

# HUGHENDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE HVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2012 IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL

### CONFIRMED

#### 1. PRESENT

Lin Smith (Chairman), Angus Idle (Vice-Chairman), Clare Atkinson, Rosemary Hewitt, Janet Idle, Jerry Morley, Geoff Wright and Kevin Sumner (Community Shop).

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Al Bowyer, Alison Burnham, Anna Burniston, Heather Dempsey, Karen Dynes, Daphne Hicks, Jo Holt, Andrea Hulley, Helen Lodge, John Miller, James Perkins, David Sharp and Dory Morgan.

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

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

**7c2** Lin confirmed to Angus that the section of Valley Road from Hitchenden Farm to the Manor is on the Schedule for repair. Rosemary reported evidence of an accident having occurred opposite Hitchenden Farm with 30ft of extensive damage to the fence and hedge.

**7c3** Janet will write to the Queen after the Paralympic Games.

**7c5** James Perkins and Charlotte Watts, Clerk of Hughenden Parish Council (HPC) have been in touch with Bucks County Council (BCC) concerning the well-worn turn-left directional sign but BCC have responded stating that as it is only advisory it is not necessary to renew it. It was agreed that as both Jim Foy of the National Trust and HPC strongly support having the road markings Lin will ask him and the Clerk to write to BCC asking for the sign to be reinstated. It was agreed that Rosemary also writes to BCC on behalf of the HVRA with this request..

**9b** Lin has heard back from BCC that they have no objection to the Jubilee tree being planted on the triangle of grass by the Surgery. John Moorby is also in favour and it was agreed that Lin invites Mrs Sarah Leighton, the new Head Teacher of Hughenden School, to the planting ceremony on 15 September (to coincide with the Fun Day) and to ask if some of the children who decorated the commemorative stones could assist between 1 – 1.30pm. If Mrs Leighton is unable to attend then perhaps Deputy Head, Nick Andrews, may be able to come along instead.

#### 5. TREASURER'S REPORT

As at 3 July there was £3,054.83 in the Deposit Account and £2,936.89 in the Current Account, and with cash and cheques in hand of £381.21 the total overall funds amount to £6,372.93. Taking all payments into consideration there are available funds of £4,373.93. So far received – advertising revenue of £3,285 and subs £1,047. The Jubilee Magazine, being a special issue, was above the normal budget by £500 and reminder letters have been sent out to advertisers who have not yet paid.

#### 6. EVENTS

##### 6.a Village Day/Barn Dance Review

Although we were lucky with the weather during the day - cloudy, rain and some sunshine – Many people got drenched in the evening at the Barn Dance despite numerous gazebos being erected along the open sides of the marquee! HVRA wish to congratulate Roger Hawes on a very successful event, with very little support, and making a profit of £1,135. Bearing in mind the weather, the turn-out was good and although there was lots to see and do it was agreed to make a note for the future that there

should be events for the over 10s and teenagers as in previous years because we need to engage our teenagers since we no longer have scouts and guides groups. Also, the banner advertising our Village Day needs to go up much earlier as other villages hold similar events at that time.

As it was noted that Roger's team of helpers was very small it was agreed that extra effort should be made via Hughenden News and the website well ahead of the bi-annual event to encourage more volunteers to come forward, and Jane Birkenhead, a volunteer, was praised for making a big impact for collecting over £1,400 by organising the sale of raffle tickets.

**6.b Climbing Wall/Bouncy Castle/Bingo**

Al Bowyer has put up numerous posters around the village. Lin agreed to contact Roger Dodds at Great Kingshill School as well as Audra Byerley at Pipers Corner School about the event and Kevin Sumner will inform his wife who works at Pipers too. We need to encourage everyone to support the Bingo Evening.

**6.c Potter Quiz**

Everything is going well and the questions will be sent to Daphne for collation.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

**7.a Hughenden News**

Janet and Angus were thanked for producing the Jubilee issue which was excellent and its content was praised although Janet apologised that part of Rosemary's Planning Sub-Committee Report had mysteriously disappeared. She explained that the high cost was because there was so much to include and the issue was a "one-off". As Kevin's photo of shop volunteers did not make the magazine he agreed to write an article attaching photos for the next issue.

**7.b Website – No up-date available.**

**7.c Correspondence – None**

**8. REPORTS**

**8a ROAD REPRESENTATIVES**

**8a1** As concern had been expressed that some hedges and shrubs fronting properties had become very overgrown and scruffy how to tackle the problem was discussed. It is the property owner's responsibility to keep them trimmed back so that they do not encroach the pavement and present a safety issue for children and pedestrians or blind spots for motorists etc

A neighbour has the right to ask the owner to cut back the offending hedge/shrub/tree if it is overhanging his property or too tall, but if the owner does not comply then the neighbour is allowed to cut back the branches near his property as long as he give the branches back to the owner. It is the responsibility of BCC to ensure that the highways are clear although, due to the economic cutbacks, they are cutting twice a year and not three times.

Lin would like Road Reps to email her identifying the road, footpath or name and address of a property where there is a problem so that she can forward the details to the Parish Clerk.

**8a2** Complaints that cars for sale have been parked on the grass verge near the Pumping Station and the details to be passed on to PC Lee Turnham.

**8a3** Complaint that shooting, for perhaps rabbits or pigeons, on the Cryers Hill field has commenced from 6.30am on Saturday mornings, and it was queried whether this is reasonable if it is on a regular basis. Rosemary will make enquiries.

**8a4** Lin to ask the Parish Clerk not to have the Dog Bin installed by the gate to the allotments as Whitfield Road residents are not agreeable as they would prefer it to be sited at the other end of the track that serves several footpaths. Also to inquire whether the contractor would be prepared to walk there to make their collection and if this is not possible she will report back.

**8a5** Complaint that dog fouling is taking place on the footpath adjacent to The Harrow Pub with a request that a Dog Bin be installed by the entrance to the field with "educational" signage on it that might help to improve the situation. As this is a disgusting practice and a serious health hazard it was agreed that Lin ask one of the doctors at the Surgery to write an article for the next issue of the magazine detailing the health issues.

**8a6** Complaint about the appalling state inside and surrounding the telephone box outside the former shop. As it is so overgrown with brambles and weeds it was queried who is responsible for tidying it up? Can it be moved nearer the Community Shop? Rosemary to make enquiries and report back.

**8b PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

**8b1** The application for the Beechstock Music Festival to be held at Four Ashes was withdrawn by the applicant.

**8b2** The Walters Ash Travellers' Public Inquiry that was adjourned on 22 May will resume at 10am tomorrow, 5 September at WDC. One of the Appellants had recently submitted a planning application for Change of Use of the land at The Nursery, 128 Heath End Road, Flackwell Heath to a Gypsy/Traveller Site that was refused permission last week by WDC.

**8b3** WDC have refused permission for the Outdoor Fastlane Pool and Indoor Gym at the Magnolia Sports & Social Club

**8c PARISH COUNCIL** – Nothing to report.

**8d HS2**

HS2 Action Alliance is working hard to make their case and rally support at the forthcoming Party Political Conferences. As Patrick McLoughlin MP replaces Justine Greening as the new Secretary of State for Transport in a Cabinet reshuffle it was agreed that we should all write to him with our opposition to HS2 as well as to our local MP, David Lidington.

**8e VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE** – Nothing to report.

**8f COMMUNITY SHOP**

Kevin Sumner reported that they had had a quite summer but a very good Village Day with lots of cream teas being sold although marred by some items being stolen. They are desperately short of volunteers, especially so during September when many retired helpers take their holidays. He stressed that if we want to keep the shop then we need volunteers. It was agreed that he write an article for the HVRA website for submission to Derek Armshaw and then something for the magazine.

**8g NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP** – Nothing to report.

**8h ROAD SAFETY** - Nothing to report although Angus queried why there was a "Slow" sign at the junction at the top of Coombe Lane and Rosemary drew attention to the new sign that has been installed outside the former village shop indicating that Valley Road is "*Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles*".

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**9a** Janet raised the issue of lamp stands being removed by BCC, even on the roads where accidents have happened, at a cost of £480,000, a sum which could pay for street lighting for 10 years, and asked if we are going to lose our lamp stands? She mentioned the Government's proposal to reduce building regulations and referred to a recent photograph in the Daily Mail of a scruffy Green Belt field in the High Wycombe area which made the point that there was unkempt land available for building on. Lin assured her that WDC has said that it has sufficient brown field sites to cover its needs for the next five years as there were no longer any quotas. Rosemary added that the Government's suggested proposals state that if Green Belt land is built on then it must be replaced with land newly reclassified as GB.

**9b** Some equipment belonging to the Beavers and Cubs that was used on the field on Jubilee Day was not returned. The Village Hall Committee has been approached to give a donation to cover half the value of £50 for the stolen items and Lin asked whether HVRA would be willing to donate the other half. It was proposed by Lin, seconded by Janet and agreed unanimously that we should donate £25.

**9c** Angus asked if we should try to recruit a Road Rep for the top of Coombe Lane as the sign for Naphill lies further up the road. Rosemary will contact Don Baker to see whether or not they are Naphill residents.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, 2 October 2012.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....