

**MINUTES OF THE HVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM ON
TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2024 IN THE SMALL HALL**

CONFIRMED MINUTES

WELCOME

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting especially after having a two months' break.

PRESENT

Peter Spence (Chairman)	Rosemary Hewitt (Secretary)	Peter Cannon	Sue Grace
Cacs Hinds	Janet Howe	Angus Idle	Elaine Merrilees
Brenda Morris	Cllr David Carroll		

ACTION

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Jane Boughton, Andrew Capey, Janet Idle, Jerry Morley, Nancy Pomfret, Paul Woodford, Kate Messenger (School) is on maternity leave and Cllr Simon Kearey (HPC).

Road Reps who do not attend meetings: Dave Mynors, Lin Hawkins and Mary Wright. Reports, written or verbal, are welcome from all members whether or not they attend meetings.

2. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2023** had been circulated and read. It was proposed by Cacs Hinds and seconded by Janet Howe that they be approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Item 4 b) 3rd bullet point:

RH confirmed that the Parish Council had organised the cutting back of some overgrown hedges and encroached pavements. Cryers Hill remains outstanding, and it is hoped that a meeting with HPC Chairman Stan Jones, Cllr Dave Carroll and the Local Area Technical (LAT) is organised to progress the works that are required including those also highlighted by Tony Konieczny.

4. **COUNCILLORS' UPDATES**

a) **Buckinghamshire Councillor:**

Cllr Carroll expressed his appreciation of the work that the HVRA does for the community. He also praised the Church for organising a wonderful Burns Night Supper that was great fun and enjoyed by everyone.

- Although a meeting with DC, representatives from Bucks Council and the NT took place in the Autumn that proposed plans for the maintenance of the entrance road to the park going forward, a confirmatory response from the NT is awaited.
- A meeting with HPC, the LAT and DC is due to take place to clarify who is responsible for dealing with overgrown hedges and encroachment of the pavement on Cryers Hill because the road lies in a 50mph area, and to mop up other areas of concern that remain outstanding.
- DC frequently walks around the village and as he has been a Councillor for the last 30 years, he knows the place well and listens to the concerns of residents. He receives numerous messages each day and does his best to help or point residents in the right direction. He has worked collaboratively with residents over the years in trying to save the GB and AONB environment where we live and love.

PC asked DC why he did not summarise the work that he does for the community in the magazine and DC responded that he does submit articles but they seem to get lost and not appear. He was asked to outline the concerns that people have who contacted him, and listed many issues that come from all ages in the community, from Ellesborough and Kimble in the north to Widmer End in the south of the Ridgeway East constituency area, e.g. planning issues, public services, adult care, non-collection of refuse and green waste bins, road works in general, school places, people who are struggling financially and many elderly who are lonely. He does not dismiss anyone and tries to help where possible, and if he cannot, he points them in the right direction.

He added that there is a lot of pressure on budgets and that Bucks Council will be making some changes. Also, some Councillors and MPs have come under threat in recent months/years and been attacked, several even losing their lives at the hands of a constituent. He is relieved that he has only suffered 2 attacks in 30 years.

PS thanked DC and said how much we valued the work that he has done and continues to do.

b) **Hughenden Parish Councillor – No Report.**

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Finance Report to the end of January and the Subs Summary were circulated prior to the meeting. In the absence of PW, the Chairman asked if there were any questions and there were none.

6. **HVRA REPORTS/UPDATES**

Chairman

a) **Discussion document on Planning for the Future**

Immediately following a meeting the Officers held earlier in the year, PW asked PS what his vision might be for the future. PS explained to this meeting that he did not know the timescale to achieve a small, active, representative, agile, younger, committed group at the centre who would sit on **The Committee** because they wanted to do things and take on specific roles in addition to the Officers.

PS believed the HVRA should remain at the heart of the village and do the things/events that the community wants. He recognises the difficulty in getting volunteers, a universal problem that many local organisations are facing, eg HAGA, Village Hall and Parish Council. This phenomenon is occurring not just here but all around the region and further afield. We need to engage the next generation whilst keeping hold of what we already do well, ie, to hold at least 2 good events a year. The HVRA is respected by local government representatives and our Road Reps are our strength and we need to re-define their role and how they link into the main body of the Association.

1. **Change of name:** PS believed we needed to change the name of the association and suggested ***Hughenden Valley Village Association***.

As concern was raised about the possibility of alienating Bryants Bottom, Church Farm and Cryers Hill Road. ***Hughenden Valley Villages Association*** or ***Hughenden Valley Community Association*** were suggested.

Several members expressed the view that even if the name is changed, this would not change the make-up of the residents who live here, that the world is changing and the next generation are busy working and looking after their families, worrying about the cost of living and are not interested in sitting on Committees, getting involved or running events.

2. **Committee Structure**

The Committee is to be a small committee, meeting monthly with 4 Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and 4 other Officers elected at an AGM to take on specific roles, e.g. Organising Events, Magazine, Publicity etc.

The Liaison Committee is to be held quarterly and open to the members of ***The Committee***, all Road Reps and representatives from local village clubs and organisations as well other interested residents.

As Secretary, RH would not wish to attend 10 monthly meetings plus 4 quarterly meetings and the AGM each year (15 in total) instead preferring, along with the Treasurer, to meet monthly and to include the 4 quarterly Liaison Committee meetings on the same day in the month, i.e.. the 1st Tuesday.

Referring to his discussion document that sets out the benefits, PS wanted the Committee to consider changing the name of the HVRA and the committee structure thus enabling a re-launch of the Association with a more focussed approach that would reach out to different groups, or asking whether we remain with the status quo and not push for any change.

A full and frank discussion followed with various views being expressed, e.g. BM and AI: Keeping the name HVRA.

Most of us: Thinking about inclusivity and the hamlets of Bryants Bottom, Cryers Hill and Church Farm - perhaps adding an "s" to Village. From his recent email, JM suggested that the adjoining villages be consulted regarding the changes to both name and the other changes and if agreeable then that would be the best way forward.

SG: Agreeing to a re-launch with specific roles for the new Officers.

EM, JH & CH: As a Road Rep they would prefer to attend less meetings

RH: Other Road Reps may feel disenfranchised and not valued.

AI: Mentioned Covenants on the playing field and having to change the Constitution.

PS agreed that the Constitution would have to be changed at an EGM.

CH, EM, PC & JH believed it was worth a try in making the changes.

Although there was no consensus there was general agreement for change, whether it be via updating the magazine *Hughenden News* and the website and organising more family orientated events to attract the younger generation, OR a re-launch under a new name and Committee structure requiring a change in the Constitution, that neither AI and BM were happy with.

7. MAGAZINE – *Hughenden News*

In AC's absence, PS reminded everyone that the deadline for copy is 10 February and RH added that a date needs to be set for the AGM because the Spring issue always carries the Notice of the AGM and Nomination for Officer form.

**Deadline
20 Feb
Date for
AGM**

8. HVRADIG

PW's DIG report, circulated prior to the meeting, gave up-to-date information about the stream and road drains but he expressed concern that contact with Thames Water had dried up (sorry about the pun). RH was pleased to confirm that her husband has emailed PW with contacts at Thames Water going forward.

9. ROAD REP REPORTS

- AI had contacted FixMyStreet about the undulating pavement outside Sainsburys in High Wycombe.
- CH expressed concern that we will be losing our landline phones in 2 years' time.
- BM raised the issue that many pavements are poor. These need to be detailed for FixMyStreet.
- In view of recent thefts from cars, sheds and homes, RH urged everyone to make sure their cars, sheds and homes are securely locked, all valuables put out of sight and jewellery preferably in a safe, AND that keys are not left in front doors, or even left open.

BM/RH

Warrendene Road - Complaints that there has been a build-up of HGVs waiting to enter Country Supplies in recent weeks.

Country Supplies – Serious complaints by residents that the big black dog belonging to Michael Bryant of Country Supplies is allowed to roam freely in nearby fields. The dog has attacked a female resident, knocking her to the ground, as well as attacking her dog and another. These incidents should be reported to the Local Dog Warden.

**Report
to Dog
Warden**

10. FUTURE EVENTS

a) Potter Cup Quiz on Saturday, 6 April

AI was very unhappy that the Potter Cup Quiz legacy had been broken because a date had been set and circulated before the team consisting of J & AI, A & CB, Daf and Dory had agreed and met to compile the questions. PS re-affirmed that AI and Christine alone were happy to set the questions and compile the overheads providing they did not have to organise the food. The Committee were grateful for their offer to do this on behalf of the HVRA.

Earlier in the year, a "Save the Date" email had been circulated to Road Reps and residents and a notice put on the village FB page. EM will organise the buffet with a slightly changed timetable so that the event ends earlier in the evening, and not at midnight as had happened last year for some of the helpers. She will liaise with AB and PW about tickets and advertising etc. A lot of help will be required in the afternoon and evening.

b) Village Day – Please see item 11a) below for more information.

c) As the Burns Night Supper organised by the Church was such a success CH suggested that perhaps the HVRA could organise it next year.

11. OTHER REPORTS

a) Village Hall – Report by Angus

- i) New Chairman** - At last night’s meeting Peter Geiler was elected Chairman of the Village Hall Committee along with a change of faces with Michael Sole, Kerry Franklin and Clive Webb leaving and new ones joining. Daphne Hicks of HAGA, who sadly is very poorly, has requested that the Village Hall take over her email list so that HAGA events continue to be published regularly.
- ii) Summer Fete/Village Day** - Lisa Thyer-Jones reported the number of volunteers on the core committee had dropped to 3½ and unfortunately the Fete will not go ahead. (Naphill has also cancelled its Summer Fete due to a lack of volunteers)
- iii) Car Park** will be re-surfaced asap but with slight changes to be made.
- iv) Village Shop** – 15 May is a very special day for the shop because it is the 15th anniversary of its opening and. Old Hughenden Football Club players will act as waiters serving customers during the day’s celebrations.

b) VILLAGE STORE & COFFEE SHOP – No Report.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Al was disappointed that Janet was unable to attend tonight’s meeting because she was injured by a pile of files falling on her during the afternoon and so could not inform the Committee of all the items she has accumulated over many years regarding the Heritage aspect of the village. She has laboriously trawled through all the back-copies of *Hughenden News* that contain articles about the history/heritage/legacy of the village and drawn up a comprehensive list referencing the date, issue and page number of the magazine where each article can be found. Al passed on an old photo, circa 1800, of the countryside surrounding Valley Road and Boss Lane with hatching that depicted the hillsides at the time when people were expecting Napoleon to invade. It was the French who created contours on maps that showed the sloping elevations of the hillsides in geographical terms.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed.....

Date.....