

HUGHENDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

held on Tuesday, 7th October 2014 at Hughenden Small Hall

CONFIRMED MINUTES

ACTION

Janet welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **PRESENT:** Janet Idle (Chair), Angus Idle (Co-Chair), Al Bowyer (Treasurer), Heather Dempsey, John Dockett, Sara Hamilton, Rosemary Hewitt, James Perkins, David Sharp, Jill Thompson and Geoff Wright.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Claire Atkinson, Christine Bowyer, Karen Dynes, Daphne Hicks, Andrea Hulley and Carole Palmer.

3. **Angus formally signed off the confirmed minutes of the meeting of 1st July 2014, which have been circulated.**

THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 2nd SEPTEMBER 2014 were read and signed as a correct record after the amendment from Jerry Morley was made to item 14. AOB a) and the deletion of "Chloe King" in line 3 of item 11a.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

12. ROAD REP REPORTS

(a) A letter to the RAC appears to have resolved the problem parking because the Patrolman now parks his RAC van on his drive to minimise the hazard for his neighbours.

(b) The logs were placed on the grass verge opposite the hard standing parking near Gt Kingshill School by PC Lee Turnham.

(c) A Condition was placed on Country Supplies to set aside £4,000 for Weight Restriction signs to be installed on Clappins Lane and Stocking Lane, hence the extra lorries going through Bryants Bottom.

(d) Charles Kent pulled up the stakes that marked the plots in the Property Spy field and planted maize.

(e) Anna Burniston contacted the Police about the blue Corsa parked in South Maundin. It belonged to a nearby resident, and during the month that it was parked there, someone had kicked the door and let the tyres down.

(f) The problem regarding the overgrown trees at South Maundin is part of a three-year cycle, which Bovis and South Maundin residents have in hand.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer reported that there were no major unpaid liabilities, although our membership of the Chiltern Society is outstanding. £500 of advertising revenue needs chasing. He has the bank statement for the month of September, and has some cheques and payments to pay in. We have £845 in subs to date but more needs to be collected as soon as possible.

Some of us

Angus asked if the full Treasurer's Report could be attached to the Confirmed Minutes as he was not sure the summary reflected the financial position. Angus and Janet made an executive decision to attach them.

Al & JI

6. **VACANCIES**

6a. **Secretary** – Janet had put an advert in the Bucks Free Press, and she and Angus have asked numerous people if they knew of anyone who could take on the role, but to date there have been no takers. Jerry Morley has asked (by letter) whether we should get a paid secretary until a new permanent one can be found

All of us

6b. **Road Rep for Valley Road (Boss Lane to the Surgery)** – It was agreed that congratulations be sent to Helen Lodge and Aaron Keats on their recent marriage. Helen is apologetic that she will not be able to attend meetings because she does not get home from Reading until late and would like someone else to take on the role.

JI

7. **EVENTS**

7a. **Potter Quiz, Saturday 18th October 2014**

Al said a couple of meetings had to be postponed and there is still quite a lot to do and make. He confirmed that between 106 and 108 people would be attending. He promised to contact Rosemary about the food and pass her

AB
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- a list of previous helpers. He had checked that the microphone was working.
- 7b. Village Christmas Bazaar, Saturday 22nd November 2014** SH
 JP
 Road
 Reps
 Sara needs help from 9.30 am -12.30 pm to set up and label all the tombola items as well as help in the afternoon from 1 – 4.30 pm. A Help List was circulated. James will update last year's flyer and forward it to Road Reps to print off and distribute to their residents. Sara very much hoped that Road Reps would knock on doors to collect tombola items.
- 7c. Senior Citizens Event – Next Year's Booking** RH
 Rosemary sought ideas for next year's entertainment and everyone agreed that, as the Lamphouse Singers were so good this year that she invites them to sing for us again.
- 8. INITIATIVES & UPDATES**
- 8a. Village Meeting Place/Café**
 Janet attended the Village Hall Committee meeting on 6th October when Louise Jones and her mother Jill gave a very good presentation about their future plans for a permanent shop/meeting place in 2016 when the present shop's temporary planning permission runs out, and also for the temporary cabin to meet in for a coffee/chat etc. Janet informed them that as the HVRA had been thinking about having a meeting place, she and Rosemary had supported Louise when she gave a presentation at a recent HPC meeting. The VH Committee will study both sets of plans and the costs associated with the temporary cabin, which Louise said, could eventually be sold on EBay to recoup some of the costs.
- The VH Committee have agreed to fund the initial approach by the shop to seek pre-application advice from WDC for the future project. Louise will be attending the next HPC Finance & Admin Committee with plans for the temporary cabin plus three quotations in the hope of securing some funding. Janet asked the Committee if they would be prepared to paint some chairs etc, and some of us would be happy to do so. LJ
 JI RH
- It was suggested that the HVRA should match Cllr Carroll's donation of £500, and **it was agreed unanimously to give £500 towards the cost of the cabin.** Others agreed with Al that this could be considered as a trial run and then its success could be judged. It is hoped that the VH Committee will offer a donation too as this facility will benefit residents from all parts of the village in good and bad weather. AB
- 8b. Tennis/Bowling Green/Cycle Path**
 Bev has been down to Magnolia Sports & Social Club to negotiate terms for setting up a Bowls Club using their bowling green. Al will send an email around to advertise this proposal. AB
- 8c. Small Village Hall Acoustics**
 Al said the VH Committee certainly appreciated the problem that the acoustics in both Halls are poor and if the Village Hall is to compete with other local Halls it requires proper auditory systems in both Halls. It is on their action list.
- 8d. Bryants Bottom Village Green**
 A decision was due in August but to date there has been no news. Although the delay is of concern, James believes their situation is fairly unique because there are lots of plot owners, and if the Inspector is minded to approve then he needs to be absolutely sure that he has delved into all the legal aspects of it.
- 9. PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**
- 9a. Magnolia Sports & Social Club**
1. The large advertising signs were removed and the owners now have to seek planning permission for future signs.
 2. 2½ lorry loads of earth have been removed from the corner of the site (near the pavement) to level the area because the Compliance Officer, David Lomas, deemed the huge pile of earth to have detrimentally altered the contours of the land. A bund of earth on the boundary remains. It is envisaged that a new hedgerow will be planted in the gap and a new post and rail fence erected along the whole length of the site to protect the site from trespassers and fly tipping. There is no time-scale for this to be carried out and the case is now closed.
- 9b. Wright's Build Base, Hopkins Yard**
 At the request of WDC Planning Dept photos were sent in showing before and after the installation of the new corrugated roof, which is not a like-for-like replacement. The new roof does not blend in with its surroundings, and shines bright white when viewed from a distance. A site visit will take place and the outcome notified in due course.

9c. Re-instatement of Footpath Scheme

Because the pavement from the Cryers Hill roundabout to the town boundary suffers from severe encroachment by grass and weeds, Dave Roberts, Integrated Transport Team Leader at BCC, suggests we approach the North West Local Area Forum for funding because this scheme seeks to re-instate pavements/footpaths to their former width. Rosemary will get in touch with Parish Cllr Brian Swain who attends NWLAF. In fact, David Carroll and Cllr Swain are seeking funding to install larger 30 mph signs where they are missing in the Parish, or needed to reinforce the speed limit.

RH

9d. Bus Stops, Valley Road, adjacent to Magnolia Sports & Social Club.

Rosemary reported the concealed bus stop to Dave Roberts and the one on the other side of the road, which is situated on top of the grass verge. As they are both precariously positioned he will ask Arriva if they are used and, if not, he will attach a Notice seeking comments on their removal. The bus stops were installed years ago for the benefit of people using the Broom Wade Sports facilities who required transport. The Committee had mixed feelings about their removal but agreed that their positions were unsafe.

9e. Coombe Lane road works Angus to report on re-instating the cats eyes, the suggestion of a shuttle service from Hunts Hill Lane down through Bradenham and then into High Wycombe. The diversions have caused traffic chaos and travel times lengthy plus a lack of contingency plans. He queried whether anything would be done about the roundabout to improve visibility. Angus advised Arriva Bus, Postman and the Serco bin-men of road closures, as they did not know about them.

The resurfacing of Coombe Lane, from the roundabout to the bus stop near Hunts Hill Lane, commenced on 1st Oct and will continue for 9 or 10 days, excluding the weekend(s) weather permitting. The roundabout has been resurfaced today. Because of the chaotic traffic conditions, James suggested that Hatches Lane and Perks Lane should have been one way when under diversion conditions, i.e. When the major strategic road is closed. Food for thought. Jerry asked (by letter) for Rosemary or Angus to ask the Road Technician for remedial work to deal with the damage caused by heavy plant during the resurfacing period.

AI RH

9f. Uplands - In May 2014 Redrow Homes went to Appeal by Public Inquiry against WDC's refusal to demolish Uplands and build 16 large properties on the site, but on 2nd October the Appeal was withdrawn.

9g. Warrendene Road - Rosemary was alerted to a sign pinned to a telegraph pole, which related to a nearby property, *Jeane Cote*, because residents queried its authenticity. Advice was sought from WDC who confirmed it was genuine. Comments were invited because the proposed planning application was not in accordance with planning policy. Rosemary concurred that it was in conflict with GB and AONB policies and noted that HPC had objected as well as neighbouring residents. She submitted a letter on behalf of the HVRA but has since learned that WDC wish to **depart from policy** to allow a small 2-bed bungalow to be demolished and replaced with a 3 storey 3 bed pair of semis that will occupy almost the width of the site thus reducing the openness in the Green Belt.

9h. The covered bus stop at the top of Cryers Hill will be moved to the bottom of the hill and Geoff Wright volunteered to assist with its placement. James to liaise with Geoff.

JP & GW

10. UPDATE

10a. HVDIG

This afternoon a meeting was held in the Village Hall when representatives from BCC (Flood Resilience Team), the Environment Agency and Thames Water were present, along with Dave Carroll, James and Angus. They were bombarded with a long list of questions from the local residents who had suffered sewage problems, and in particular - What plans do they have in place if this happens again? TW would put pumps in straight away and are working on a system to communicate with them immediately, but it's all a bit uncertain at the moment.

BCC have responsibility for the surface water. e.g.: The Hughenden Stream which starts in Warrendene Road is culverted under the road and pathway, and because they have responsibility they have used cameras to check if the culverts are clear, and if they are not, they would clean them out.

Thames Water is responsible for the sewers and has put cameras up through the pipes. They found some minor cracks but no infiltration into the sewer and no overflowing into the houses/gardens in Valley Road/Boss Lane. They have concluded that the sewers are fine for the job and that no surface water is getting in there. However, some older properties and some buildings with extensions etc are draining water into the drains/sewers because

they have no soakaways. The water flow from one patio into the sewer system can be the same as 100 sewer outlets. Landowners also have responsibility to keep the stream clear, especially when it runs through people's land, e.g.: through people's gardens, but the trouble is that they don't know that they have this responsibility because it is not written down.

In answer to whether the Environment Agency will prosecute Thames Water if they cause pollution by over-pumping, James said the EA would not prosecute if agreed plans were in place such as those involving pumping into the stream. Referring to the over-pumping that took place earlier in the year, he said the level of pollution in the stream was low and that invertebrates were not worsened. (This is because the huge pumps had a filter system in the tanks which separated the solids from the liquid, and the solids were removed and tankered away by Lanes for Drains. Furthermore, the liquids were diluted with surface water and then aeration took place as the liquids flowed over stones, rocks and debris in the Hughenden Stream.) Official Minutes of the meeting will follow in due course.

10b. Re-issue of the Parish Plan Questionnaire

James confirmed that Parish Councillors, where possible, will deliver the Questionnaire to residents to ensure its safe arrival this time round.

JP

11. COMMUNICATIONS

11a. Hughenden News

John Dockett's team consists of himself, Gill Graham and Jenna Kirkpatrick but not Chloe King as yet. Angus is to respond to John's request for an email list of all those connected with submitting articles etc. John's plan is to have the magazine ready for Road Reps to collect by the end of November. The deadline for copy is 7 November and the magazine will go off to the printers by 21st November. The team will meet tomorrow evening to progress things and decide on the front cover. Janet said that she may have something! She also passed around the excellent Newsletter/newspaper **HP16** that is distributed every two months.

Janet wished the Team good luck on their first issue.

AI

TEAM

JI

11b. Website

James noticed that many items on the website have had zero hits but since he has been putting up-to-date information on the road closures etc it has had 65. He believes someone needs to spend more time putting items on it, and is willing to add the HVRA Minutes for us as he knows how to do it, and asked Angus to send it to him as a Word document.

JP, AI

11c. Correspondence

Dave Carroll had received an email from Michelle Jennings of Church Farm, copied to HVRA, complaining that Coombe Lane was being resurfaced and that the condition of Valley Road had gone unnoticed, and asking if something could be done to reduce the 90 decibels (which is above EU regulations) of noise emanating from the poor road surface etc. Janet spoke to Mr Jennings, and Dave Carroll immediately got in touch with Michelle to say his help is limited because of budget restraints.

12. ROAD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

(a) A boundary issue relating to a property on Cryers Hill requires further investigation.

RH

(b) A Warrendene Road resident has seen a comment that *Fibre optics* is here, but where? AI will research and try to find where it is as some think it is coming down Coombe Lane and into the side roads. He suggested that we go to the BT website, put in our phone number and it will tell us whether we can have it now, or in three months time.

AB

All of us

(c) Geoff reported that the concrete drains at the bottom of Trees Road are so blocked that flooding occurs in Valley Road, with sand and stones strewn on the pavement and road. James said passing vehicles had caused stones to fly up and badly damage the mobile VAS. Rosemary to chase up TFB.

RH

(d) James said the stables being constructed in a field in Bryants Bottom continue to cause concern for nearby residents. David Lomas, the Compliance Officer cannot Enforce because stables are permissible in the Green Belt and he is awaiting a planning application because they are not temporary but permanent. The applicant does not own the land.

(e) Sara has tried without success to get the registration number of a speeding red sports motorbike that whizzes past her house in the early morning and evening around 6pm. Everyone to be on the look-out

All of us

(f) As Angus and Janet investigated a weird noise in their garden at 6:30am they found a young peacock chick sitting on the swing seat making pitiful screeches. The chick was ushered into their greenhouse, the RSPCA was called and someone soon arrived to take it to Twiggy Winkles, from where via RSPCA Head Office it went to live on a chicken farm as no parent birds could be found.

13. OTHER REPORTS

13a. Road Safety – None, until John Miller comes to a meeting.

13b. Hughenden Parish Council

1. The Deputy Clerk resigned and has now left to become Clerk at Little Marlow Parish Council.
2. With reference to the recent Parish Plan Questionnaire, and in response to the 20% of responders who said they would like to receive Parish information on a Notice Board, HPC now wishes to buy Notice Boards to advertise their notices etc. Bryants Bottom would like one, and after a vote it was agreed that Hughenden Valley has one too, and perhaps it could be installed at The Harrow end of the village. JP
3. All the discussions relating to the Charity, *Allotments for the Labouring Poor*, are now in the public domain. HPC had sold the allotments in the past when they thought the Charity had dissolved, but it had not dissolved. The Charity has new Trustees, John Moorby and Rodney Griffiths. They are in the process of transferring the allotments that used to be owned by the Charity back to the Charity, and the Parish Council will lease the allotments on 5 or 7 year Leases. The allotments won't change as far as the tenants are concerned.
7. Hughenden Primary School has received £3,895 from HPC for numerous items of equipment for their Forest School. The Parish Council cannot give money for normal educational items but Forest Schools have become popular and are regarded as an extra-curricular activity, which most local schools now have.
8. BCC is trying to devolve some of its services to Parish Councils, e.g. grass and hedge cutting, but with a reducing sum of money each year. HPC have decided not to take on these devolved responsibilities for the present time, instead waiting until they are more specific. It would be advantageous if the Parish Council did because local people could have a say in what needs doing.
9. It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that the dog bin outside the Village Hall be replaced with a new one, which could be plastic as the metal ones deteriorate.
10. Hatches Field that lies at the back of houses in Warrendene Road is owned by the Parish Council. The 10 acres are leased out on a three year basis to anyone who wants to use them for agricultural purposes. The present Lease is coming to an end, so please let James know if you hear of anyone who wishes to lease the field, or maybe residents would like to purchase it HPC also owns Vincent's Meadow & Pond, Little Burnham Field, Cockshoot Wood and the Primrose Hill Amenity Area, but these are not for sale.
11. James has taken on the responsibility of inspecting the playgrounds in Hughenden Valley and North Dean. Hughenden Valley playground is owned by the Village Hall Committee, HPC maintains it and inspects the equipment which is expected to be done weekly. JP

13c. Wycombe District Council – None, but James suggested that we should all take part in BCC's Consultation on whether or not to increase Council Tax. All of us

Village Hall Committee

13d. Al was asked if he could arrange with Bev for us all to see the defibrillator. AB

Village Shop

13e. Jill Thompson was absolutely delighted that the HVRA had agreed to donate £500 towards the cost of the temporary cabin and thanked us all very much indeed. She was pleased to see an article in the Bucks Free Press highlighting the sale of the 10,000 scones that have been made by a local resident since the shop opened.

Neighbourhood Watch – None

13f.

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

13g. Rosemary made a plea for more volunteers to help with the hourly sessions of Community Speed Watch. 4 sessions took place the previous week without a police presence as the Wards now have their own Mobile VAS equipment. She spoke about the effectiveness of shed alarms in preventing theft.

14. AOB See over page

1. BFP reporter Rebecca Cain is leaving to take up a position in her home town in the West Country.
2. There will be an Art Exhibition in the Village Hall this Saturday 10 am – 5 pm and on Sunday from noon – 5 pm.
3. The RGS was on TV in connection with Police inspecting school computers, as an ex-pupil had gone to Syria.
4. A plea from Janet for more help with the conservation work that is carried out on the slopes surrounding the playing fields as it would appear that only two elderly volunteers turned up last time despite adverts in the Hughendenn News and the Bucks Free Press (Sundays 10am fortnightly).
5. Concern was expressed that sometimes a considerable number of cars park on the grass verge outside the Village Hall adjacent to the area edged with posts, such as like last Sunday morning when there was a home football match.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:33pm

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 4th November 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Small Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....

Hughenden Valley Residents Association
Treasurers Report
07/10/2014

Deposit Account			
Statement 30th September 2014	£	2,058.43	
Transfer to/from Current Account			
Total At	07/10/2014	£	2,058.43
Current Account			
Statement 30th September 2014	£	2,561.47	
Transfer to/from Deposit Account			
Total At	07/10/2014	£	2,561.47
Cash & Cheques in hand			
Cash Held	£	112.59	
Cheques Unbanked	£	70.00	
Total At	07/10/2014	£	182.59
Total Overall Funds			£ 4,802.49
Uncleared Cheques			£ -
Uncleared Payments in			£ -
Other current known unpaid liabilities			£ -
Available Funds			£ 4,802.49

Notes & Highlights:

Advertising Revenue received for 2014 so far	£	2,872.00
Subs received so far for 2014-2015	£	845.00