

**MINUTES OF THE HVRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 18 MAY 2017 IN HUGHENDEN VALLEY SMALL HALL AT 7.30PM**

**Confirmed Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Angus Idle (Chair)                      Janet Idle (Co-Chair)                      Jerry Morley (Vice-Chair)  
                 Al Bowyer (Treasurer)                      Rosemary Hewitt (Acting Secretary)

Plus 46 that included HVRA Committee members, residents and guests

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** **ACTION**

Angus welcomed everyone to the 2017 AGM of the HVRA.  
Apologies for absence had been received in advance from Anna Burniston, Karen Dynes, Clare Atkinson and David Mynors.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 17 MAY 2016.**

It was proposed by Vanda Bromwich and seconded by Heather Dempsey that the Minutes are a true record of the meeting. **Agreed unanimously.**

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None.**

**4. CO-CHAIRS' REPORT**

Janet reported that after 15 years David Sharp was resigning as Road Rep for Friars Gardens, rarely missing a meeting. As a token of the Co-Chairs' thanks and appreciation for all his help and co-operation over the years, along with his wife Susan, she gave him a small gift. As Friars Gardens encompasses 95 houses over a large area it will be divided into three and have 3 Road Reps.

Derek Armshaw was resigning as the HVRA Webmaster after many years and she thanked him in his absence. Andrew Capey had kindly volunteered to initiate a sub-group to discuss its continuance.

She congratulated Hilda Stearn on recently being co-opted as a Parish Councillor, joining Simon Kearey and Peter Gieler for our Ward. She hoped someone from the village would fill the vacancy that exists for a fourth Councillor.

The Co-Chairs' Report of the issues, events and activities that the HVRA has been involved with throughout the year is attached to these Minutes. It was written in rhyme and read by them in tandem.

Enc

Thanks were given from the floor for their hard work throughout the year.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

35 copies of the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 had been handed out, and Al Bowyer gave a presentation on the details of the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet which are attached to these Minutes. He thanked Bob Hawkins for auditing and signing them off.

Enc

He explained that although £1,800 had been received from subscriptions for the year, down on the previous year, £510 had been received late which raised receipts to £2,310 from 462 paid-up members, stressing that where there were no Road Reps no subs had been collected, a situation that will be addressed by the Committee. This was reflected in the overall balance of £5,406 being less than last year at £5,836.

**Cttee**

Advertising revenue during 2016/17 was way down but since he had stepped down from his marketing role and John Dockett had taken over, Al was delighted to report that the projected receipts from advertising will be in the region of £4,500 to £5,000 for the coming year. He thanked John very much for the brilliant job he was doing.

Other items he highlighted were that the Hughenden Parish Council grant of £520 is not guaranteed; the profit from the Potter Quiz is ring-fenced for the Senior Citizens Event on 17<sup>th</sup> June; the actual timing of the printing of Hughenden News impacted upon and reduced the balance in the accounts; our Insurance premium covering Third Party Liability goes up by 4 – 5% each year; HVRA pays the hire of the Hall for the Good Companions; and we gave donations to The High Wycombe Society and Air Ambulance, and paid for the printing of the

comprehensive two page document that appeared in *Hughenden News* listing local businesses, volunteers and residents that supported the village shop.

He had also trialled BACS payments for 20 – 25 residents in Warrendene Road. Whilst it made things easier for residents, from an auditing point of view it was cumbersome and would be even more so for possibly 500+ households, and is a matter that could be considered next year.

Cttee

During the year he had worked on Accounting Procedures and stressed that although HVRA was not a registered Charity it did comply with all necessary requirements and everything is audited. As a result of that review there were one or two items of expenditure that had not been formally recorded in the Minutes but would be in the future.

Finally, after 9 years as HVRA Treasurer, Al was not standing for re-election for personal reasons. He had enjoyed his time as Treasurer and wished his replacement well.

Janet thanked Al very much indeed for doing a fantastic job for so many years and praised him for his commitment to the HVRA. She gave him a small gift as a token of the Co-Chairs' appreciation.

## 6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017/18

The Acting-Secretary had received nominations prior to the meeting and the following were duly elected:

<b>Co-Chairs</b>	- Janet and Angus Idle	- Proposed by Carole Palmer and seconded by Patricia Pringle
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	- Jerry Morley	- Proposed by Andrew Capey and seconded by Janet Idle
<b>Treasurer</b>	- Peter Cannon	- Proposed by Al Bowyer and seconded by Rosemary Hewitt
<b>Secretary</b>	- Rosemary Hewitt	- Proposed by John Dockett and seconded by David Sharp

Peter Cannon was happy to take on the role of Treasurer, but for two years only.

Rosemary Hewitt was thanked for being Acting Secretary over recent months.

## 7. OPEN FORUM

7a Sharon Jarrett asked how many roads did not have a Road Rep. The response was 3, i.e. the northern end of Valley Road, Orchard Close, as well as Friars Gardens where 3 Road Reps will be needed.

7b Michael Sole queried the buoyancy of the HVRA membership with a 70% take-up (464 households) and what plans did the HVRA have to improve that penetration? The Committee will appeal for more Road Reps and believed that this percentage was high bearing in mind the number of houses up for sale or for rent, plus several roads had not been approached for subs for various reasons.

7c Liz Village queried why there are still signs for the *Conference Centre* despite Uplands being abandoned for four years as well as the numerous signage for *The Hughenden Surgery*. Lin Smith had been informed that ambulances were having difficulty in locating the Surgery because their Sat Navs were directing them to the old one in the bungalow. Enquiries to be made at WDC.

Jl/RH

7d Louise Jones thanked the HVRA for all their support over the past year, adding that it was much appreciated.

7e Christian Harris raised the issue of the cycle path. He commutes to London and would like to cycle to the station but believes Valley Road is too dangerous. He has contacted Cllr David Carroll and asked if the HVRA should be communicating with the Parish Council about this and putting pressure on them to explore this possibility. Also to get the District Council involved. JI confirmed that the HVRA did commence discussions with WDC after a Naphill resident had approached them about having a cycle path but it had been put on the back-burner because WDC were waiting for Hughenden Quarter to be finished and there were questions about which route it could take. JI will get back to Mr Harris. Hilda Stearn did not want the Co-Chair to raise expectations adding that there is no way that the National Trust would permit a cycle path to be built on the land that they own. JI responded that two years ago the National Trust did say that they supported it but that there would need to be some negotiations. Sharon Jarrett said the pavement along Valley Road could be widened to take a cycle path but she would not support it going through National Trust land.

Jl

7f Nick George asked for an up-date on the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and JI informed him that the planning application had been submitted but was subsequently withdrawn because there were some parking issues, and the matter is under review by the Sports Initiative Committee, not the HVRA.

**8. CLOSURE OF THE FORMAL MEETING - GUEST SPEAKERS**

The audience was thanked for taking part in the Open Forum and Angus Idle welcomed the guest speaker, Dave Brown, a historian and curator of the Bomber Harris Room & Tunnels at Royal Air Force High Wycombe, the former home of Bomber Command. Mr Brown gave a truly fascinating account of the early days, when in 1936 Bomber Command moved out of Uxbridge and came to the edge of the Chiltern Hills amidst the beech trees.

He described how the buildings were designed to look like a village from the air, with some being painted yellow to look like haystacks. In the interests of secrecy the new station was known as Southdown with a postal address c/o GPO High Wycombe. The fire station, still in use today, was built by Laing's with a tower to resemble a village church and the Officers' Mess a country manor house. Tunnels were built to connect each block on the station and linked to an Operations Block so that staff could move around unobserved. He recalled stories involving Bomber Harris who lived at *Springfield* on the corner of Pipers Lane, stories about Douglas Bader and about the mock Spitfire and Hurricane airplanes that are gate "guardians" at the entrance of the station.

His colleague James Palfrey spoke about the present position regarding the station, adding that they are busier now than they have been since the Afghan war. He also thanked everyone for the support they had received from the community.

Mr Brown concluded his talk by offering an open invitation for a group of, say 25, to go on an evening Heritage Tour of the Bomber Harris Room & Tunnels. JI to follow up on this invitation. He also announced a date to note: *a Hurricane fly-past* at 20.05 on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**JI  
20 June**

Janet thanked Dave Brown and James Palfrey for such interesting talks especially as the connection between Hughenden Valley and the RAF is a real one, not just confined to the local area involving Hughenden Manor in Operation Hillside or Boss Lane House being used for War Cabinet meetings, but also to the many local residents who had served in the RAF.

The meeting closed and everyone was invited to enjoy the Cheese & Wine that followed.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....

