

# Hughenden Valley Residents Association

## Minutes of the HVRA Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Hughenden Valley Village Hall CONFIRMED

The meeting started at 7:30pm.

Action

1 **PRESENT**

Tony Konieczny (Chairman), Angus Idle (Vice Chairman), Al Bowyer (Treasurer), Christine Bowyer, Linda Derrick (Hughenden Parish Councillor), Karen Dynes, Rosemary Hewitt, Daphne Hicks, Andrea Hulley, Janet Idle (taking the minutes), Jerry Morley, Sam Morrison (Resident), Brian Swain (Hughenden Parish Councillor), Jill Thompson, PC Lee Turnham (Thames Valley Police), Geoff Wright.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

James Perkins, Heather Dempsey, Anna Burniston, Helen Lodge, John Miller, Dory Morgan, David Sharp.

3 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

These were adopted as a correct and true record of the February meeting.

4 **MATTERS ARISING:**

Daphne Hicks asked about the parking of cars on Cryers Hill Road and the need for Bucks Highways to cut the hedge to improve the visibility (10b)

5 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer reported that, as at January 31st 2014 there was £2057.48 in the deposit account and £3091.62 in the current account and with cash and cheques in hand the total amounts to £5623.61. Of this amount advertising revenue received for 2013 so far was £3702.00. So far for 2014 £193 has been received. Subscriptions received for 2013/14 were £2485.00, and subscriptions being raised to £5 have helped.

AB

6a **THAMES WATER SEWAGE PROBLEMS.**

This item was taken first at the meeting as it was urgent, ongoing and two Parish Councillors were specially attending. Also attending, Sam Morrison, on behalf of his fellow sufferers of sewage erupting from drains around their properties. Eleven affected residents had met at the house of Elizabeth Carless to discuss the present situation and the future. The Surgery, Wright Buildbase and Boss Lane residents are also involved.

TK

Sam Morrison reported that many emails were circulating and residents had received little help from Thames Water, the Environment Agency and the Councils at Wycombe or Buckinghamshire. He was aware of other residents and the HVRA trying to help. He gave details of pump expenditures incurred by Valley Road residents and requested that the word 'flooding' should be replaced with 'storm damage'. He reported that Steve Smith had done an analysis of the sewers; David White had to pump continuously 24/7. Jerry Morley offered copies of the sewer system which affects all of Hughenden Valley.

The aim was to get Priority I. In the short term to get amelioration from Thames Water, to get them to commit to the long-term and compensate. The sewage leak at the bus stop was noted where school children wait for coaches.

Ways in which funds could be raised to help included a venue with free hire of the Village Hall for a fund-raising gig.

Village Hall

All agreed that, historically, there had been a sewage problem in the village before and that the infrastructure had not kept up with the 60s, 70s and 80/90s decades of building.

Rosemary explained that there would be a priority meeting with the Environment Agency, Thames Water and cross-agency personnel shortly.

TK

Note: much has happened since this committee meeting. See Hughenden News Councillors Brian Swain and Linda Derrick then left the meeting

- 6b **Non Agenda Additional item. VISIT OF PC LEE TURNHAM.**  
 Lee Turnham reported that he would be transferring to a new base, although still available here, in charge of Community Speed Watch and parking matters, especially near schools, and rolling it out to the whole Thames Valley Police area. He made sure, that when Meridian TV came here they would see a Community Speed Watch in action. He reported that his superior officer wants more of our local approach to spread to 72% of Bucks in two months (For example to Bourne End, Stokenchurch and High Wycombe).  
 Hughenden Parish had been very active with 1700 letters going out to speeding drivers (54% of Bucks total). All of Bucks is recorded on a pie-chart. The Parish Council has authorised a speed indicator device for Ward borrowing. Lee covered parking laws, most of which were in previous editions of the Hughenden News.  
 The chairman thanked PC Turnham, who then left
- 7 **EVENTS**
- 7a **AGM Arrangements**  
 AGM nomination papers would be included in the Hughenden News. No guest speaker has been arranged. Tony K to book the Village Hall. TK
- 7b **Senior Citizens 21<sup>st</sup> June**  
 Rosemary reported all was in hand.
- 7c **Village Day 19<sup>th</sup> July**  
 Al reported much was in hand. He and Vicki Bellamy keep in touch each week. The next meeting March 10<sup>th</sup>. Daphne verified Village Day would be good. AB
- 7d **Potter Quiz 18<sup>th</sup> October**  
 Nothing to report.
- 7e **Chistmas Dance 21st December**  
 Nothing to report
- 8 **COMMUNICATIONS:**
- 8a **Hughenden News**  
 As yet no-one has volunteered to be the new Editor or for the new production team after July.
- 8b **Website**  
 There will be a new logo for Village Day on the web site. DA
- 8c **Correspondence**  
 There have been several regular alerts from Thames Valley Police.
- 9 **REPORTS**
- 9a **Road Safety**  
 At the last NAG meeting Gloria LeFlaive from the Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association raised the motoring hazard of Valley Road/Coombe Lane junction, and Rosemary endorsed her concern.  
 The roundabout has a "Give way to the right protocol", but traffic approaching from Valley Road (N) cannot see traffic from their right, neither can traffic from Coombe Lane see traffic from their left. In addition, traffic from Valley Road (N) often does not observe the give way to the right. Hence there is a major collision hazard.  
 Several Boss Lane residents have also raised the fact that some drivers coming from Valley Road (S) overtake slow westbound traffic by going over the roundabout which is very impatient to say the least and dangerous to residents turning left out of Boss Lane.  
 PC Lee Turnham explained that possible solutions would be to replace the roundabout with traffic lights or make the junction into STOP rather than GIVE WAY. It was suggested that NWARA and HVRA write to HPC about this problem and they could then refer it to Transport for Buckinghamshire. This was not voted on.

9b

### **Road Representatives**

RH

Neighbourhood Watch: Stickers are available for 'No Cold Calling'

Litter: Kieren litter picks along the Valley Road. Litter is a crime with little chance of catching anyone but £400 fine plus £600 costs exist. Problem with Green Belt - No notices up! Local business could sponsor, but not said how.

Wycombe District Council and Chiltern District Council: A question of litter on grass and/or roads? Janet Idle said the Council litter pickers found hardly any litter on Coombe Lane verge this week.

9c

### **Planning Sub-Committee**

Rosemary attended the exhibition held at Naphill Village Hall on 27 February. She reported that WDC are responding to projected population growth over the next 15 years, which went up from 160,000 in 2001 to 170,000 in 2011. That is an increase of 10,000 over 10 years and WDC are seeking residents' views on their proposed options to build an estimated 10,000 homes, new employment sites and associated infrastructure and at the same time protecting and maintaining our high quality environment. This is an increase from the 400 homes currently built each year to between 500 – 700 homes a year.

WDC have said that If they do not produce a Local Plan the planning decisions will be taken out of their hands and they won't be able to manage growth to get the best for their communities.

Their dilemma is where to put so many homes since 71% of the District lies in the AONB and 48% in the Green Belt. Also, there is an associated problem of building adequate infrastructure to match the increase in housing numbers. Furthermore, there is no overarching strategy between County and the Districts regarding building new roads.

Rosemary said, "When you complete your consultation form please consider all the options carefully. There are many dilemmas eg: some land that is outside the GB and AONB is fine agricultural land and if a new village or small town is proposed, would it be a good idea to build on high quality farmland, or would it be a better idea to build on some Green Belt land that is of less agricultural quality? Should we resist building in the Green Belt and AONB that surrounds many of our villages in the North West Chilterns area? Perhaps we should now build more high rise flats in the town and estates on land that has been previously allocated for many years. There are lots of things to think about. Wherever the new homes are to be built, the infrastructure must be the vitally important priority consideration eg: our current sewage system has failed some of the residents in Hughenden Valley because it is old and cannot cope. Good road links, schools and surgeries etc. are fundamental before any development can be considered".

There will be another meeting tomorrow Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at Hughenden Primary School (7-9pm). Rosemary urged everyone possible to attend, as new Government directives have to be followed.

9d

### **Hughenden Parish Council**

James Perkins was on holiday

9e

### **HS2**

Nothing specific to report. Constant pros and cons appearing in the press.

9f

### **Village Hall Committee**

AI reported that the Hall had been deep cleaned again and there had also been some maintenance done. The Hall finances are good and the Halls are well booked/used. No more has been heard of the insurance claim.

JP

9g

### **Community Shop**

The shop committee is continuing to market The Shop. They are assessing the average spend. It is becoming a village hub. More volunteers are still needed, and youngsters are finding it a good feature of their CV's if they have volunteered. The Shop Committee has big plans for Village Day. A flier will go out with the Hughenden News.

9h **Neighbourhood Action Group**

SPEEDING is the top priority. Hughenden Valley has the top records for speedsters under the Community Speed Watch compared with other villages. Sessions for March have been organised. More volunteers are required to do one-hour stints with PC Lee Turnham.

LITTER is the second priority. The litter is appalling along Valley Road, from Cryers Hill to Hughenden Manor entrance. John Marchant has a supply of litter pickers and bags if we wanted to carry out a little pick.

DOG FOULING Rosemary highlighted the Country File programme that recently raised the issue of people who allow their dogs loose in fields and leave the mess there which affects cows that graze in pasture where dog mess is left. David Davies will produce an article for the Ward Newsletters about the increasing risk from dog mess in fields to the health and lives of cows (aborted or death). Jerry Morley pointed out that if an owner neglects to remove dog mess it can be reported to the Antisocial Behaviour Officer at WDC. The fines can be £400 with £600 costs. The number of Dog-poo bins were itemised and it is still hoped to place one at the far end of the allotment path, not the Whitfield Road End, as three residents adjoining it have serious health problems.

10 **Any Other Business**

Janet Idle recommended that all should look at the WDC Planning web-site about the application to build a solar farm at Bledlow Ridge consisting of 49,000 solar panels and 39 pylons.

Meeting finished at 9.50pm.

11 **Date of Next Meeting:** Next meeting Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 at 7:30pm

**Chairman**.....

**Secretary**.....

**Date**.....