

HUGHENDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

held on Tuesday, 4th November 2014 at Hughenden Small Hall

CONFIRMED MINUTES

- Angus welcomed everyone to the meeting. Action
1. **PRESENT:** Angus Idle (Chair), Janet Idle (Co-Chair), Christine Bowyer, John Dockett, Sara Hamilton, Rosemary Hewitt, Louise Jones, John Miller, James Perkins, David Sharp, Gill Thompson and Geoff Wright.
 2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Anna Burniston, Al Bowyer, Heather Dempsey, Daphne Hicks, Andrea Hulley and Jerry Morley.
 3. **CONFIRMED MINUTES OF 2ND SEPTEMBER 2014** were formally signed off by Angus and have been circulated.
THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 7TH OCTOBER 2014 were read and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment to **13 b. 3**, line 3: "The Charity has 3 new Trustees, Rodney Griffiths, John Moorby and John Russell."
 4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Jerry Morley wrote to the Committee to cover points in his unavoidable absence, read out by Janet

6a. He suggested that we pay a Secretary but this idea was not passed, as yet.
He (and John Miller) suggested leaving the matter of a fatal accident on Valley Road to the Police. This was agreed.

9e. Jerry reported that the heavy plant used by the contractors had made a mess of the grass verge outside No 2 Wedgwood Drive by churning it up when parking up, exacerbated by the wet weather, and asked that Transport for Buckinghamshire be requested to do remedial work. Also contractors were moving equipment very early in the morning, between 4:30 and 5am. Furthermore, the contractor did not use *trackway* to protect the grass at the bottom of Cryers Hill, on the south side, which was also badly rutted. AI or RH

10a. **HVDIG** - There was also criticism of Thames Water and an independent evaluation expert could well be contracted. This will be reflected upon.

7c. Senior Citizens Event - A response regarding the Lamp House Singers' availability is awaited, but there has been no response yet. RH

9e) Coombe Lane Road Works – Janet reported the various concerns of residents and the chaotic traffic problems that had arisen to the Parish Council in 'Public Speaking' and passed this information on to the Clerk as HPC wished to communicate all the difficulties to TfB.

The Committee discussed at length the diversions that were put in place causing confusion for many, and the numerous signs that still litter the area. Angus agreed to write to Mrs Rolfe at BCC passing on the complaints and asking if the cat's eyes will be reinstated on Coombe Lane. AI

10a. HVDIG – Jerry Morley had emailed his concerns with regard to the 3rd paragraph. Angus agreed to forward Jerry's email to the HVDIG for their comments. AI

12. Road Rep Reports

(c) Trees Road Concrete Gully - Rosemary has informed the Local Area Technician that the concrete drain/gully is completely blocked and piles of stones & silt are accruing across the end of the road. He will visit the site to investigate. RH
 5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Christine reported that at 30th September 2014 the Deposit Account held £2,058.43 and the Current account stood at £2,561.47, making the available funds equal £4,802.49. So far only £845.00 in subs had been collected for 2014-15. The treasurer's report is attached at the end Page 1

of these minutes.

6. VACANCIES

6a. **Secretary** - Despite advertising and making inquiries, the position of Secretary still remains unfilled and the Committee were asked to consider having a paid secretary until the position is filled. It was decided to continue as we are and to advertise the vacancy.

6b. **Road Rep for Valley Road (Boss Lane to the Surgery) - Nil.**

7. EVENTS

7a. **Potter Quiz** – Christine thanked everyone involved in making the Quiz evening a resounding success; Al and Marilyn Pettinger for buying the food, Rosemary for preparing the buffet, Al, Janet, Angus and Daphne for coming up with the questions and Dory for devising and supplying the items for the model making round. An excellent team effort that was rewarded with a £489 profit. Unfortunately, last minute apologies reduced the numbers attending which meant that too much food was bought, hence the need to ask them to pay for their tickets. This resulted in total receipts of £1,020.

Al and Christine were delighted when the winners, who live in Downley, phoned to praise everyone for putting on such an excellent quiz and a superb buffet. They said that they will definitely return next year. (A Hughenden Valley team will need to win back the cup!) Rosemary also thanked her small team of helpers who worked so hard to create so many delicious platters of food and for helping in the evening.

7b. **Village Christmas Bazaar, Saturday 22nd November – Tombola**

Sara hoped Road Reps would collect lots of items for the Tombola which should be brought to the Village Hall by 10am. Christine will now be helping from 3 – 4 pm and James will be forwarding the fliers to Road Reps this weekend. Sara asked permission to buy a £25 voucher for the raffle and **it was agreed.**

SH

7c. **Village Hall/School/ Christmas Carols – December**

Louise has liaised with Sarah Leighton, Head of Hughenden Primary school, about having the Christmas Carols on **Sunday, 14 December**. Sarah will contact Bev about the PA system, and hopefully Bev will contact Philip Morgan about the lights. The shop will provide mulled-wine and shortbread. The Christmas tree lights switch-on is to coincide with the launch of “*The Cabin*” at around 4 – 4.30pm. Gt. Kingshill RA have asked if they can attend our much-praised Christmas Carols event and Janet was pleased to say “Yes”. Please note that the car park has yet to be booked for this event.

SL, BEV
PM, LJ

LJ

8. INITIATIVES UPDATES

8a. **Village Meeting Place/Café** – Louise thanked the HVRA for kindly giving a £500 donation towards “*The Cabin*” and the Shop Committee will match that sum. Along with her mother Jill, and supported by Janet and Rosemary, Louise attended the HPC Finance & Admin Committee Meeting on 28th October to give a presentation. Councillors were very much in favour of the project and after much discussion proposed to give a donation, up to a maximum of £2,500, on the proviso that the Village Hall would match-fund the amount.

At the Village Hall Committee meeting last night, Louise, supported by Janet and Jill Thompson gave another presentation to the Village Hall Committee and explained the proposal put forward by the Parish Council. After a lengthy discussion the Village Hall Committee decided they would donate £2500 if their Constitution allows. In any event, she has to attend the HPC Full Council meeting next week and advise them of the outcome.

LJ, JT

There was consternation among the Committee because the HVRA has, for years, supported the Village Hall by raising sums of money at Village events, but may have to consider withholding such funds in the future. If the Village Hall’s Constitution restricts them from giving any money, then the HVRA will be flexible and consider whether to continue to give more money towards this project.

All were delighted that Cllr David Carroll has kindly increased his original donation from £500 to £1,000 because he wholeheartedly supports the project.

WDC’s approval to the application for “*The Cabin*” is expected by the end of the month, and Ted Sheds have scheduled-in erecting the 22’ x 13’ building during the first week in December. Lots of second-hand tables & chairs are needed. Furniture painting will take place over the weekend of 6th and 7th December; e.g. priming on Saturday and top coat on Sunday. During the following week, the floor-laying and electrics

need to be installed, and finally Louise is looking for some cheap wrapping paper to gift-wrap "The Cabin" as a present for the village. All agreed to help and Janet donated a new table set

ALL OF
US

8a 1. Future Shop/Football Club/Coffee Shop – The Village Hall Committee agreed with the proposal and the draft plans. Because it will lie in the GB, AONB and on the playing fields, and because it is an extension of the existing building they have agreed to pay £180 towards the cost of pre-planning advice, which will be in the form of a written report. Dependent upon the advice, a full application will be submitted. The Village Hall Committee wants to meet with the Football Club and perhaps the HVRA as well. "The Pavilion", as it will be known, will be a timber building and much more aesthetically pleasing than the present football club's premises. Residents who live in view of it will have to be consulted.

8b. Tennis/Bowling Green/Cycle Path – Janet reported that Bev had emailed people about forming a Bowls Club, but to date he has not heard back. She expressed the concern of many residents who did not wish to lose the tennis courts or bowling green as they date back 70 or 80 years, and she believed there might be a covenant that still exists. Further investigation is required.

JI

Janet believed that a cycle path is a possibility for the future, bearing in mind that the Hughenden Quarter's green corridor will link with Hughenden Park via foot and cycle paths.

8c. Bryants Bottom Village Green – Still no news.

9. PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

9a. Magnolia Sports & Social Club does not have permission for the large advertising boards/signs outside their premises because no planning application has been submitted. WDC Compliance Officer will prosecute if they do not comply.

9b. Wrights Yard – New Roof A site visit has been made and the outcome is awaited.

9c. Bus stops by Magnolia Sports & Social Club - A Notice had been put on each post for comments. As none were received, and as the bus stops are difficult and dangerous to access they will be closed down.

9d. Other

1) **The Unauthorised Stables in Bryants Bottom** still continue to be a problem for nearby residents as the site is so untidy with piles of manure that could encourage rats. A local resident will get in touch with the Compliance Officer at WDC, and the owner still has not submitted a planning application.

2) **Perks Lane, Overgrown Hedge** – The Local Area Technician has inspected the overgrown hedge at the top of Perks Lane and has written to the householder requesting it to be cut it back, if not, BCC will carry out the work and send them the bill.

10. UPDATE

10a. HVDIG – The Minutes of the last HVDIG meeting are still awaited. The next meeting will take place on 25th November at 7pm in the Small Village Hall.

10b. Re-issue of the Parish Plan Questionnaire (Deadline November 9th) 560 responses have been received so far compared with about 200 the first time. It can be completed on-line too.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

11a. Hughenden News – John Dockett has already sent out three emails to all the contributors to the magazine requesting copy by 7th November please. So far, he has received 14 articles, and he ran through the list of those still outstanding and deleted some that were not relevant for this forthcoming issue. He will meet some of his team on Thursday; a follow-up meeting with Angus, then off to the printers, and hopefully the magazine will be ready by the end of November.

JD &
TEAM

11b. Website – It is requested that when the HVRA Confirmed Minutes are put on the website they do not mention names of Committee members if they are covering sensitive issues.

AI JI

11c. Correspondence – This morning Janet and Angus received a 3½-page letter from Cllr Linda Derrick with regard to the complicated Parish Council issue relating to the Allotments for Labouring Poor (AflP).

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In response, James gave a detailed account of HPC's concerns:- That the Charity Commission is saying that allotments for the labouring poor are no longer needed to relieve poverty. However, the Trustees of the AfLP Charity, Rodney Griffiths, Trevor Dean, John Moorby and John Russell wish to continue to let out the land to the Parish Council for the provision of allotments. The Parish Council is in discussion with them for how long that would be. If HPC leases the land they have to pay rent but if they no longer require allotments, e.g. - the land in Common Road Kingshill is now an empty piece of grass, they would still have to pay the cost of the rent. The Charity have said they would like to sell it as pony paddocks and give HPC first refusal on this land, but it will come at a considerable price.

The Parish Council is concerned that it is no longer a requirement to provide allotments but, from their point of view, they have a duty to provide allotments and it is in their interest to continue to lease the land and renting the allotments out to parishioners. They are also concerned that only two Trustees are required as a Quorum and that the Chairman can make a unilateral decision. He urged people to read the New Regulations and accompanying email and forward their comments to Lyn Marchant by 7th November. Janet and Angus were asked to respond with some comments on behalf of the HVRA.

AI JI

12. ROAD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

1. Christine queried when Affinity's fibre optics would be arriving here. Sara said there was an EU grant for broadband in Cornwall – perhaps it is worth pursuing for us?
2. Sara was enthusiastic about carrying out a Community Speed Watch session with James in Bryants Bottom recently.
3. Complaints had been received about fireworks going off in the vicinity of the Village Hall much earlier than expected which caused distress to residents' pets.

13. OTHER REPORTS

13a. Road Safety

1. John Miller was saddened to hear of the fatal accident that occurred last Monday evening by Church Farm, Valley Road, and noted that it had been referred to the IPCC. Several believed the speed limit should be reduced from 50 to 40 mph along that stretch of the road and up Cryers Hill.
2. For the pedestrian crossing patrol on Valley Road there is a relief person available to take over when Judy Lewis, the morning patroller is not available. A lollypop person is still sought for the afternoon session. All efforts to get a new recruit have so far failed. John is speaking to BCC in an attempt to get one from further afield and will advertise in the BFP.

JM

13b. Parish Council

1. **Garden of Rest** - HPC are reviewing their charges, as they are low compared with other burial grounds.
2. **Playground** - The Village Hall Committee needs to take responsibility for inspecting the playground. It already is responsible for insuring 3rd party liability. There is a checklist and the Village Hall Committee needs someone who they can depend upon. HPC have to do a weekly inspection for the playgrounds that they own.
3. **Their Christmas event** will be held in North Dean Village Hall and the Chair and Co-Chair of the HVRA will soon be receiving an invitation.
4. **The dog bin** by the Village Hall will be replaced with an eco-friendly bin that won't rust.
5. **The 3-year Lease on the Hatches Field** has expired and HPC would prefer that cows or sheep graze there. James said, "It is a prime development site" (but it lies in the GB and AONB and outside the envelope of development). The Kent family may continue to lease it.

13c. WDC

1. **The Hughenden Quarter** is a comprehensive redevelopment of the former Compair/Broomwade and De La Rue/Harrisons sites. It includes 7-storey student accommodation and a 97-dwelling housing development by Careys facing Hughenden Park. South of that, will be a 7-storey Extra Care Home for 260 residents and near to where Jewsons was located, a 3-storey Day Opportunities Centre run by Bucks County Council, with their new Area Office on the upper floors. A "linear park" with a footpath will run alongside the Hughenden Stream, and the spine road serving all the developments will be a "green corridor" giving suitable access for pedestrians, cyclists and joggers to Hughenden Park to the north. A triangular plot on the south side of Hughenden Avenue, just east of the student flats, will soon be the subject of a planning application by Royal Star & Garter Homes who provide accommodation, nursing and care to the service community of ex-servicemen and women, and members of their families. (You can read more about RS&G at starandgarter.org.)

2. **Reserve Sites** – The decision of WDC’s Cabinet to release 5 Reserve Sites (Terriers Farm, Gomm Valley, Abbey Barn North, Abbey Barn South and Slate Meadow) for housing has provoked much opposition from residents and numerous Councillors. It has been called-in to the Scrutiny Committee for review and their decision will then be referred back to Cabinet.

13d. **Village Hall Committee** asked Janet to put a notice in the BFP about their AGM to be held on 1st December. JI

13e. **Village Shop** - Unfortunately, the recent Coombe Lane road closures have had a really negative effect on the footfall which has remained low ever since. They are desperately short of volunteers and Louise will be putting an article in the Newsletter with a plea for more volunteers, stressing that a bigger team means a less onerous job for everyone. Her help will be further reduced because her mother will be going into hospital soon. The shop will transfer Wi-Fi to “*The Cabin*” in due course. LJ

13f. **Neighbourhood Watch** - It was suggested that John Dockett gets in touch with Andrea Hulley for an article on how to set up a scheme and the benefits to residents. JD

13g. **Neighbourhood Action Group**

1. **Community Speed Watch** - More volunteers are needed to help with the hourly Speed Watch sessions held each month, with or without a Police presence. Several sessions have taken place in Valley Road and in Bryants Bottom with PC Turnham being present. RH
2. **MVAS** - We also have our own Mobile VAS (Vehicle Activated Speed) device that has been attached to a post in Valley Road. As the brackets have been tampered with, perhaps to steal the device as has happened in Gt Kingshill; it has been taken down temporarily. More volunteers are needed to assist with the movement of the equipment, battery changing and data logging activities.
3. **Camera Signs** – PC Turnham is also investigating the purchase of 9”x9” speed camera signs to be placed at agreed village entrances where police mobile enforcement teams operate. Rosemary will let Cllr Brian Swain know how many 9x9 signs we require. RH
4. **Dog Fouling signs** - WDC has provided small metal dog fouling signs (£1,000 fine) and large plastic board signs for free that can be used in areas up to 40 mph. WDC and BCC have agreed they can be placed on their street furniture. They can also be placed on footpath signs. The HVRA needs to decide how many it wants and to advise the Parish Council.
5. **Parking by driveways** – white lines can be laid across driveways for £90 from TfB. RH

13h. **North West Local Area Forum, Re-instatement of Footpath Scheme** – Cllr. Brian Swain has written to the Secretary of NWLAF to check whether Dave Roberts, Team Leader for Integrated Transport at BCC, was correct in suggesting this scheme. To date he has not received a response and so will chase up. RH

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Janet passed around a well-presented little booklet by Frances H Wilding entitled *My Country Childhood – Recollections of Growing Up in Hughenden Valley*. It costs £5 and will be on sale in the Village Shop, and would make a nice little Christmas gift, in particular, for children to see what life was like in the 40s & 50s.
2. Janet asked that a copy of any correspondence/emails written on behalf of the HVRA must be passed on to her or Angus to be filed for future reference. ALL

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.17pm

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 2nd December 2014 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