the Jubilee Pageant and celebrations? The Committee agreed and Janet will write to the Queen.	Jl
7c4	Request from the National Trust (NT) that visitors forward them digital photos of their experience at the Manor so that all the photos can be displayed on a 10m x 10m display panel.	
7c5	As concern was expressed that the turn-left directional sign painted on the road is so worn away Dory will contact Peter Hardy at BCC to seek improvement and ask if HPC could also send a letter.	DM LS
8.	REPORTS	
8a	ROAD REPRESENTATIVES	
8a1	Now that the Bryants Bottom Trust owns the land they are looking, with the help of the NT and John Moorby, at how to look after it and Dory recommended the retention of Article 4 and sub-division of the field with fencing for live stock but planning permission would be required to erect the fencing. Village Green status is also being explored.	SH
8a2	North side of Cryers Hill Road – The verges and trees are so overgrown that the pavement is almost impassable for pedestrians. Highways on Call have been notified.	
8a3	It was queried why one of the fields at the bottom of Cryers Hill on the left had not been cut and who was responsible? It was thought to be weather-related, but Property Spy is the agent for the owners of the land nearest the road and Rodney Griffiths owns the other field which the Kents farm.	DH
8a4	Complaints received about a loud noisy motorbike that races through the village at night – it was recommended contacting either PC Lee Turnham, with the registration number if possible, or Wycombe's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.	DH
8a5	Highways on Call have been notified that the pavement along Valley Road, from Hitchenden Farm to The town boundary is so overgrown with weeds and stinging nettles that it has narrowed to 15" in places. A technician is to investigate.	
8a6	Concern expressed that young adolescents were coming to the Rec and staying out until 5.30am and whether the young girls were screaming out in distress or in fun. Their camp is very noisy. Bev Beveridge to be asked to check whether the padlock on the entrance gate to the car park is secure. Lin will report the matter to the NAG meeting on 12 July and please ring the police if there is another occurrence.	LS & Jl

8b PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

RH

8b1 The Public Inquiry held at Wycombe District Council (WDC) on 22 May has been adjourned until 5 September because of controversy over the Proofs of Evidence, and that one of the Appellants had purchased land in Flackwell Heath which co-incidentally appears in the Baker Report on Gypsy & Traveller Sites in Bucks as a "gypsy site of significance". The Appellants' Barrister also wishes to question Commander Heffron of RAF Strike Command over issues of national security.

8b2 The Judicial Review into the Hemley Hill Travellers' Appeal that was held in the High Court was rejected on 8th May. The lawyers for the Appellant have informed WDC that they submitted Notice to Appeal on 6 June, 2 days after the 28 day deadline, but it is the discretion of the Civil Appeals Office to decide whether to accept the appeal, even though it is out of time. If the Court of Appeal refuses permission then that would leave no further avenues to pursue this matter in England but the Appellant can take the matter to the European Court of Human Rights.

8b3 The Appeal against WDC's refusal to grant planning permission for boundary fencing at Hopkins Yard has been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

8b4 The application for an indoor gym and outdoor fastlane pool at the Magnolia Sports & Social Club is still pending a decision.

8c PARISH COUNCIL – Items to be discussed under AOB

8d HS2

Five separate Judicial Reviews have been mounted against HS2 which will be heard in Court in the Autumn. HS2 Action Alliance want to have 100,000 people sign up to support them but the government e-petition against HS2 expires on 4 August 2012 with approx 26,000 names. Details to go on the HVRA website.

RH

8e VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

At last night's meeting the following items were discussed:

The car park & white lines, patio upgrade costing £9,000 to commence the third week in July, terms of hiring the halls, looking at replacing the chairs with comfortable ones, looking at expenditure over the next three years, including resurfacing the car park. The swings in the playground have been condemned and will be replaced in due course.

8f COMMUNITY SHOP

It is more profitable now but disappointed to be losing Louise Jones' mother. More volunteers are needed and it is an excellent opportunity for young people to help and add it to their CV. Police have returned the recently stolen items. Successful use of local suppliers, hence the slogan *Local food for local people* and home deliveries are appreciated. David Johnson asked: *How can the shop help the village?* and *How can it improve?* Some suggested staying open beyond 3 pm on Saturdays and improving the out-of-date website which has a link on the HVRA website.

DJ

8g ROAD SAFETY – New proposals for the pedestrian crossing - to be deferred until the next meeting.

8h NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP – The next meeting is on 12 July.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As the June meeting was cancelled the Chairman had emailed all Road Reps seeking their views on the following issues:

9a Dog Bins

The favoured position was at the entrance to the field opposite The Harrow and next was at the allotments but it was agreed that Daphne should ask allotment holders for their views. To be reviewed at the next meeting.

DH

9b Jubilee Tree

The majority of email responses favoured the triangle of land at the bottom of Cryers Hill near the Surgery but Janet was concerned that there were electricity cables in the vicinity and Angus suggested Hughenden Park. Hughenden School are keen to assist with the planting and the children have decorated commemorative stones. 15 September was suggested. LS

Bryants Bottom residents will be planting their Jubilee tree at 8pm tomorrow evening and the Towersey Morris Men will provide some entertainment.

9c Beechstock Music Festival – 27, 28 & 29 July 2012

Three email responses were in favour and one against supporting Widmer End Residents Association’s (WERA) objection and it was agreed that the Planning Sub-Committee write to object that the site at Four Ashes is an inappropriate site, has poor access and because the roads in the vicinity are narrow traffic issues will occur. RH

As Ward Councillor, Dory had already written to the Licensing Officer at WDC with her objections and will represent the WERA at the Licensing Panel which meets close to the date of the Festival.

9d Parish Crisis Planning – Local Area Forum

Hughenden Parish Council (HPC) has been asked by WDC to get some form of Parish Crisis Planning in place with the ability to identify, at short notice, vulnerable people and healthcare professionals in the community in the event of an emergency. After a lengthy discussion, it was felt that Road Reps are already able to identify vulnerable people but were reluctant to put forward the names of healthcare professionals and other “useful people” without first approaching them. We agreed, in principle, with an emergency cascade-down plan but felt our community spirit had, in the past, enabled us to cope when small disasters had occurred e.g. when snowed in. LS

No decision was made as to whether we invite Karen Thompson (via the Local Area Forum) to speak to us about vulnerable people in our community.

This initiative has arisen from the Localism Bill and contingency planning is also being discussed by a Sub-Committee of NAG.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

