

Hughenden Valley Residents Association

Minutes of the HVRA Executive Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 1st October 2013 at Hughenden Valley Village Hall.

CONFIRMED

The meeting started at 7.30 pm

Action

1 PRESENT:

Tony Konieczny (Chairman), Angus Idle (vice-Chairman), Al Bowyer (Treasurer), Andrea Hulley, Janet Idle, Jill Thompson, Claire Atkinson, Dory Morgan, David Johnson, Rosemary Hewitt, Christine Bowyer, Jerry Morley. Geoff Pegg (visitor for Neighbourhood watch).

2 APOLOGIES:

James Perkins (Secretary), Daphne Hicks.

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

These were adopted as a correct and true record of the September meeting and signed by the Chairman

4 MATTERS ARISING:

Attendance

Jill Thompson said she was not present at the last meeting and her apology was not recorded.

JP

Opposite Harrow Pub

The logs have not been removed yet, but Steve Kirkpatrick of the National Trust has been contacted.

DH

RH

Road drain maintenance works at Trees Road and Trees Avenue

These have not been done yet, although the work is planned. Rosemary has tried to contact James Tunnard, BCC Local Area Technician

Cryers Hill Road closure

Angus reported an unsatisfactory reply from Transport for Buckinghamshire. It was agreed to pursue the matter further with letters to Transport for Buckinghamshire and Bucks County Council.

TK AI

AB

Bank charges

No change as yet

Village Christmas Bazaar

The date reconfirmed as Saturday November 23. See Agenda, events.

Vegetation overhanging the highways

It was agreed not to continue with the idea of getting volunteers to help Michael Harris to clear his overgrowth, but to request that Bucks Highways deal with the problems throughout the village. Janet will give Michael Harris an explanatory courtesy call.

TK JI

JI

Best kept village competition

It was agreed to confine this to Hughenden Valley Village. It was suggested that Janet would put an article in the forthcoming Hughenden News.

Proposed Litter Pick

This was deemed unnecessary as Kieran does this regularly

5 TREASURERS REPORT:

As at 30 September 2013

See attached Treasurers report

6 EVENTS:

The following events are confirmed and volunteers to assist in planning or helping on the day are very much appreciated:

12 October 2013 - Potter Quiz

There will be a meeting tomorrow evening to ensure that all the question setters are completely happy with preparations for the Quiz. Unfortunately Daphne Hicks and Dory Morgan will not be able to attend. So far at least 89 contestants are booked in, in 12 teams.

A list was compiled of volunteers to help at 2pm. Christine Bowyer will shop for the interval buffet

AB AI JI

CB

23 November 2013 - Christmas Bazaar

HVRA committee members will be asked to assist with the tombola. Volunteers required to help Sara Hamilton to set up and run tombola

SH

21 December 2013 - Village Hall Christmas Dance.

Organised by Village Hall Committee. This is not being advertised, as it is already fully booked. There will be live music by a local rock band.

19 July 2014 - Village Day

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the village hall, an important milestone in the village's history. It will be organised by the Village Hall Committee by Al Bowyer and Victoria Bellamy who will welcome fresh ideas.

AB

7 COMMUNICATIONS:

Hughenden News

The Deadline for the next issue was corrected back to 20 October. Some copy was already in hand. The Treasurer confirmed that overall cost of the Hughenden News was regularly in the region of £300 for each edition. The Shop announced that in future it would simply be known as The Village Shop and an advertorial was being prepared for the Hughenden News. Janet requested that when the Treasurer makes his monthly report the cost of the Hughenden News and the advertising revenue should be itemised separately, as a useful guideline. Twenty-four editions have been produced by Janet and Angus

AB

DA

Website

It was agreed to put in a link to Neighbourhood Watch

Correspondence

The High Wycombe Society and the Chiltern Society's journals often have interesting invitations for us to accept. (We are affiliated to both)

The Chairman said he had received, through contact by a Solicitor, a gift of £250 from the Will of an elderly resident for the Village Hall, as she had enjoyed so many village functions.

8 Succession planning

The Future of the Hughenden News

The Chairman said that since Janet and Angus have said that they intend to hand over the production of the Hughenden News after the Village Day edition and that plans need to be made to ensure volunteers are found to take it over and to ensure a smooth transition. There may be changes. Someone said that its high standard should be maintained. New blood may have fresh ideas. The Chairman requested overlap to help in the production of the August 2014 edition

All

The Future of the Planning Sub-Committee

In a similar vein the Chairman reminded the committee that volunteers will be needed who have a passion for planning matters. The time may come when the committee will have to organise the continuation of the sub-committee. It was suggested that we start an apprentice scheme for new planning officers to take over from the present experts. Dory and Rosemary's experience has been gained over many years and is difficult to learn overnight. They both agreed that you needed a passion in planning. For them it initially arose from planning issues that affected them and their neighbours which spurred them on to make enquiries and conduct research into planning policies both locally and at national level.

Officers

Al Bowyer reminded the Committee that he had suggested in the past that Officers should write a resumé of their role to hand over to those who follow in their footsteps.

Officers

9 ROAD SAFETY REPORTS:

Road crossing Lollipop patrol

It was reported that so far there is only a lollipop lady for Valley Road in the mornings for Hughenden Primary School. Rosemary said there was a need for amber flashing school crossing lights, as at Widmer End, and she would press for that.

RH

10 ROAD REP REPORTS

Car for Sale

Dory said that the problem of the car for sale outside the Surgery should be reported to Bucks Highways. Jerry Morley said it had been removed, but that we should "Keep watching"

All

Location, Location, Location

Broadcast last Thursday with good scenes of the village and around the shop, which looked very attractive. Andrea liked the impression the programme gave of Hughenden Valley. All agreed.

Mr Harris' Garden

Jerry had already spoken to him regarding trees overhanging the road and pavement. Janet will talk to him as the problem is beyond the remit of the HVRA on Health and Safety grounds

Jl

Dog-poo

Jerry reported that plastic bags containing dog-poo have been found dumped in hedges in Wedgewood Drive. Rosemary reported similar instances. The committee was reminded that the Parish Council had taken on full responsibility for dealing with dog-poo.

King George's Field Conservation

Janet reported Mike Blaker's letter encouraging dog-walkers and others who enjoy using the field should be encouraged to help the remaining few conservation workers. An article for the Hughenden News was suggested; thought unlikely to have any result, but worth a try.

Jl

A new Parish Councillor for Hughenden Valley is required with the resignation of Jim Foy

The Village Hall Committee meets next Monday

11 PLANNING REPORTS

Uplands Hotel and Conference Centre

Letters of objection to the application to demolish Uplands, by Rosemary (for the HVRA) and Janet and others were congratulated. Others who wrote objections were Hughenden Parish Council, Residents Associations of Widmer End, Great Kingshill, Naphill and Walter's Ash, the High Wycombe, Victorian and Chiltern Societies, and the Chilterns Conservation Board.

Planning applications in progress

The illegal travellers site at Hemley Hill should be coming to an end some time in the future.

The Steel fabrication site at Hunts Hill Lane will be moving out shortly. Dory informed us that following refusal of their planning application, Wrightways at Hunts Hill Farm will be moving their steel fabrication plant out of the barn to new premises on another site that is more suitable to class B2 Business activities as the current peaceful rural location is inappropriate.

The Travellers Sites at Walters Ash and Flackwell Heath have not been determined yet, and a decision is awaited.

Roadworks

A comparison between the condition of Cryers Hill Road and Coombe Lane was made suggesting that we continue to get improvements to the latter. Jerry made a plea for automatic signs to be placed at the top and bottom of Coombe Lane, which would be activated, in bad weather to close the road to traffic. He reminded that although we get very many crashes on this hill in snow and ice, because no one has been killed they are regarded as 'non-events' allowing the Highways to say Coombe Lane is completely safe and needs no improvement.

TK, AI, RH,
JM

12 PARISH COUNCIL

No report available

13 VILLAGE SHOP

David Johnson (Shop representative) and Jill Thompson reported that the Shop was finding it very difficult to get sufficient volunteers to man the shop continuously. Another article was requested for The Hughenden News and fliers will be delivered at the same time. It was hoped that it might persuade some people who would really like to volunteer to come forward, especially teen-agers who can benefit from voluntary work experience. It was confirmed that it is intended to have a carol service outside the shop as the Christmas lights are switched on. Al Bowyer said that was the Village Hall's responsibility.

The Shop is planning an Apple Day when people can get the surplus apples crushed for juice. It was suggested that they link up with Hughenden Manor's Apple Day. The shop is also prepared to sell donated surplus allotment produce.

Road Reps

14 HS2

Over the summer the costs have escalated to £42billion with some commentators mentioning £50billion. Even the new Chairman of HS2 Ltd, Sir David Higgins, isn't sure it will come in on time and on budget.

15 Road Safety – No other report

16 Village Hall – No report available.

Christmas Lights

Dory said that Phillip had already checked the lights and the Village Hall Committee/Village Shop needed to liaise with him on the date for the Carol Service/Mince Pies event.

Shop

17 **NAG** – No report, other than more speed watches are planned

18 **Neighbourhood Watch**

Hughenden Valley Neighbourhood Watch Report

Andrea advised that the Neighbourhood Watch signage is out of date. The scheme is more effective if signage and posters are current as it shows the neighbours are an active group.

Talk by Mr Geoff Pegg on Neighbourhood Watch In the Wycombe Area

In ten minutes Visitor Geoff Peg reported on the small number of our village roads, which have Neighbourhood watch Co-ordinators compared with, for instance Great Kingshill. He said the scheme can show how we can become less at risk of Crime, and in particular Scams, which are the upcoming, sophisticated growth area. He stressed that Hughenden Valley with only 7 schemes and 10 co-ordinators needed a better coverage when compared to Great Kingshill who had 30 schemes and 60 co-ordinators. Although burglary, motor crime and anti-social behaviour were falling, cons and scams had risen dramatically, and we all needed to be extremely vigilant and not be taken in by anyone. Membership is free, as are all the NW stickers and signs. He explained the many benefits including reasonably priced heavy-duty alarmed padlocks for sheds and garages, and that Jewsons will offer security goods at trade prices with membership of NW. He had provided us with numerous leaflets and stickers etc advertising the NW scheme. Andrea said that our signage needs updating. Mr Pegg brought pamphlets and stickers for use by committee members. He was roundly thanked by the Chairman.

19 **AOB:**

Recycling Roadshow

Angus reported on the recent Recycling roadshow, mentioning the fact that Councils' recycling machinery cannot deal with shredded paper from sensitive documents, so that it has to go into Landfill. It was suggested, unofficially, that it is discretely hidden in Cornflakes boxes.

Jerry has the equally baffling problem that small biologically degradable cornstarch bags can be used to contain food waste for recycling but the large biologically degradable cornstarch bags cannot be placed in the recycling bin (as he has been doing for some time and which keeps his green bin nice and clean) as "the recycling centre will not accept them". If they accept the small one why not the larger one...!! Jerry is awaiting clarification from a member of the Waste Management.

Best Kept Village Competition

This was thought to be a good idea but required a Working Party to get it off the ground. An advert to go in the magazine and perhaps HAGA might be interested.

JI DH

Senior Citizens Event 2014

Rosemary asked if anyone had any ideas for the entertainment and David Johnson suggested *The Lamplighters*, a group of about 8 ladies who sing. Rosemary to liaise with him.

All

Magnolia Park Bus Stop

Angus reported that the bus stop that is outside Magnolia Park, which he first reported in 2007, is now completely enveloped among trees, saplings and bushes and cannot be seen from the road or footpath. When the street lighting was switched-off several years ago a BFP reporter tried to flag down a bus from that bus stop but it sailed past. It wasn't very visible then and is far less

AI RH

so now. Angus has already reported it again but will mention it to James Tunnard, BCC Local Area Technician, and so will Rosemary

The meeting closed at 9:30pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 5th November 2013 in the Small Hall at 7:30pm

Approved

Chairman

Secretary