

# HUGHENDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

held on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at Hughenden Small Hall

### CONFIRMED

Action

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting adding that Chloe King, who is part of the Magazine Editing team, and Simon Kearey, a recently co-opted Hughenden Parish Councillor, will try to call in later if possible.

#### 1. PRESENT

Janet Idle (Chairman), Angus (Co-Chairman), Jerry Morley (Vice-Chairman) Al Bowyer (Treasurer), Clare Atkinson, Christine Bowyer, John Dockett, Sara Hamilton, Rosemary Hewitt, Daphne Hicks, Joanne Holt, Andrea Hulley, Edna Parker, Jill Thompson and guests Louise Jones and Gill Graham.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Anna Burniston, Karen Dynes, Heather Dempsey, Carole Palmer and James Perkins.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2014** were read and signed as a true record of the meeting.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Janet requested that relevant matters arising from minutes be deferred to the appropriate agenda items this time.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

**10. REPORTS** – Rosemary confirmed that the directional sign to Walters Ash and the uncovered manhole had both been repaired.

Angus had sent out a “Confirmed” copy of the Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 but John Dockett pointed out that under item 7, final paragraph, his name has 2 “t”s.

#### 5. TREASURER’S REPORT

Al passed his report to the chairman. Al stated he was pleased that the Annual Accounts for last year have been signed-off and that there were no issues. The Bank statement will come in after this meeting. A cheque reimbursing Rosemary for the cost of food etc for the Senior Citizens evening has been passed to her. There were various uncleared cheques. Advertising revenue to date is £1,702 and Subs amount to £300. The accounts are in a slightly healthier position when compared to this time last year. Available funds: £4480.51.

Responding to the question, Why is the HVRA not a charity? Al believed it would be more onerous in terms of keeping records, the need to have Trustees and complying with the decisions and requirements of the Charity Commission. Our funds would receive a higher rate of interest but there would be bank charges. The account is presently with HSBC and no charges are paid. He would personally vote against becoming a charity.

On the question of BACS payments, he has nothing against people paying by BACS but would prefer residents to pay their subs by cash but Road Reps could pay the money in by BACS if desired.

Janet proposed that the HVRA does not change to a Charity and it was agreed unanimously to keep the status quo.

#### 6. VACANCIES

Janet was very pleased to see Jerry Morley sitting at the top table and thanked him for his willingness to become Vice-Chairman, and assured him that he was voted in unanimously at the last meeting.

It was thought that Helen Lodge, Road Rep for part of Valley Road (Coombe Lane to the Surgery) no longer has the time to continue the role.

?

- 6a) Secretary** – James has now passed on all the files to Janet and Angus. As the position remains vacant an advert is to be placed in the HVRA magazine as well as having a notice on the Bucks Fizz Stall at Village Day. Between now and September everyone is to seek out a replacement. All of us Mag. team
- Jerry expressed his concern that unless more interest is shown in filling vacancies for Officers there will be no Residents Association to take things forward. He believed that there were a lot of people in the village who had some spare time and little inclination to take up these roles. Janet hoped that having “new initiatives” was a good way for the HVRA to remain interesting and forward thinking.
- 6b) Road Rep for Cryers Hill (South)**  
Several months ago Alison Burnham did circulate a note seeking her replacement as Road Rep but without success. Daphne will try again. DH
- 7. FUTURE EVENTS**
- 7a) Senior Citizens Event – 21<sup>st</sup> June**  
First of all, Rosemary thanked everyone for the beautiful bouquet of flowers she received on the evening. They were very much appreciated. She was delighted that the event was a huge success with many more attending than expected, up from 60 to 70. She thanked all the many helpers who worked hard to keep things run smoothly. The plentiful buffet was quickly consumed to the amazement of many, and the entertainment by the Lamp House Singers was excellent. They sang a medley of songs from the list she had provided plus some of their favourites too. Two young guests were introduced who sang beautifully and entranced everyone.
- Janet thanked Rosemary for all her hard work in buying all the food, lots of cooking and organising everything. All agreed.
- Several issues have arisen from the event:** AB
- 1) Al to report the faulty PA system to the Village Hall Committee
  - 2) Sara queried where the defibrillator is located, and only Louise Jones knew that it is mounted on the wall in the narrow corridor by the kitchen. The Village Hall Committee to be asked to have a plan of its location. Sara said that all of us should know how to operate the defibrillator. AB All of us
  - 3) Daphne queried why there is no note indicating where the button is located when exiting the front door as it is difficult to locate behind the curtain. Al to pass this on. All HVRA Committee members should know where all the safety features are. AB
- 7b) Village Day – 19<sup>th</sup> July**  
Al was very pleased with the plans that were in place although there is still more to do. Communication was the key and all households have received a leaflet detailing the event, the Barn Dance and a request for tombola prizes. ROAD REPS
- The Programme is in its first draft and will be ready next week. Support in delivering them, perhaps from Road Reps, would be appreciated. All the events are more or less organised and there will be some surprises on the day. Road closures for the procession are organised. There are lots of raffle tickets still to sell and over £2,000 worth of prizes have been donated. Sponsorship and advertising have raised a further £2,000. The sale of tee-shirts and mugs has been slow, and many more need to be sold. So far 160 tickets for the Barn Dance have been sold but Al would like to see that number double. A reminder will be sent out soon, and Al is grateful that the Shop has been selling advance tickets and taking orders for the tee-shirts. He thanked everyone who is helping, and for Carole at the BBC Weather Centre for hopefully organising fine weather on the day! ROAD REPS
- Christine hoped Road Reps would sell lots of raffle tickets prior to the event, and Louise was making progress with the production of 3 metre lengths of bunting to adorn the tents, gazebos and stalls.
- Bucks Fizz Stall** – Sara Hamilton in charge. James will bring a gazebo and Rosemary 10 chairs and lots of tea towels. SH/JP/RH
- The final meeting of the Village Day Committee will be on Monday July 14<sup>th</sup>. AB/CB

- 7c) **Potter Quiz – 18<sup>th</sup> October** Quiz Team /RH  
 Al has thought of a theme but has not yet spoken to the usual team. As Christine will be away Rosemary was asked to organise the food.
8. **INITIATIVES & UPDATES**
- 8a) **Village Meeting Place/Café**  
 For some time the Village Shop's future plans included having a meeting place where people could mingle, chat and have a coffee but which now have coincided with the initiative that Janet raised at the last HVRA meeting. Louise Jones explained that as there is presently a need for this community facility it was proposed to install a large cedar wood cabin, on a temporary basis, say for 2 years, in the space between the shop's Porta-cabin and the playground. It would be a joint proposal with them and the HVRA. Approval from the Village Hall Committee is awaited. It will be heated, insulated and have double-glazing, and will serve as a covered meeting place with no staff manning it. As the cost will be about £7,500, and working in conjunction with the HVRA, it may be possible to achieve funding from the Parish Council, District Councillors and Richard Pushman, plus some HVRA fund-raising activities. It may be possible to recoup some of the cost by selling it back to the supplier. As the location lies in the GB & AONB planning permission may be necessary. Rosemary to make enquiries and Janet to write to Richard Pushman. RH/JI
- It was proposed by Janet and the Committee agreed that the HVRA should support the Village Shop with this proposal and if necessary to do some fund raising. HVRA
- 8b) **Tennis/Bowling Green**  
 Janet confirmed that Magnolia Sports & Social Club intend to keep the tennis courts. The cost is £10 per hour or £2.50 each for doubles. Rosemary reported seeing children playing football and pitch & put on the Bowling Green. The annual cost of keeping that going is £8,000, and £20,000 for resurfacing all three courts. Janet reminded us that these facilities have been kept in good condition since 1928, and if we do not wish to see them deteriorate then she is willing to investigate further. It was agreed that Janet and Angus follow through with this. JI/AI
- 8c) **Small Village Hall Acoustics**  
 It was agreed that Angus/Janet write to the Village Hall Committee about the possibility of having an Induction Loop installed for the hard of hearing or sound absorbers installed. JI/AI
- 8d) **Cycle Path**  
 Louise had, at a different meeting, had enthused about the proposition to have a cycle path along the pavement of the A4128 from the Cryers Hill roundabout, passing the Church entrance, and onwards to the town boundary because it is currently dangerous to take a family along that route. Everyone agreed that the pavement had narrowed with the encroachment of grass and weeds, and it needed to be reclaimed. Janet believed the cycle path should not be on the pavement but to run the other side of the hedge for several reasons. Rosemary will contact James Tunnard, the Local Area Technician, to cut back the encroachment. This initiative is to be taken forward as cycling is a green mode of transport. RH/JI
9. **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**
- 9a) **Equestrian matters. Hatches Lane Farm - Change of use and alteration of the existing buildings to create an equestrian rehabilitation centre incorporating admin office, horse walking area, stables, tack, wash & feed rooms together with the formation of a manege and lunge pen to north east of buildings.** This application has been permitted.
- 9b) **Uplands** - Since Redrow's Appeal to the Government Inspector (to demolish all the buildings on the Uplands site and build 16 detached properties), English Heritage have listed Uplands Grade II. This includes the old and the new additions which had won prestigious architectural awards from WDC. Although the walled garden and stable block were not listed, they are protected as they lie in the curtilage. Redrow could appeal against this Listing to see if it is fair and reasonable, RH
- 9c) **Land Adjacent to Hillbrow, Coombe Lane, Naphill.** An application has been submitted for a futuristic style eco-property on land adjacent to Hillbrow that requires a Change of Use from Agricultural to Residential. The land lies outside the envelope of development in the Green Belt and Chilterns AONB where there is a presumption against any new development other than for purposes connected to the land, or for an exceptional circumstance permission, e.g. for a community facility. As well as HVRA, residents in Burnham Road have written objecting on Policy grounds, and stating that it would set an undesirable precedent and would put at risk all the similar status land surrounding this and neighbouring villages.

- 9d) **Unauthorised construction of stables** in Bryants Bottom was notified to WDC and acknowledged by the Compliance Officer on 28 May, but to date he has not passed on the results of his investigation. RH
10. **ROAD REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**
- Edna Parker thanked Rosemary for organising the Senior Citizens' Evening and said how much she and her neighbours enjoyed it
- Daphne Hicks complained about the overgrown bushes that obscure residents' view up Cryers Hill when exiting their drives. Rosemary will raise the matter with Highways on Call. RH
- Andrea queried who is responsible for ensuring that front garden lawns do not become overgrown when a property is sold, especially when the owner has died. Al said it is the estate of the deceased.
- No further shooting at birds had taken place since the last meeting. Rosemary is awaiting a further telephone call from PC Marea Logan
- It was queried whether James Perkins had approached the owners of the property known as "Midway", situated by the Valley Road/Coombe Lane roundabout, to ask them to cut back their hedge because it obscures the view for drivers looking up Coombe Lane from Valley Road or vice versa. Everyone agreed that this is a dangerous junction and a solution must be sought. Rosemary to email him. RH
11. **Updates**
- 11a) **Sewers** - The two 6" pumps were removed, firstly at Boss Lane on 5<sup>th</sup> June, and one outside the Surgery on 20<sup>th</sup> June. All the tanks and barriers have also been removed.
- 11ai) **HVDIG** - On 11th June a meeting was held at the Parish Rooms and attended by 11 affected residents, a representative from the NT and someone from the Chiltern Conservation Board, as well as James (HPC) and Angus (HVRA) to form the Hughenden Drainage Improvement Group (DIG), and to set out their aims and objects. Jerry wished for more information.
- To date there has been no feedback from the multi-agency meeting held at BCC on 3.6.14.
- Contact is to be made with Karen Fisher (Lead Flood Management Officer, BCC), Helen Page (EA Management Team Leader) and Thames Water to arrange a presentation of the situation to date – how adequate the sewer system is in Hughenden Valley and what level of water ingress is into the system. The next meeting of HVDIG is to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.
- 11aii) **Catchment Area** - Just for the record, apparently sewage in pipes runs from Slad Farm in Speen, down through North Dean and Hampden, meeting up with Warrendene Road and down here in Valley Road, which gives a wider perspective of the problems.
- Clare Atkinson expressed concern that her drains in Cherry Tree Close showed evidence that sewage had come up through the manholes.
- 11b) **Coombe Lane Closures/Roadworks** will be coming soon. Angus had received an email from BCC about "road patching" involving Coombe Lane. They are aiming to do 3 nights' work between 6 August and 30 September and will put out diversionary route signs. Angus believed these signs should commence in the centre of Wycombe, in Walters Ash and Princes Risborough to stop traffic coming into Coombe Lane. The diversionary routes are for heavy vehicles.
- Angus will contact Cllr David Carroll about the "road patching" because he was of the view that Coombe Lane was due to be resurfaced. AI
12. **COMMUNICATIONS**
- 12a) **Hughenden News & Distribution Centre** – Items for the magazine are trickling in and Angus and Janet will pass them on to John Dockett and Gill Graham, who were in attendance. A meeting is to be arranged prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> July deadline. Gill will take delivery of the magazine when it is printed. AI/JI  
GG
- 12b) **Website** – A request has been received from James to put the HVDIG link on the HVRA website.

12c) **Correspondence** - None

**13. REPORTS**

**13a) Road Safety**

**13ai) Cryers Hill** - Damaged branches that had fallen across the pavement up Cryers Hill have been removed under REF: 464324. The overhanging branches are on the list to be cut back soon.

**13aii) Boss Lane** - The broken branch hanging from the tree situated on the triangle of grass by Boss Lane has now been removed and the grass cut.

**13b) Parish Council**

**13bi)** A young man has made a request to hold a Boot Camp on Kingshill Common on several days/evenings a week.

**13bii)** BCC are proposing to devolve all its grass and hedge cutting tasks to Parish Councils. HPC will give consideration to both these issues.

**13c) Wycombe District Council** - Two hundred flats for the elderly and a Day Care Centre are planned on the Hughenden Quarter site. WDC have made cuts, including one job in Planning and are trying to make the most of what they have got left. Forums on current Planning issues are planned.

**13d) Village Hall Committee** will be meeting next Monday.

**13e) Village Shop** is in week 3 of a 5-week raffle that they are running when a special "gold ticket" will win chocolate for a year.

**13f) Neighbourhood Watch** – Andrea spoke about the benefits of having a scheme set up in each road, e.g. a discount on Home Insurance and the security of knowing that neighbours are keeping a watchful eye on property when you are away. Geoff Pegg is the Area Co-ordinator and the HVRA has a link to him. No new schemes have been set up in the village recently and perhaps that could be mentioned in the magazine. New road organisers can get advice from Andrea if they need help.

Mag

**13g) Neighbourhood Action Group** - None

**13h) Allotments** – Hughenden Parish Council has set up a meeting for all the allotment holders in the Parish. It will have one or two representatives from each allotment site. As Whitfield Road allotment holders appear to have used a lot of water in recent months James Perkins contacted Thames Water, but they could not help. However, a man from Affinity found a leak which he repaired. Perhaps the leak was the reason for the high water usage! HPC should therefore not have to pay the £1600 bill.

Potential allotment holders are needed to fill some vacancies that exist because several people have been hospitalised or died in recent months.

**14. AOB**

A lot of discussion arose about the treacherous parking situation outside Great Kingshill School, many believing that it had got worse in recent months. John Dockett, Jerry Morley, John Miller and Janet to arrange a meeting to discuss this issue, and to put in a proposal in September. Rosemary to raise the issue with NAG and PC Lee Turnham.

JD/JM/  
JM/JI  
RH

Janet thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Jill Thompson was congratulated for full attendance at our meeting for sixteen consecutive months.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2nd September at 7:30pm

Chairman.....

Date.....