

Hughenden Valley Residents Association

Minutes of the HVRA Executive Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 6th April 2010 in Hughenden Small Village Hall at 7.30pm

Approved

1. **Present:** Paul Cawte (Chairman), Angus Idle (Vice-Chairman), Jill Armshaw (Secretary), Sara Hamilton, Rosemary Hewitt, Daphne Hicks, Andrea Hulley, Janet Idle, David Johnson, John Miller, Dory Morgan, Jerry Morley, Janette Saville, David Sharp, Geoff Wright, Cllr Lin Smith (Hughenden Parish Council).
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Al Bowyer (Treasurer), Christine Bowyer, Doreen Bryant, Karen Dynes, Phil Gomm, Edna Parker.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd March 2010.**

These were RESOLVED as a true record of the meeting.

3.1 The Chairman proposed that unapproved minutes be posted on the HVRA website to enable members to read the minutes as soon as possible following an Executive Committee Meeting. The proposal was unanimously AGREED.
4. **Matters Arising.**

4.1 Evington. The parking of ambulances at Evington, Cryers Hill continues to be of concern to residents. The problem was worse over the Easter period. WDC have decided that enforcement action cannot be taken and that parking on the grass verge is a matter for BCC. There will be a Have Your Say Meeting at Hughenden Valley Community Shop on 23rd April 2010 at which residents can discuss this matter with the Neighbourhood police Team.

Action: Cryers Hill Road Representatives to write an article for the HVRA website.

4.2 Potholes. The chairman informed members that he had reported potholes to BCC Highways on more than 14 occasions in recent weeks. Many of these potholes have still not been filled.
5. **Treasurer's Report.**

The Chairman read the Treasurer's report: Total as at 6th April 2010; Deposit Account £5,049.23, Current Account £1,302.07, cash & cheques in hand £56.14, total overall funds £6,407.44, uncleared cheques £178.05, uncleared payments nil, available funds £6,229.39. Subscription fees received to date £1,917.00, advertising revenue received for 2009/2010 is £2,669.00.

The collection of annual membership subscriptions will be deferred to the next meeting.
6. **Rural Affordable Housing.**

The Chairman thanked the Planning Sub-committee for their work and professional handling of this issue. He informed members that he wrote to The Chairman of Hughenden Parish Council on 16th March expressing regret that the Parish Council had made the site selection without any consultation with HVRA and expressing surprise that all sites were located almost entirely around Hughenden Valley. The letter stated that HVRA oppose the proposal to build affordable housing on agricultural land on Warrendene Road and urged the Parish Council to reconsider other locations. In response to this letter the Chairman attended an informal meeting with Cllr Ewart and Cllr Rogers.

The Chairman of the Planning Sub-committee reported that they had reviewed several documents produced by the Rural Housing Trust to establish a need for rural affordable housing. Annotated versions of these documents with comments made by HVRA can be viewed on the HVRA website. A document entitled 'Observations on the Process to Provide Affordable Housing in the Parish of Hughenden' written by HVRA, can also be viewed on the website. A letter was sent from the HVRA Planning Sub-committee on 16th March to

Hughenden Parish Council and the English Rural Housing Association highlighting concerns and suggesting a way forward. No reply has been received from Hughenden Parish Council. Cllr Smith commented that the Parish Council would respond in due course, having considered correspondence at the next full Council meeting on 13th April. The Chairman of the Planning Sub-committee reported that 98 affordable homes would be built near Hughenden Parish; 80 homes ranging from 1 bed flats to 4 bed houses will be built on the former Wellesbourne Campus, 51 for rent and 29 for shared ownership. A further 18 affordable homes will be built on the former Terriers School site. The English Rural Housing Association has indicated that it would be willing to restart the process of site selection. To date, 113 households have contacted HVRA to express an opinion about the proposal to build affordable housing on Warrendene Road; 110 households are against and 3 households support the proposal.

7. High Speed Rail Link.

The Chairman showed members a leaflet produced by BCC, which provides information about the proposed high speed rail link and contains a map of the main routes. The leaflet can be viewed on the HVRA website. The Chairman said that HS2 was, “the most serious threat to the Chilterns AONB”. A discussion followed in which members expressed great concern at the announcement by the Government on 11th March that the preferred route (Route 3) is to pass through the Misbourne Valley and that the ‘preferred alternative route’ (Route 2.5) would cross the Chilterns AONB through a combination of tunnelling and surface routes including a 720 metre viaduct across Hughenden Valley. A meeting was held on 29th March at the Misbourne School to discuss HS2. Several member of the HVRA committee attended and HVRA have written a report of the meeting which along with other information can be viewed on the HVRA website. Key facts from the meeting are that BCC oppose the proposed route and oppose the preferred alternative route but support a route which broadly follows a West Coast Main Line alignment. Conservation groups oppose all 3 routes through the Chilterns AONB. The Chiltern Society has agreed to act as an umbrella organisation to organise and coordinate opposition to the routes through the Chilterns. Opposition will focus on the environmental impact and the business case. The Chairman urged members to check the website which would be regularly updated with information and to assist residents without internet access to obtain information. Members wishing to oppose HS2 were informed of the following ways to do so: write to MP, write to the Secretary of State for Transport, comment on the Exceptional Hardship Scheme before 20th May, sign the e-petition on the Number 10 website, join the Bucks Free Press ‘No High Speed’ campaign and join the Chiltern Society. It was noted that the forthcoming General Election might alter circumstances and Government.

8. Road Safety.

The Chairman of the Planning Sub-committee reported that she had received a letter from Ken Moloughney, Team Leader, Traffic Management South, BCC, explaining the process for considering a site as a pedestrian crossing. It is too late for Coombe Lane to be considered in the scheme bids for 2010/11, but it may be considered for the following year. HVRA reminded BCC that crossing at Coombe Lane near the Village Hall is increasingly hazardous and requested that an assessment process be conducted to establish whether Coombe Lane would qualify for a zebra crossing.

Action: Planning Sub-committee to ask BCC to inspect the condition of the existing pedestrian crossing on Valley Road.

Angus Idle asked whether an Archer speed-recording device would be positioned on Coombe Lane. Cllr Pushman agreed to arrange this when attending the HVRA meeting in February.

Potholes and poor road surface are a problem on Friars Gardens. The Road Representative reported that at least 5 complaints have been made to BCC but only 2 potholes filled.

Following a sustained campaign by residents on Bryants Bottom Road most potholes have been filled and the road surface repaired.

9. Events.

9.1 Senior Citizens Evening, 15th May 2010. Invitations have been limited to HVRA members and their partners. All reply slips should be forwarded to Rosemary Hewitt. A list was circulated for volunteers to help at the event.

9.2 AGM, 1st June 2010. Janet Idle confirmed that The Earl of Buckinghamshire would give a talk on John Hampden.

9.3 Potter Cup Quiz, 9th October 2010. A meeting has been arranged to consider feedback from the previous quiz and brainstorm new ideas.

9.4 Retirement Party for Postman. Members unanimously AGREED to fund hall hire for a surprise retirement party in recognition of Dave the postman who is retiring after delivering post in Hughenden Valley for more than 20 years. Dory Morgan has booked the small village hall for Friday 28th May from 6pm – 8pm. The Chairman is unable to attend on that date.

Action: Dory Morgan to draft and circulate a letter to residents inviting them to attend and requesting donations to cover the cost of light refreshments and a leaving gift.

10. Communications.

10.1 Hughenden News. The Chairman stated that, with the anticipated improvements in the magazine, the editorial team should have more support and that a team be developed with the capability of others being trained to stand-in for the current production team, should circumstances necessitate it and without jeopardising the production schedules. It is also necessary to have a view to succession planning and the long-term prospect of who will eventually take over from the current editorial team.

10.2 Website. The Secretary thanked members for their feedback and copy for the website. The Chairman circulated an advert announcing the launch of the website which will appear in the next edition of Hughenden News. Janet Idle kindly agreed to announce the website launch and next edition of Hughenden News in her weekly column in the Bucks Free Press.

11. Reports.

11.1 Road Representatives.

11.1.1 Bryants Bottom. Road Representatives organised a Social Evening at the Gate on Friday 26th February to promote community spirit and support the pub. The event was a success and HVRA were thanked for funding crisps and nibbles at the event. Another social event is planned in the summer.

11.1.2 Trees Road. A car was broken into during the early hours of the morning. Members were reminded that the incidence of opportunistic burglaries often increases in the spring and residents should be vigilant and assess home security. It was agreed that information on home security be posted on the website and a link set up with Neighbourhood Watch.

11.1.3. Fleet Close. Residents are concerned that parking of cars by parents at Hughenden First School presents a risk to road safety. Following a discussion it was agreed that this is a problem affecting many schools in the area. Many children travel to and from school by car and parents must park to deliver and collect children from school.

Actions: HVRA to raise issue at next NAG meeting. Andrea Hulley to discuss with Headteacher.

11.1.4 Warrendene Road. HVRA is to organise a meeting to discuss the problems caused by operations connected with Country Supplies Ltd. David Ab Iorwerth of Wycombe District Council Environmental Services, Ken Moloughney, Team Leader of Bucks County Council Traffic Management South and Community Police Officer PC Lee Turnham will all attend the meeting to try to find a way forward with this ongoing problem.

Action: Dory Morgan to organise meeting. HVRA to discuss at next NAG meeting.

At 9.15pm David Johnston and John Miller left the meeting.

11.1.5 Wedgwood Drive. Individuals have recently targeted elderly residents offering to carry

out work. Members were warned that residents should be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police.

11.2 Planning Sub-committee.

11.2.1 Greenacres, Cryers Hill. An application to remove a planning condition preventing the insertion of windows or openings of any kind in the roof of the dwelling has been submitted to WDC. The condition was placed on a recent application for a replacement dwelling to ensure that the property did not exceed the 50% rule on expansion. HVRA and several neighbouring residents have written to WDC objecting to the application.

11.2.2 Footpath, Pipers Corner School. An application has been made to redirect a footpath away from Pipers Corner School. The reason is to increase security at the school.

11.3 Parish Council. Cllr Smith informed members that Little Burnham Wood is now registered with DEFRA and so qualifies for grants.

11.4 Neighbourhood Action Group. Cllr Smith reported on a Community Speed Watch initiative, which took place in Princes Risborough. Great Missenden Parish Council has purchased speed reduction equipment and will loan the equipment to Hughenden Parish. Great Kingshill Residents Association has agreed to borrow the equipment as a trial. If successful, Hughenden NAG would consider raising funds (£1,500 - £1,800) to purchase similar equipment. Thames Valley Police have agreed to pay for the hire of speed measuring equipment to be installed at 3 locations (Missenden Road, North Road Widmer End and Bryants Bottom Road) each for a 2-week period. There is concern that Bryants Bottom Road may not be approved by BCC as a suitable location for the installation of a T-SID. PC Turnham has offered to use a hand held SID on Bryants Bottom Road if a T-SID is unsuitable.

Action: Jill Armshaw to write to Hughenden NAG restating the importance of speed reduction measures on Bryants Bottom Road.

11.5 Village Hall Committee. A meeting was held on 12 April 2010.

11.6 Community Shop. The shop would like a notice board erected externally to the right hand side of the door. HVRA may be prepared to sponsor the notice board provided the sponsorship was recorded on the notice board, in a style and position to be agreed.

Action: Dory Morgan to discuss with shop and report back to next meeting.

At 9.55pm Cllr Smith left the meeting.

12. Any Other Business.

12.1 The Secretary proposed that the possessive apostrophe be dropped from the title Hughenden Valley Residents Association. After a short discussion members unanimously AGREED the proposal. This will be taken to the AGM for incorporation into the constitution.

12.2 The Chairman informed members that the National Trust requires more volunteers especially at weekends. The Committee agreed to advertise for volunteers in the magazine and on the website.

13. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 4th May 2010 commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 10.05pm.

Chairman:

Secretary:

Date: