

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

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Peter welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Despite many apologies he was pleased to see so many at the meeting.

Peter Spence (Chair)	Andrew Capey (Vice-Chair)	Paul Woodford (Treasurer)
Rosemary Hewitt (Secretary)	Catherine (Cacs) Hinds	Janet Howe
Angus and Janet Idle	Brenda Morris	Nancy Pomfret
Kate Messenger (School)	Michael Sole (Village Hall)	Cllr Simon Kearey (HPC)

ACTION

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Jill Armshaw, Peter Cannon, Sue Grace, Julia Grant, Elaine Merrilees, Jerry Morley, Cllr David Carroll (Bucks Council) and Louise Jones (Shop)

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 7 NOVEMBER 2023** were circulated and read prior to the meeting and it was proposed by Paul Woodford, seconded by Janet Howe, and agreed that they be approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Page 3, Item 6. 2nd square bullet point

MS asked to know the outcome of the Planning for the Future Group's meeting that considered the feedback from the 7 November meeting. (Please see item 6 a) below for an update)

All other items to be dealt with via progression through the Agenda.

4. **COUNCILLORS' UPDATES**

- a) **Bucks Cllr Carroll** – In his absence, RH referred to the HVRA Minutes of 3 October 2023:

Item 4a) 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 the future.

DC's update:

A meeting has been held between the National Trust and Bucks Council Roads which was positive and is ongoing. He will report the outcome at the next HVRA meeting.

- b) **HPC Cllr Simon Kearey** –

- He had passed on photographs of the Remembrance Memorial Service and Reception at The Gate in Bryants Bottom on 12 November to the Parish Council and a large gathering at Church.
- Two new Councillors have been co-opted for Naphill and Gt Kingshill.
- RH had written to the Parish Council about the poor state of the verges and pavements etc and SK stressed that shortage of staff is a problem, that Steve Rodgers is the warden and that Marilyn Heybourn, the Burials & Allotments Administrator, had responded to RH during the afternoon.
- Delegation to the Clerk and Gareth Cadwallader of road-side verges etc.
- The Environmental Services Committee is led by Gareth Cadwallader and plans for Little Burnham Meadow and Spinney are to be taken forward as well as rejuvenation of the space and playground at Templewood in Walters Ash, replacement of a piece of play equipment here in Hughenden Valley and the rejuvenation of the playground at Gt Kingshill.
- As a token of the Parish Council's appreciation of the work pursued by some members of the public in the community over the past year, they have been invited to Church House for a Nibbles & Get-Together on 14 December.
- Hughenden Valley is forging ahead with the Nature & Heritage Walks, as are Gt Kingshill and Naphill.

**HPC
Response**

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

PW reported that the closing balance in the Current Account at the end of November was £1,796.95, down by £1,255.29. Advertising income was up by £50.67 due to a one-off advert but one unpaid bill of £101 remains outstanding. £265.00 of subs received this month brings the total amount to £2,640 which is 75% coverage of households in the community. This may yet rise by late-payers. After paying the stall fee of £25, PW was pleased to receive approx £335 from the HVRA's Re-gifting stall at the recently held Christmas Gift & Craft Fair. The major expenditure this month has been the cost of printing and distribution of *Hughenden News* of £1,817.00 as well as £26.10 on stationery, £64.18 on IT and £25.74 for the room hire.

PW has transferred £3,000 from the Current A/C to the Deposit Account so that it will earn a small amount of interest.

6. HVRA REPORTS/UPDATES

Chairman

a) Planning for the Future Group

PS stated that no action has been taken because no meeting had been held.

- PW queried what the plan is for the Group as he believed there was no appetite to abandon the £5 sub at November's HVRA meeting, and asked is there more to come.

PS is mindful that this item is divisive and did not wish to drive any division among the HVRA Executive Committee. As PW had detected a strong groundswell of opinion against the proposition, he wished to see it withdrawn from future discussions but as this was not on the Agenda it will go back to the Group with all the background information and put on the Agenda of the next meeting in February, i.e. to keep things as they are or abandon the sub.

Info to PFFG
b/f for
Feb agenda

- b) **Raising the profile of the HVRA** – MS suggested Sub-Groups could be formed to organize and run 3 or 4 events a year in the Village Hall but stressed these would have to be booked well in advance because the Hall diary gets very booked-up.

- c) **Volunteers** – At the previous evening's Village Hall AGM, PS spoke about the general difficulty in getting volunteers to take on roles within not only the HVRA but organisations locally, within Bucks and the whole country. This afternoon PS took part in a Community Impact Bucks (CIB) Zoom meeting. They have a lot of useful information, although it was recognised that it often falls to the older generation to organize events which is not an attractive age group for younger people to get involved with. This is not helpful for the HVRA and CIB did not have the answer to this problem.

- d) **Summer Fete 2024** - PS expressed concern that 3 members of the core organizing group of 7 have stood down, leaving the group too small to get things done which could put the event at risk. To date, there have been no responses to the plea in *Hughenden News* for volunteers, Local organisations, e.g. HAGA, the Church and the school are also experiencing this difficulty and perhaps, as people's lives are changing, we won't be able to deliver what we used to do.

- e) **Planters** – PS and EM had submitted a proposal to the Parish Council that was agreed, but JA suggested asking for more. An amended proposal to be put forward asking for more money to cover the purchase of plants, soil and maintenance of the planters. Watering will have to be carried out by the HVRA.

PS/EM
>HPC

- f) **Nature and Heritage Walks** – Two walks have taken place, in both the north and south of the Ward, led by Steve Pickersgill, their guide. Adverts had been posted on the Hughenden Valley Facebook page, at Church and HAGA that brought together a group of 10, mainly walkers. AI asked what did they record on the walks? PS is preparing some information for a tri-fold map detailing flora and fauna as well as heritage sites. Each Ward in the Parish will also be creating something similar for the benefit of everyone. JI has been working hard and has accumulated a considerable amount of heritage information and maps etc. All the information will be passed on to SK and hopefully on to a professional mapmaker.

MS expressed sadness at seeing bare ground in woodlands due to Ash die-back and that 6,000 Ash trees will be taken out in Bucks alone.

7. MAGAZINE - Hughenden News

AC asked how many people actually read the magazine? All those present did, and really enjoyed reading it and NP thought the photos helped the narrative to flow. AC, along with PS, met the Editors of the Naphill Gazette and the Lacey Green magazine. AC confirmed that he and his Editorial team could not compete with the Gazette by issuing the magazine each month. (10 issues pa) JI added that publishing *Hughenden News* every 4 months is a challenge because articles relate to the previous 4 months as well as 4 months ahead. AC is not planning on any changes just yet although the team may meet up. PW asked if he could join the team.

PW to join team

JI has lots of copies of *Hughenden News* going back to 2002. They could be called "historical" documents and if anyone wishes to have one, please contact Janet Idle.

JI/Old Mag copies

8. HVRADIG

PW referred to his Notes of the DIG meeting held on 29 November to celebrate 10 years of being in existence that were circulated prior to the meeting. They detailed what the Drainage Improvement Group (DIG) had done over this period and PW drew attention to the flooding that *The Harrow* experienced in September and believed something needs to be done about the nearby drainage system. DC is seeking a suitable contact so that the matter can be resolved.

DC/PW

BM added that the entrance to Friars Gardens flooded again recently and the drain on the northern side has collapsed again. There is serious ponding at the bottom of Trees Road/ Valley Road with mud and debris covering the pavement outside nearby properties. PW took photos earlier in the day as evidence of the problem. His contact at Thames Water has left and he is struggling to get hold of someone who could help. PW had read that Thames Water plan to upgrade the Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works and hoped this will improve the situation here, but not until 2027.

9. ROAD REP REPORTS

Coombe Lane/Whitfield Road – AI complained that householders do not cut back their hedges and prickly roses etc to enable those on foot to walk safely up and down the road.

10. OTHER REPORTS

a) Christmas Fair – HVRA Re-gifting Stall

In the absence of PC who organized and ran the stall, RH reported that it was a great success, very busy all day with customers of all ages buying good quality books, puzzles and toys. With takings of £359.16, thanks go to all the contributors and the very cheerful helpers who manned the stall during the event and to PC for leading on this.

b) Village Hall

- The Village Hall AGM was held the previous evening. Three Officers stepped down: Michael Sole Chairman, Clive Webb Secretary and Kerry Franklin Bookings Secretary. MS had given 2 years' notice and it is hoped to recruit new people to join the Committee, made up of 7 users of the Halls plus Trustees. Roland Wales did not step down as Treasurer and the new Committee will vote in the new Officers at their next meeting in January.
- Back in November, when the Hall's finances were healthy, it was agreed not to increase the hire charges but as their energy contract is coming to an end the new rates will increase considerably and unfortunately this will be passed on to hirers.
- The Christmas Gift & Craft Fair was a resounding success and very busy from the moment the doors opened at 10am to the close at 3pm. There was a variety of items on sale, and last year's traffic congestion on Coombe Lane was avoided because MS had placed safety cones up the road.
 - As JH had paid £2 to enter the Speen Christmas Fete she believed a fee should be considered for next year's Christmas Fair.
- Fund-raising events will be needed for future projects, e.g., they are looking at £12,000 to replace the swings and slide, with the Village Hall having to pay half the cost.
 - CH thanked MS for all that he has done over many years as Chair of the Village Hall Committee as well as working with the HVRA Executive Committee during that time.

Entry Fee ?

c) **Village Store & Coffee Shop** – No report.

11. **FUTURE EVENTS**

Potter Cup Quiz – AI queried why a date for the next Potter Cup Quiz had been set when the full Question Team had not been put in place. PS responded that AI and Christine Bowyer were happy to compile the questions and create the computer overheads.

12. **AOB**

Archiving Local Information – JI has amassed a collection of maps that go back to the 1300s showing that over the centuries much of the land was owned by the Earls of Buckingham, including Hughenden Valley. It was high quality farming land that was well financed and well patronized. She has documents giving the history of Pipers Corner School, Boss Lane Farm and Boss Lane House and much more.

Ann Hildesley, a Trees Road resident who was born and bred locally has also carried out a lot of research of the area. (Sadly she has died and her funeral is on 7 December.)

JA would like somewhere locally, perhaps in an annex to the Parish Office, where all this material could be archived for children and adults alike to be able to look up/study the history of the area. MS suggested the possibility of it being digitized and PS believed the hard copies could be held in the County Archives at the Aylesbury Records Office.

**Maps
Research
Archive where?**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm followed by mince pies, warm mulled wine, and some friendly chat.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

Signed.....

Date.....