

**MINUTES OF THE HVRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 19TH MAY 2022 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

PRESENT:

Peter Cannon (**Chairman**) Paul Woodford (**Treasurer**) Rosemary Hewitt (**Secretary**)

Vanda Bromwich, Louise Cannon, John and Vivienne Dockett, David Griffin, Bob and Lyn Hawkins, Julie Harding, Catherine Hinds, Janet Howe, Angus and Janet Idle, Jerry Morley, Brenda Morris, Christine Powell, Rebecca Rycroft, Michael Sole, Peter and Pauline Spence, Jill Thompson and Guest Speaker, Angie Kraft.

IN ATTENDANCE: 19 households, all paid-up members.

1. **WELCOME** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the face-to-face meeting and thanked them for coming out on such a nice evening when they could be doing other things.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Vice-Chairman Andrew Capey, Julia Grant, Elaine Merrilees, Hughenden Parish Councillor Jill Armshaw, Buckinghamshire Councillor David Carroll, Christine and Al Bowyer, Louise Jones and Roger Hewitt. Belated apologies were also received from Joan Steel, Barbara Conlon, and Bob and Denise Ridgley.
3. **MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 24th JUNE 2021** held via zoom when at least 22 residents attended had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman proposed, seconded by Michael Sole that the Minutes be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting. **It was agreed unanimously.**
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
At last year's AGM the issue of whether to increase the subs was raised. The Committee subsequently considered this at the February HVRA meeting, and after a long discussion **it was agreed not increase the subs and for them to remain at £5.** However, the Chairman added that if a couple of contentious planning issues do arise then the HVRA may have to ask members for some money to cover the cost of seeking advice from a planning consultant.
5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Full Report is attached)**

**Report
PC**

Months ago, the post-box by the carpark opposite *The Harrow* had been stolen plus, more recently, its pole and, after several months of been being 'pushed around', he has recently learned of the Post Office's Regional Manager's suggestion for it be re-sited on the same side of the road as the pub. As Peter is not agreeable to this suggestion because it would be unsafe for the postman to park outside the pub, he has requested that the location remains as before by the car park.

At the HVRA's May meeting, the plight of refugees and the Ukrainian War were discussed and, aware that several local residents have kindly offered a home to fleeing families, the HVRA wished to respond with a welcome gesture by making available a small monetary grant to those who have lost everything.

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PC referred to his Report which had been circulated in which he stated at last year's AGM that he would be standing down at this AGM after 2 years in the role. Consequently, over many months he has been actively looking for a successor and has recently had discussions with Peter and Pauline Spence who moved into the village last September, having previously lived in Cuddington for 4 years.

It was whilst living in Cold Waltham in West Sussex that Peter was Chairman of the local Association, similar to the HVRA. He has worked in commerce with the Royal Sun Alliance and then in a senior role in local government. As Peter Spence is already known to some of the Committee and local residents through working with the Country Supplies' Action Group, the Chairman proposed to co-opt him as Road Rep for Trees Road and to be Chairman Designate. PC planned to take the Chair for the June and July Executive Committee meetings, and Peter Spence has agreed to work alongside him so that he can get to know more members of the Committee, and then handover in September/October if all goes well. PC hoped this would be a long-term solution and invited questions, but there were none.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT (Full Report is attached)

The Treasurer began by thanking Bob Hawkins for reviewing the accounts as well as supporting the HVRA over many years.

After the adverse effects of Covid, the past year has seen a gradual improvement in the accounts and this reversion to normality has revealed good results with a surplus at the year-end of £2,278, largely due to advertising revenue from local businesses. Cash in the current and deposit accounts has built this year to £11,890, up from £9,611 last year which represents a 23.7% increase. However, interest rates remain low, especially on the Deposit Account. Income of £4,092 from advertising revenue was up on the last two years. Subscriptions received from 536 households of £2,855 were well above last years, and thanks are due to the hard work of our Road Reps as this represents a 12.6% increase and covers 79% of our catchment area. Also, there was a huge rise in the number of subs being paid via bank transfer from 100 to 219.

Expenditure for the year totalled £7,557, up substantially from last year's £6,448. Notable costs arose from cctv at Country Supplies of £380, and the very welcome addition of flower planters and tubs that brighten up the village of £547. Following the success of the previous year, the Christmas hampers in a Bag for our elderly residents was repeated, and the total cost of £694 was offset by the generous donations of £600 from local businesses, leaving the balance of £94 to be provided by the HVRA.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions.

- Julie Harding responded by thanking the HVRA for the Christmas Bag because she thoroughly enjoyed eating her way through all the lovely items that it contained.
- Bob Hawkins expressed concern, as a paid-up member, that the HVRA continued to bank with HSBC, a bank that imposed punitive charges on the various banking transactions of small community groups, upon which much criticism has been heaped. Furthermore, as HSBC are still operating in China, a country with poor human rights and a lack of opposition to Russia's war in Ukraine, **he recommended that the HVRA ceases to bank with HSBC and switch to another bank.** In reply, PW explained that the HVRA's hesitation in moving away from HSBC is due to the financial uncertainty surrounding the Metro Bank. Bob Hawkins reminded him that funds with the Metro Bank are covered up to the Government's deposit protection limit of £85,000 which is more than enough to cover any of the HVRA's funds. Also, the charges already paid to HSBC are equivalent to the subs received from the residents of Boss Lane!

It was agreed that this issue will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

- Janet Idle thanked Paul Woodford for presenting the HVRA accounts throughout the last two years on screen at each monthly Zoom meeting that enabled him to go through the finances in a clear and helpful way. PW responded that it was Andrew Capey who did the technical stuff by uploading them and so thanks were due to him.

Report
PW

HSBC

DISCUSS

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022/23

Although Andrew Capey was not present, he had agreed to stand again as Vice-Chair. Accordingly, the Secretary confirmed she had received nominations for all the Officer posts prior to the meeting, and the following were formerly **appointed uncontested by a unanimous vote en-block of 22 FOR:**

Vice-Chairman	Andrew Capey	Proposed by: Rosemary Hewitt	Seconded by: Peter Cannon
Treasurer	Paul Woodford	Deborah Lemon	Sarah Mustapha
Secretary	Rosemary Hewitt	Janet Idle	Angus Idle

Two separate nominations had been received for the post of Chairman, one from Peter Cannon and Peter Spence, and the other from Janet and Angus Idle as Co-Chairs. As Peter Cannon had given an explanation earlier in the meeting, at the end of his Chairman's Report, about his nomination along with Peter Spence he invited Angus Idle to give some background to his and Janet's decision to stand as Co-Chairs.

Aware that Peter Cannon would not be standing as Chairman and learning at the 3rd May HVRA meeting that no one else had been found to fill the role, and even as late as yesterday, Angus did not want the HVRA to run like a "headless chicken". In this eventuality, he and Janet would nominate themselves as Co-Chairs on a temporary basis until a Chairman was found, adding that he felt it was unfortunate that Peter Cannon was being "dropped" into the role and needed to deputise with Peter Spence when he said he wanted to step down.

Michael Sole sought further clarification about Peter Cannon's role. PC reiterated what he said at the 3rd May meeting that Angus had referred to, that he was willing to chair meetings if required to do so and confirmed he would chair the June and July meetings which would allow Peter Spence to see what goes on. He will provide some mentoring in the background and work towards a take-over in the autumn.

The meeting was asked to consider, and then vote, on these two options:

Option A. Role of Chair/s	Peter Cannon & Peter Spence	Proposed by: Paul Woodford	Seconded by: Rosemary Hewitt
Option B. Role of Co-Chairs	Janet and Angus Idle	Julie Harding	Katy Smith

Cacs Hinds expressed her belief that the HVRA was in a fortunate position in having someone fresh who is prepared to share their experience as well as being mentored by Peter Cannon. The Chairman added that he was fortunate to have the support of Rosemary, Paul and Andrew who have worked tirelessly to support him and the HVRA, as well as the considerable support of Road Reps which has made his job easier and enabled everything to work well.

As there were 15 votes in favour of Option A and nil votes for Option B, Peter Cannon and Peter Spence were appointed as Chair and Chair in-waiting by a majority vote.

Bob Hawkins added that it was very good of Janet and Angus Idle to offer to stand, and the meeting also added their thanks.

8. AOB

Michael Sole thanked everyone involved in organising the opposition to the Country Supplies planning application which exemplified everything that the HVRA stood for. In answer to a question from the floor about the status of this application, the meeting was advised that the decision of the Planning Officer is awaited.

As there were no other matters, the Chairman welcomed the guest speaker and local resident,
Angie Kraft, co-founder of the Hughenden Valley Climate Group, to give a talk.

Angie commenced her talk by stressing that climate change is one of the most challenging issues for the world for the next 20 or 30 years. She will send the hard-copy of her illustrated talk to Peter Cannon for others to view and note the references and the various books to read on the subject.

She co-founded the Group with Sarah Mustapha. They now have 55 members, meet monthly and try to do things to help the village to increase its biodiversity and residents to fight climate change. Angie ran through lots of facts and figures that are contributing to the climate crisis and how we can all help by being an ethical consumer. She mentioned *Pantry 51* that is located along the High Street in Prestwood, on the right-hand-side of the road past the main public carpark, where people can take their own containers to be refilled.

It was pointed out that as there is no bus service for those who do not drive several residents wondered if the Village Store & Coffee Shop could purchase some items in bulk so that residents could refill their containers much closer to home.

**Village
Store/
Containers**

Angie suggested that we could all drive less, walk more, cycle more, take the bus or train in an attempt to reduce our carbon footprints. Also, consider going meat or dairy free during the week, buy less stuff and repair more. She recommended the various Repair Cafes that are located in in the area: e.g. All Saints Church in High Wycombe, Prestwood Community Centre, Hazlemere Community Centre in Rose Avenue plus others in Marlow, Princes Risborough and Chesham.

Angie urged us to get involved by joining the local group or joining campaign groups like Friends of the Earth, Green Peace, signing petitions and donating funds, as well as urging us to use our vote and our voice because our leaders are politicised and heavily lobbied by fossil fuel companies.

She emphasised that this is a critical decade and that we are running out of time – we only have until 2030!

- Peter thanked Angie very much indeed for a very interesting and topical talk.

8i) Before the close of the meeting, Angus Idle asked Peter Cannon about the Wish List that he had drawn up during his time as Chair, and in response Peter spoke about the **cycleway** that Bucks Council proposes to link Abbey Barn Road to High Wycombe Station, and the station to Hughenden Valley because travelling from one valley to another in this area there are some very steep hills, but to cycle from Hughenden Valley into High Wycombe it is relatively flat. As he has not had an update recently from Charles Brocklehurst, he will chase him up.

PC/CB

8ii) **Bus time-table** The solar-powered 'real-time' bus timetables were initially observed by Angus Idle in Lacey Green and another near *The Wheel* in Naphill, and he queried why Hughenden Valley did not have one. As a result of enquiries, Peter Cannon received an informative response from Paul Goodwin, the Passenger Transport Officer, Communities Directorate at Buckinghamshire Council, setting out the costs. Solar-powered bus-timetables are now over £7,000 (as seen in Lacey Green and Naphill) and the preferred battery-powered ones that are installed away from town-centre locations are just over £6,000, and as the battery life is 3 years, a replacement is included thus giving a 6-year power supply in the cost.

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.05pm when everyone was invited to enjoy the Cheese & Wine that had been provided by Rosemary.

Signed.....

Dated.....