

**MINUTES OF THE HVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2023 IN THE SMALL HALL**

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

WELCOME

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting after the long summer break and especially Sue Grace, the new Road Rep for Friars Gardens (south and west). As it was a lovely summer's evening, he was very pleased to see so many in attendance.

PRESENT

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Peter Spence (Chair) | Andrew Capey (Vice-Chair) | Paul Woodford (Treasurer) |
| Rosemary Hewitt (Secretary) | Jill Armshaw | Peter Cannon |
| Sue Grace | Janet Howe | Angus Idle |
| Elaine Merrilees | Brenda Morris | Nancy Pomfret |
| Louise Jones (Village Shop) | Michael Sole (Village Hall) | |

ACTION

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cacs Hinds, Janet Idle and Jerry Morley.

Road Reps who do not attend meetings: David Mynors and Paul Jenner.

Reports, written or verbal, are welcome from all members whether they attend meetings or not.

2. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2023** had been circulated and read prior to the meeting and it was agreed that they be approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. **MATTER ARISING** - All matters to be discussed via progression through the Agenda.

4. **COUNCILLOR'S UPDATES**

Bucks Cllr David Carroll – None

HPC Cllr - None

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

PW reported that at the end of August the closing balance was £2,772.56, up by £1,089.59 largely due to reimbursements of £573.33 relating to the cancelled summer Fete and subs' receipts of £355. Having consulted Peter Cannon, PW explained that all details relating to the Fete had been removed and all incurred costs by the HVRA had been met by the Village Hall. Income received from advertisers and the sale of raffle tickets showed a small surplus over outgoings.

Total receipt of subs to date is £1,725, and there is £11,434.8 in the Deposit A/C which may need to be dipped into for the next edition of *Hughenden News*.

Jerry Morley had raised the issue of double payment of subs by several residents via bank transfer and PW will raise this matter when JM next attends a HVRA meeting. PW confirmed that all incurred Fete expenses had been paid by the Village Hall and there was no Cancellation Insurance cover.

Michael Sole confirmed that the cancelled Fete was cost-neutral for the HVRA.

PS thanked PW for all his hard work in connection with the Fete and for his Financial Report & Subs Summary.

6. **HVRA REPORTS/UPDATES**

Chairman

- a) **Road Rep for Frogmore Close** – Becky Rycroft has resigned as Road Rep and is canvassing to get a replacement. She has offered to help if needed in the future and will remain part of the Planning for the Future Group.

**Road Rep
Needed**

- b) **Hughenden Surgery** – In the absence of the Patients Participation Group (PPG), PS explained that the HVRA had formed a Liaison Group of 2 or 3 people and an initial meeting with the Practice Manager, Wendy Jowitt had been held. Since then both the Practice Manager and his Deputy have resigned, and she is trying to re-form the PPG.

Wendy Jowitt is still in touch with PS but it would appear that nothing has changed - some patients still complain about the length of time it takes to get through on the telephone and others are happy with the Surgery. It is hoped the PPG does come back in force because that is where complaints should get sorted.

c) **The Planning for the Future Group** will meet tomorrow evening, the 6th and comprises Becky Rycroft, Jill Armshaw, Andrew Capey, Michael Sole, Sarah Mustapha (Climate Group), Jayne Birkenhead (was effective in selling Fete raffle tickets) and PS. It will be an in-depth look at what the HVRA is now and what it might be in the future, and to come up with some recommendations for the Executive Committee to consider.

**Group's
Recommendations**

d) **The Summer Fete** was cancelled because of Extreme Weather Warnings and the fear that the dangerously high winds would send the gazebos flying. The Fete is now planned for **29 June, next year**. A "Wash-up" meeting of the small group of organizers will take place on 20 September.

**Fete
29.6.24**

e) **Planters** – PS and EM met James Tunnard, the Local Area Technician (LAT) and Cllr Dave Carroll this morning to discuss the siting of 12 planters. JT was very enthusiastic about all the locations except the one by the Hampden Road village gate. Hughenden Parish Council (HPC) has agreed to buy the galvanized steel planters but the HVRA is responsible for buying the plants and maintaining them. EM will apply for a License from Bucks Council. JA added that it is possible to get troughs with wording, e.g., *Welcome to Hughenden Valley*. JA to discuss with EM.

JA/EM

f) **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR – 25 NOVEMBER**

Kerry Franklin and Diana Gibbons will again be the organizers and wondered if the HVRA would like to get involved, perhaps resurrecting **Santa's Grotto**, but someone would be required to run it. Ideas ranged from involving Pre-School, parents of young children, or teenagers who need experience for their Duke of Edinburgh's qualifications.

- LJ suggested inviting teenagers to form a sub-group to organize Santa's Grotto.
- MS promised to investigate how this was run in the past and what arrangements need to be made.

**MS/bf
next mtg**

PC explained his idea of running an almost new book stall, to include children's books and sell them for £3 or £4 as well as donated unwanted gifts. Road Reps to enquire of residents and bring items to the Hall on the day. The HVRA to pay for the table and any surplus made will go to the Village Hall. JA queried whether this fit the definition of a Craft Fair? Instead, perhaps hold a Story-telling event? PS queried who will run it? **It was agreed** to look at PC's suggestion or come up with other ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

**Ideas for
next meeting**

RH added that Book/Puzzle Swop takes place in a bus shelter each month in Gt Kingshill. LJ to investigate.

LJ

7. **MAGAZINE - Hughenden News**

AC will be calling for articles at the end of September and hopes to distribute the magazine before the Christmas Fair, say, around 17 – 18 November. He asked PW if there were any new advertisers, and PW confirmed there was one. AC's biggest challenge is the front cover because he had hoped to use a photo of the Fete. EM thought a photo of the Autumn Afternoon Tea could be used instead.

**Photo of
Afternoon
Tea**

8. **HVRADIG – No Report.**

9. **ROAD REP REPORT**

a) **Valley Road – Giga Clear** - RH had received complaints that residents had not been informed by the Company that their grass verges/pavements would be dug up and their drives blocked with barriers. PW added that a Notice had been put up at the end of Valley Road near the Cryers Hill roundabout.

b) **All Road Reps and Members present** complained bitterly about the appalling state of the pavements, roads, footpaths, over-grown hedgerow along Valley Road, graffiti, uncut grass and weeds surrounding the Cryers Hill roundabout and dangerous overhanging branches of the trees that line the A4128 by Hughenden Park. Louise Jones tried to cycle with her children along the footpath on that same stretch of Valley Road but found it impossible.

- As the place looks very scruffy **it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Steven Broadbent be invited to attend the next meeting of the HVRA Committee to explain why.**

**RH/PC>
Cllr SB**

When JA was Deputy Clerk, she had a flexible approach to dealing with areas outside the 30mph area that HPC are responsible for under devolved powers and instructed the maintenance contractors to deal with all these issues on Health & Safety grounds. The Parish Council are not so flexible.

- LJ also queried what is happening to the aspirational cycle path because it is much needed?
- AC suggested that we all go on Fix My Street to register our complaints for greater impact.

**Cycle Path
Update**

10. OTHER REPORTS

- a) **Village Hall** – Although there has been a summer recess, the Village Hall continued to do things:
- After a 6 – 7-year battle, the Parish Council have finally **agreed to replace the Multi-Play equipment** due to safety issues. It is on order and should be installed during November. MS expressed his thanks to HPC.
 - Some success has been achieved in seeking funding for the re-surfacing of the car park. Three organizations have been approached, including HPC, that will contribute half of the cost of £50,000. It is hoped the re-surfacing will take place between Christmas and February.
 - The Village Hall continues to work with the shop regarding two all-weather gazebos that will cost circa £1,000. LJ confirmed that letters had gone out to all Shareholders seeking pledges or donations to cover the cost.
 - Summer Fete – MS was pleased that having taken all costs and re-imburements into consideration, there may be a slight surplus thanks to the proceeds of the raffle, and the Barn Dance which was a great success. Everyone agreed that the Hall was a better venue for dancing and acoustics than a marquee. The Band – *The Wick Trimmers* – have been booked for next year and all the stall holders' deposits will also be held over.
 - The recent walk around the Conservation Area was a great success thanks to the fantastic work of the Group. John Moorby will be speaking at the Climate Group on Thursday, 7 September.
 - PS was pleased to see a coming together of both Groups, as well as HAGA.
 - AC asked PW if the stallholders were happy to pay the advertising costs despite the cancellation? They were, except one person who was reassured that the Programme carrying advertisements had been distributed to every household.
 - As only 4 or 5 members of the Fete's core organizing group will remain, a plea will have to go out for more help next year. Please get in touch with PS or MS if you know anyone who wishes to get involved.

**Help needed
Fete**

- b) **The Village Shop is desperately short of volunteers.** As several helpers will be leaving, LJ expressed concern about the knock-on effect on the finances of the shop. RH to email all Road Reps with a plea for volunteers mentioning all the associated benefits that come when helping in the shop, not forgetting a 10% discount on shopping.

**Shop
needs
Volunteers**

11. PLANNING

- a) **Orchard Caravans** – As the Certificate of Lawfulness, **Ref: 23/05400/CLP**, was refused, the owner of the Orchard site has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. HVRA, the Chiltern Conservation Board and residents submitted further representations in support of the Officer's Refusal. The Government Inspector's Decision is awaited.

- b) **46 Trees Road - Ref: 20/08491/FUL**

The owner of the 2-acre garden plot and 5-acre woodland at No 46 Trees Road has permission to demolish a 4-bed bungalow and replace it with a 4-bed, 3 storey dwelling that has a swimming pool and other amenities on the lower ground floor under.

A huge area of the 5-acre woodland was chopped down and a Woodland Preservations Order was placed on the remaining woodland. The demolition spoil from the bungalow has been pushed over the vast denuded area to form a boundary mound. Since April thousands of tons of spoil and chalk from the massive excavation works have been spread over this area, probably up to 8 feet deep in places. Several remaining trees have been subsumed by at least 5 - 6 feet of chalk.

Numerous residents have expressed concern. The Arboricultural Department at Wycombe and Enforcement were notified at the beginning of August but it would appear that nothing has been done about the matter since then. Cllr David Carroll is very concerned and has chased up the relevant Officers. Other reference numbers are **22/08328/ADRC** and **W/23/00226/BOC**.

12. FUTURE EVENTS

An Autumn Afternoon Tea for the over 70s – Saturday, 30th September from 3.30 – 6.30pm

Road Reps have passed on names and Invitations have been sent out. Spouses, partners and carers can also attend. Replies are sought by 15th September. The Organizing Team will meet to plan and cater for final numbers. Peter S and his wife Pauline will greet guests and offer a Welcome Drink. An Afternoon Tea will be provided, followed by Entertainment by the Shop Choir.

RH circulated a Help List. Sandwiches, savoury/sweet treats and tray bakes will have to be made.

- PS would like the Christmas Gift Bag initiative to continue if possible because it was so well received.

AC mentioned the **Hughenden Community Support Trust (HCST)** which is a charity that supports those in need/hardship. It was formerly a charity to help the Labouring Poor of Hughenden. EM explained that when seeking a grant from the Northwest Chilterns Community Board to cover the cost of items for the Christmas Gift Bags, she was asked if the recipients in Hughenden Valley were suffering hardship. She did not believe they were, instead stated the HVRA initiative was to give seasonal cheer to the over 80s, a gesture that was much appreciated and well received. [After many years of wrangling, the Parish Council has recently agreed to give HCST back-payment of rent of circa £40,000 – £50,000 – money that the Parish Council receives from taxpayers]

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Al praised Ant who has taken over the Wren Davis Milk Delivery Service from Kevin because he is now running seven rounds, although it is necessary to put out a milk request much earlier in the day because Ant delivers in the evening for the next day.
- b) Al asked what is the result of PS’s various focus groups? PS explained that they ran their course, notes were taken which culminated in the formation of the Planning for the Future Group.
- c) Al complained that the size of the print on prescription/medication slips had got smaller, well below the level that he used when printing the magazine, and difficult to read. MS agreed and had made some enquiries earlier in the day - the Pharmacy uses the Electronic Prescription Services to print the slips.
 - PS believed this is something to raise with the PPG when it is formed.
- d) Al proudly announced that his grandson, William, had gained a 1st in Geography at Lancaster University. Congratulations, and well done William!

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

- ❖ There followed an impromptu Birthday Surprise to celebrate Rosemary’s special upcoming “very big” birthday with a glass of Prosecco and fairy cakes that Elaine had made and beautifully decorated. Rosemary was very appreciative of the thoughtful gesture and good wishes.

The next HVRA Executive Committee Meetings is on 3rd October in the Small Hall.

Signed.....

Dated.....