

**MINUTES OF THE HVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2023 IN THE SMALL HALL**

**WELCOME**

Peter welcomed everyone and was very pleased to see Cllrs David Carroll and Simon Kearey at the meeting.

Peter Spence (Chair)

Jill Armshaw

Angus and Janet Idle

Louise Jones (Shop)

Cllr David Carroll (Bucks)

Paul Woodford (Treasurer)

Peter Cannon

Elaine Merrilees

Michael Sole (Village Hall)

Cllr Simon Kearey (HPC)

Rosemary Hewitt (Secretary)

Janet Howe

Nancy Pomfret

**ACTION**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Andrew Capey, Cacs Hinds, Jerry Morley, Brenda Morris and Kate Messenger.

**Road Reps who do not attend meetings:** David Mynors and Mary Wright

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

2. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2023** had been circulated and read prior to the meeting and it was proposed by Jill Armshaw, seconded by Elaine Merrilees and 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**

- a) **Bucks Council** – Cllr David Carroll

i) **Entrance road to the Church** – DC raised the question of who is responsible for re-surfacing the entrance road to the Church – Bucks Council or the National Trust? Bucks Council will take responsibility now with the hope that an alternative arrangement will be made in future.

ii) **Orchard Caravan site** – Along with many residents, DC is hoping for a positive outcome by the Planning Inspectorate to the Appeal submitted by the owner of the site.

iii) **46 Trees Road** - As no progress has been made regarding the representations made to Enforcement by Cllr Carroll, the HVRA and residents against the deposition of tons of chalk spoil on the denuded woodland from excavation works, he has chased-up the Enforcement Officer and learned that the investigation has not yet commenced, and a decision will be made within 100 days.

iv) **Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Changes** – DC confirmed that this Parish will fall in the area to be known as **Mid-Bucks** and that he and RH will sit on the Shadow Board that meets near Waddeston. The constituency area will be much larger with a bigger population. He fears that as we are so far south we will be lost but is determined that the benefits received elsewhere we will also receive, stressing the importance of having our say.

v) **Buckinghamshire Council** – DC confirmed that the Parish of Hughenden along with Kimble, Hampden and Ellesborough lies in the Ridgeway East region.

vi) **Residents' Concerns** - DC normally receives about 20 emails every Monday from concerned residents, MS or HVRA Officers and does his best to action them where necessary. He praised the role of Residents Associations in the Parish and thanked everyone for caring for their community and raising issues etc.

PS thanked Cllr Carroll for his report, adding our appreciation for what he does for us.

- 4.b) **Hughenden Parish Council** - Cllr Simon Kearey thanked us for inviting him to the meeting and hoped to attend in future as he is the only Councillor representing Hughenden Valley.

i) **HPC Update** – Alice Fisher, the Clerk, has resigned and now the Council is looking to find her successor. Melinda Beevis is the new Responsible Financial Officer who will manage the book keeping & accounts. A communique needs to go out informing residents of the staff changes and office opening hours, e.g. It is only open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

#### 4b) ii) **New Projects - Heritage**

- a) Cllr Kearey referred to Chalfont St. Peter Parish Council as a good example of working with their local community and where residents appreciated the heritage of the area. Gt Kingshill are not sure of their heritage, although Hughenden Valley has HAGA and the Climate Group who are devising a Parish Heritage Walk and a Parish Nature Walk. SK has liaised with PS about the various heritage sites in Hughenden Valley, e.g. St Michael & All Angels Church, Boss Lane House which is over 200 years old and some nice walks. He is asking all Wards to list all heritage buildings and nature walks that will eventually be published on the website.
- b) **Hatches Lane Field** is owned by the Parish Council and leased to a farmer, but the Climate Group are exploring what they can do with it in the future.
- iii) **1914 – 1918 Memorial Plaque in Bryants Bottom** - Meetings have been held with JA about installing it in a suitable location where it has a more sustainable future but, regrettably, it will not be installed before the Remembrance Day Service in November.
- iv) HPC does not have a **Planning Committee** to oversee applications but if a contentious one comes forward an open meeting would be held with residents to discuss it.
- v) **HPC Vacancies** - As SK is the sole Councillor for Hughenden Valley he would like some friends and if you, or you know of anyone who would like to become a Parish Councillor, please get in touch with him via [simon.kearey@hughenden-pc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.kearey@hughenden-pc.gov.uk)
- vi) **SK has met the Interim Clerk** and he is aware of the challenges - that we want a functioning Parish Council that serves the public. JA stressed it takes a long time to assimilate the knowledge and wherewithal to become a good clerk and believed that the applicants need experience, and that it would have been helpful if our Bucks Councillors had intervened several months ago to provide leadership and support. He confirmed that the Council has written to the Monitoring Officer and is in the hands of Bucks Council.
- vii) **The new MVAS Devices** have arrived to replace the ones that were vandalized and had their lithium batteries stolen but RH had been informed that, as they are more robust, there is a problem with fixing the device to the post in Valley Road. SK to investigate and report back to RH.
- viii) Referring to **Martin Tett's latest newsletter** about our roads being dug up in the same place repeatedly by utilities and communications companies, SK suggested we keep an eye on them because if the companies breach their conditions they will be subject to a fine.

**Join the Council**

**SK/RH**

As SK is the only remaining HV Ward Councillor, please pass on any issues or concerns to him via the email at **v) above**.

PS thanked Cllr Kearey for his update and was pleased that the present issues at the Parish Council are being addressed and will hopefully be resolved.

#### 5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

PW: The closing balance on the Current A/C is £3,216.55, which takes account of £1,446.30 spent on printing and distributing the summer issue of the magazine. Looking at Income, advertising revenue is up by £379 with one invoice still unpaid from one of the advertisers. £170 of subs were paid during September, bringing the total to £1,895 which is 55% of households. He was looking forward to receiving more in the coming months to match last year's coverage of 77%.

The Deposit A/C is up by a few pounds and now totals £11,434. He believed the finances were in fairly good shape. With regard to residents double paying their £5 subs, an issue that Jerry Morley raised several months ago, PW believed it is best to make a note of the overpayment and hold it over for next year.

**Double payment of subs**

#### 6. **HRVA REPORTS/UPDATES**

##### **Chairman:**

- a) **The Autumn Afternoon Tea** for the over 70s was a great success serving just over 50, plus the choir, making about 60 people. It required a team of 12, ably led by Elaine. From the number of "Thank You" emails and cards received, the event was enjoyed by many. PS thanked everyone who made the event run smoothly and be the success it was, as well as Louise Jones who gave the lovely main prize, won by Barry Keates.

- b) **The Planning for the Future Group has** held its first meeting and after much discussion, 3 things were identified for more work:-
1. A comprehensive review of *Hughenden News* led by Andrew Capey and Sarah Mustapha looking at how it works, as well as membership and subscriptions issues. **AC/SM**
  2. Michael Sole to produce a report into how the HVRA might increase the number of events in the Hall, but this depends on the number of human resources available. **MS**
  3. Exploration of the potential benefits of establishing a village 'Forum' made up of all the active community associations in the village led by PS. **PS**
- c) **Bucks Council's Response – Poor State of Verges etc. Update**  
 Bucks Cllr Steven Broadbent was invited to this meeting but as he could not attend, Rosie Tunnard, Highways Community Liaison Manager, sent a lengthy explanation which PS summarized. In brief, any maintenance is carried out in line with Bucks Highway's Safety Inspection Policy which is based on national standards of good practice. However, she suggests that if there are still areas of concern, we log them on **FixMyStreet** so that the Local Area Technician (LAT) can arrange for reactive cuts and other appropriate measures. **FixMyStreet**
- JA explained that the Parish Council took on devolved services about 7 years ago, e.g. grass cutting of verges in a 30mph area only, with 40 & 50mph areas being under the remit of Bucks Council. When she was Deputy Clerk, she arranged for overgrown areas to be cut back on H & S grounds.
- JA suggested that a **To Do List** is drawn up and passed on to the appropriate Council. **All of Us TO DO LIST**
- d) **Road Rep Vacancies**  
 AS Becky Rycroft (Frogmore Close) and Paul Jenner (Valley Road South) have resigned and we could soon lose several more Road Reps, PS expressed concern that it could impact the way the HVRA is run. This will be looked at at the next Planning for the Future Group meeting. JI reminded everyone that the HVRA has had Road Reps for the past 70 years and that they have done, and continue to do, a lot of very good work. Paul Woodwood has kindly agreed to take over from Paul Jenner.
7. **MAGAZINE – *Hughenden News***  
 Please send copy for the next issue of the magazine which is due to be distributed before the Christmas Fair, around 17 – 18 November. **Copy for Magazine needed**
8. **HVRADIG – No Report**
9. **ROAD REP REPORTS**  
 Several Road Reps found great difficulty in collecting subs despite repeated attempts either via email, knocking on doors or notes through the letterbox, and said they felt embarrassed to call 4 or 5 times.
10. **OTHER REPORTS**
- a) **Village Hall** – The Chairs of the 4 Village Halls have met to discuss topics of mutual interest and it is planned that they will be joined by the Chairs of the Residents Associations. Cllr Carroll, who attends numerous Resident Association meetings in the Ridgeway East region was asked to bring forward/recommend any best practice that he encounters for the benefit of the RAs in this Parish. **DC to b/f best practice**
- Funding is in place for the re-surfacing of the car park and scheduling is to be firmed-up shortly to limit the disruption that may be caused. Works may commence in February next year.
  - A new cycle rack will soon be installed to replace the old, smaller one.
  - As there are issues with a couple of trees they continue to work with nearby neighbours and Bucks Council, e.g. the big Hazel tree needs to be coppiced.
  - It is proposed to remove the big "Christmas" tree because it had previously lost its top section but everyone expressed disappointment because they thought it was a fine conifer!
  - Each year **the Hall's Hire Rates** are reviewed and as costs have increased they need to see how they can be recouped.
- b) **The Village Store & Coffee Shop**
- desperately needs volunteers.
  - £769 has been pledged for the two proposed gazebos. As these are now no longer available another will be sourced.

- **Switching on the Christmas Lights & Carols around the tree will take place on 3 December.**

**Note the date**

11. **PLANNING ISSUES – Please see page 2, item 4 a) ii) and iii).**

12. **FUTURE EVENTS**

a) **25 November – Christmas Craft Fair**

PC spoke about his idea of the HVRA having a **stall selling re-gifted items**, e.g., almost new books, CDs & DVDs in their original packaging, toys in good condition, knitted scarves, hats and gloves.

As 60+ over-70s enjoyed the Autumn Afternoon Tea, PC hoped to provide Christmas Gift Bags to those who could not attend the event for some reason, funded by half the proceeds of the re-gifting stall with the other half going to the Village Hall.

As this would require Road Reps to be involved in collecting the items for the stall and a team to purchase Christmas items for the Gift bags, organize the packing and distribution, EM and JH both stated that they would not be involved in the Christmas Gift Bag initiative, and JA did not believe it was appropriate to run two events in a year for the older age group when children and the youth are not catered for. The Committee was in agreement.

Although Kerry Franklin, the Craft Fair’s organizer, was enthusiastic when PC first mentioned his idea, he was urged to consult her again about his re-gifting stall. The HVRA would pay the £25 fee and keep the income. PC confirmed that he will alter his draft letter to Road Reps omitting any reference to the Christmas Gift Bags.

**PC/KF**

b) **Santa’s Grotto**

- A discussion took place mainly about who would lead this event and the team needed to set it up.
- Road Reps would need to be emailed to seek volunteers.
- Also, advertise on HV What’s On FB page.
- Try to engage young people who need experience for their Duke of Edinburgh’s qualifications.
- Also, ask the Church to get involved.

**Delay as Ideas only**

MS confirmed that the Football Club had agreed not to train or play matches on Saturday, 25 November in an attempt to avoid the congestion mayhem caused last year with cars parked everywhere!

13. **AOB**

a) As a result of PC viewing a film that showed the nighttime activities and damage by Glis Glis, he personally believed there should be a cull although he thought they were protected mammals. Cllr Carroll asked PC to send his request which he will pass on to the Environmental Officer at Bucks Council.

**PC/DC**

b) JI passed on the sad news that Gill Kent had died. She had been a Science teacher at Pipers Corner School for 30 years, an arboriculturist and a local farmer who bred the dairy cows for Beechdean Icecream based in North Dean. Her funeral will be held at 2pm on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> October at St Michael & All Angels Church. JI hoped a tribute could be put in the magazine and that the HVRA Chair send condolences.

**PS**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The date of the next meeting is 7 November 2023.

Signed.....

Date.....