

# Hughenden Valley Residents Association

## Unconfirmed Minutes of the HVRA Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013 at Hughenden Valley Village Hall.

The meeting started at 8:00pm

1 **PRESENT:**

Angus Idle (Vice Chairman), James Perkins (Secretary), Clare Atkinson (Stand-in Treasurer)  
Total number of additional attendees 22.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

A & C Bowyer, R & J Collins, J & R Slocombe, C & D Griffin, G Atkinson, L Smith.

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

The minutes of the 2012 AGM were circulated. Approval was proposed by Angus Idle and seconded by James Perkins and passed unanimously.

4 **MATTERS ARISING:**

None

5 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

In the absence of a Chairman, Angus Idle (Vice Chairman) gave the chairman's report for 2012 and thanked Lin Smith for her contribution as Chairman this year before her unfortunate resignation and also to Richard Pushman who had retired as County Councillor for his support over many years. There were no major battles to fight this year. Details of the involvement and achievements of HVRA can be found in the attached report.

6 **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

We had a deficit of £1378 in the year so the Balance Sheet was reduced to £4331.06. This was more an unfortunate timing issue on income with advertising receipts of £1,442 being received later than usual after year end. Likewise in expenditure where 2 years insurance premiums fell were paid this year. Newsletter production costs were up due to a bumper Jubilee issue and unusual expenditure on a childrens' climbing wall and bouncy castle, and contributions to Christmas Tree lights and the school lollipop group increased the deficit. However, in general, expenses are rising and our historical fighting fund of £5,000 is falling. In order to stop the fall further vigilance in collecting subscriptions has been stepped up, a person is being sought to boost advertising in the Newsletter and new fund raising events are being considered. Finally a review of the alternative ways to boost subscription income was considered.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Angus Idle put a resolution to the members proposing that the subscription fees be standardised so that all households regardless of age would pay £5. The resolution was unanimously approved and would be implemented for the 2013/14 membership year.

7 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Officers for 2013/2014 were unanimously approved as follows:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Second</b>
Chairman	Tony Konieczny	James Perkins	Al Bowyer
Vice Chairman	Angus Idle	James Perkins	Rosemary Hewitt
Treasurer	Al Bowyer	Rosemary Hewitt	James Perkins
Secretary	James Perkins	Angus Idle	Edna Parker

10 **GUEST SPEAKER**

Steve Kirkpatrick from the National Trust gave an entertaining and enthusiastic presentation about Chalk Streams in general and then focused on the history and plans for the Hughenden Stream which runs through Hughenden Manor grounds before flowing into the River Wye in High Wycombe.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.15pm.

**Chairman**.....

**Secretary**.....

**Date**.....

## HVRA Chairman's Report May 2013

I'm giving the Chairman's speech at this year's AGM due to the unfortunate resignation earlier this year of our Chairperson Lin Smith. I would like to thank Lin very much for hanging in with us during the difficult times at the Parish Council.

This year we have had no major battles to fight within HVRA although we did have to endure the legal proceedings at the Parish Council resulting in the unfortunate resignation of our Chairperson Lin Smith.

County Councillor Richard Pushman has retired. Thanks for all the help and support over the years. We have new boundaries, Hughenden is now in the Ridgeway East Division and David Carroll is our new Bucks CC councillor. The fight continued against HS2. The Judicial Reviews found in favour of the HS2 project, only the review on the financial compensation method was found in favour of the objectors. Recent criticism of the project by the National Audit Office has raised further speculation about the project. We are not contributing any further funds at this stage but are keeping members informed of progress through the web site.

A successful Jubilee event was held in Hughenden Valley on the only sunny day of July. There were village picnics and Jubilee Trees were planted in Bryants Bottom and at Cryers Hill Roundabout. A letter was received from the Queen in answer to our letter of congratulations.

A children's climbing wall and bouncy castle primarily funded by the Potter Quiz, was exceedingly well attended again this year. The 2013 Potter Quiz will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Hope to see you there.

HVRA has agreed to contribute annually towards the cost of a lollipop person although it has been difficult to find a person to take the job full time. Only 30 minutes required in the morning and evening.

Thanks to those who help with Community speedwatch and operating the VAS speed indicator, which has been reinstated following repair of the equipment.

We have improved our involvement with NAG. We now have 6 HVRA road reps who will take part at NAG meetings on a rota system. New members doing much to help on this.

Hughenden News was successfully published three times this year with a bumper Jubilee edition. Many thanks once again to Janet and Angus.

Review was carried out of the "Fighting Fund" which is kept in reserve for major issues which would affect the Green Belt and AONB. Although it has reduced slightly over recent years it was felt that by ensuring the collection of membership fees and making the fee £5 for everybody, we should be able to increase income to ensure maintenance of the fund at current levels.

Not sure what issues might arise with the implementation of the National Planning Policy. Wycombe District Council does not yet have an approved plan for housing or travellers sites and is not therefore in compliance and might have to review Green Belt land to see if it is needed for housing development. This will require a careful watch.

Bryants Bottom Village Green application was issued in February, objectors had until 26<sup>th</sup> April. There have been 17 objections which have to be responded to by 6<sup>th</sup> June. It is highly likely the application will go to a public enquiry early next year.

Not sure how the Country Supplies application for additional vehicle operator licences and the continued parking issues in Warrendene Road will be affected by the acquisition of the Shana Riding School.

The web site now features reports from other Hughenden organisations such as Valley Wives and HAGA as does the Hughenden News.

Last winter was not too bad so we didn't need to provide a great deal of salt.

We provided funds to replace broken LED bulbs on the Christmas Tree. Litter continues to be a problem. HVRA organised one litter pic last year.

Our planning Committee under the watchful gaze of Rosemary keeps the HVRA updated on planning applications being made, and as always will flag up any contentious issues that are coming our way. Most recently we have the proposal from Redrow Homes for the development of the Uplands Training Centre.

Last weekend we held our Senior Citizens party, and the feedback we have received, has been full of praise for a very enjoyable evening, of wonderful food, entertainment and company. We would like to extend our best wishes to Carole Palmer who unfortunately had a serious accident in the car park after so diligently helping with the event. Many thanks to Rosemary and all her helpers.

Your road reps deserve a mention here. We all see them when they collect our subs, but they do much more than that, helping with events and delivering the Hughenden News and flyers. We now have some good new road reps, which is a great asset, who complement those of long standing. They are all volunteers, and they all volunteer for extra duties.

Thank you.

Angus Idle (Acting Chairman)

## Treasurer's Report on Accounts for the year to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

- Apologies from Al Bowyer that he cannot be here in person.
- Thanks to Nigel Lanchbury who has carried out the examination of the relevant papers and confirmed the accounts to be correct.
- Headline news – look at Balance Sheet – deficit of £1378 in the year so the Balance Sheet (effectively the money held by the Association at the year end) is reduced to £4331.06.
- Now look at the income and expenditure (on reverse of sheet) – there are reasons for the deficit on both sides.
- Income examples
  - Receipts for newsletter adverts for the following year down by £331 – just a matter of timing – by the end of April committee meeting £1442 had been received.
  - More significantly Potter Cup income was down because less people attended than expected.
- Expenditure examples
  - Expenditure items have had a much bigger effect on the deficit than income items.
  - The largest items were:

Insurance – two year's premiums paid during the current year – again a matter of timing

Newsletter production costs were up due to the bumper Jubilee issue

Junior Citizens event – climbing wall & bouncy castle – a new expenditure item

Village Day – only biennial

Contribution to Christmas Tree lights

Contribution to the School Lollipop Group

- There were some savings in expenditure on previous year – most notably there was no contribution this year to HS2 actions but generally almost all expenses were up.
- Overall, over a number of years - along with every budget in the country, be it household or in public finance - there has been pressure on the balance the Association holds.
- Historically a 'Fighting Fund' of about £5,000 has been maintained to aid communication in support of local (and sometimes national) campaigns on planning issues; invasion of the Green Belt / AONB; unforeseen business intrusion; road safety etc.
- Not enough money for a major legal battle, but enough to seek legal opinion if necessary
- Now our balance is regularly nearer to £4,000 than £5,000 and threatens to fall further.
- The Committee has had some detailed and constructive debate on how this should be tackled. We have examined how to boost income streams and also how to reduce costs.
- Main threads are:
  - Urge Road Reps to maximise revenue by being vigilant in collecting subscriptions and supporting those that have difficulty.
  - Find a new person to have sole responsibility for advertising in the newsletter – this is in hand.
  - To only run the Junior Citizens event when funds permit.

- Consider new fund-raising events
- To ensure the – absolutely excellent – Newsletter becomes self-financing by keeping costs in line with revenue
- **AND FINALLY!** – a measured increase in the subscription fees – a number of alternatives were discussed
- At the HVRA meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 it was agreed to recommend to this meeting that a resolution be adopted that the subscription fees for 2013/14 would be £5 per household across the board, irrespective of whether the householders were Senior Citizens.
- Hand over to Angus to put the resolution to the meeting.