



**Minutes of the Open meeting and AGM held on Monday, 9th July 2018 at 8pm in Bulphan Village Hall.**

**Present:** Janet McCheyne (Chair), Peter Tarrant (Committee), Corinne White, Kim Towlson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Society & Community Forum), Angela Shearing (committee), Roy Thomas, Cllr. Barry Johnson, Diane Parsons (Committee), David Gilbane (Committee), Annette Miles, Dave Hale, Judy Wright, Louise Allen

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from several residents, Cllr. Sue Little and treasurer John Hanson.	
2.	<b>Minutes of the last AGM</b> held 29th June 2017 were agreed and signed.	
3.	<b>Matters arising from minutes not already on the agenda</b> a) There is no update on moving the postbox from outside the old shop to outside the hall, nor on the planned removal of the redundant telephone booth. Both are likely to take some time, due to a backlog of work. b) Refurbishing the Victoria Road ditch is ongoing. c) An announcement has been made that Orsett Hospital will close, but not until the 4 health hubs have been set up and all services currently provided at Orsett are being provided in the health hubs. They have pledged that buses will run from Bulphan to the most suitable health hub.	
4.	<b>Chair's report on the past year:</b> Janet read out her report which detailed the many activities, events and initiatives which the Forum had organised and thanked the many volunteers who had made these possible.	
5.	<b>Adoption of the accounts:</b> the accounts for April 2017 - March 2018 had been independently verified by Margaret Berry and were adopted. A resident asked about accounts for the cafe, and Janet and Dave explained it was originally set up informally as a joint pilot, by the hall and Forum, with no expectation of any profits being made. However, due to the generosity of volunteers and customers, funds had accrued and the hall trustees and Forum committee would formalise the arrangement.	Janet Dave
6.	<b>Sub-committee report:</b> Janet referred to the minutes of Bulphan in Bloom's AGM, which detailed the officers, committee and income/expenditure. At the time of the AGM, Bulphan in Bloom held £9,488.42, some of which is ring-fenced for Victoria Road.	
7.	<b>Election of officers and committee:</b> Kim Towlson, Chair of Horndon-on-the-Hill Community Forum, took the chair and conducted the election of officers and committee. The following were elected: Chair: Janet McCheyne (proposed by Angie Shearing, seconded by Diane Perkins) Vice-chair: David Gilbane (proposed by Corinne White, seconded by Judy Wright) Secretary: Diane Perkins (proposed by Janet McCheyne, seconded by Corinne White) Treasurer: Annette Miles (proposed by Janet McCheyne, seconded by Corinne White) Committee: Angie Shearing (proposed by Dave Hale, seconded by Corinne White) Peter Tarrant (proposed by Diane Perkins, seconded by Angie Shearing) Janet again took the chair and thanked Kim. The AGM being concluded, the Open Meeting followed.	
8.	<b>Minutes of the last Open meeting</b> held on 10th May 2018 were agreed and signed.	
9.	<b>Matters arising:</b> a) Defibrillator: this is now fitted, connected and registered and was unveiled by Phil the Postman at the end of May. Training sessions have been attended by 16 residents and	

	<p>there will also be a training session for a further 40 people at Bulphan WI's January meeting.</p> <p>b) The grants for the interpretation sign at the Harrow, and resurfacing of the hall car park, have been submitted and we await the outcome.</p> <p>c) The rut in Doesgate Lane verge had been promptly fixed, as had the potholes in Church Lane. The playing field grass had been cut.</p> <p>d) Janet agreed to share her report of the overgrown hedge completely covering the pathway at the back of the Plough with Cllr Barry Johnson, who would follow it up.</p> <p>e) Peter Tarrant and Barry would make a site visit to the various places where parking of HGVs was causing problems. (A128 cross-hatched area, Brentwood Road leading to Pear Tree Lane and Brentwood Road by Middleton Hall Farm)</p>	<p>Janet Barry Peter Barry</p>
10.	<b>Treasurer's report:</b> the only significant item of expenditure was £1,429.15 for the defibrillator/cabinet.	
11.	<b>Planning updates:</b> the application for 5 executive homes at Doesgate Farm had been withdrawn; the hearing regarding non-compliance at Burrows Yard 2 would be in September.	
12.	<b>Village Hall report:</b> the 4th Bluegrass Festival would be held this coming weekend; ongoing maintenance has been carried out, and the hall remains busy. The lease and funding for the shop to be built as an annex to the hall is now dependent on bank checks (sanctions and PEPs). The cafe is busy on Fridays: not so much on Thursdays. The Post Office does a steady trade.	
13.	<b>Bus users group:</b> Judy Wright reported 2 incidents regarding an inspector at the Grays Bus Station, who refused to allow the 265 public bus operated by Transvol to stop in the safe parking bay at the Bus Station, meaning that passengers had to go into the busy carriageway to get on the bus. Barry asked if the drivers could contact him and complaints could be lodged. Judy said she had been unable to attend Bus Users Group meetings, as they were arranged for days when there was no bus from Bulphan. Kim will let Janet know the date of the next meeting and transport will be arranged for Judy.	<p>Barry Judy Kim Janet</p>
14.	<b>Police liaison:</b> it was noted that Horndon-on-the-Hill would be having its 2nd Community Police meeting on August 11th, 10 - 12 in Horndon-on-the-Hill Village Hall, but that Bulphan has not had a meeting at all, despite requesting one. Janet to contact PC Laura Brady. <b>Community Speedwatch:</b> the team had been out recently and recorded 4 vehicles speeding. They have requested some further sites to operate at.	<p>Janet</p>
15.	<b>Feedback from councillors:</b> Barry explained that he was the lead member for Housing and that Aaron Watkins was the lead member for Environment and Highways (Brian Little had been the lead member for Transport, but this was now part of Aaron's role).	
16.	<b>Thurrock Association of Forums (TAF):</b> At the TAF AGM, Kim was elected as chair. The new committee are now working on a funding formula for all the Community Forums in Thurrock, and updating the Forum guidelines. Now that TAF has been reinvigorated, they are in a position to support Community Forums more, and to take on Thurrock-wide issues.	
17.	<b>Thames Crossing Update:</b> Kim is a member of the Thames Crossing Action Group. Formal consultation on the chosen route will commence late autumn this year, but by the time all the processes have been followed, the earliest the crossing could be finished would be 2025. Air pollution issues are being taken more seriously by Highways England, and there are also funding queries now.	
18.	<b>Bulphan in Bloom future plans:</b> ongoing tidying, weeding and maintenance of existing projects; working towards helping with village hall grounds maintenance; refurbishment of vintage farm machinery; a Race Night to raise funds for a new noticeboard or other tribute in memory of Alan Cox.	
19.	<b>Questions from the floor:</b> <p>a) A resident said the pavement on the way to school, outside Bulphan Hall, was obstructed by a shrub; Janet will ask the owners if they could trim it back</p> <p>b) Janet asked Barry if the Road Users Group would be continuing, as we have been given no dates for future meetings. Barry could see no reason it wouldn't continue and would find out the dates.</p>	<p>Janet Barry</p>

	<p>c) Residents queried whether dogs should be allowed in the Multi-Use Games Area. It was unanimously agreed that “No dogs” signs would be placed on the entrance gates</p> <p>d) A resident who lives near the hall had several queries regarding noise and parking problems associated with some hall bookings. These will be discussed at the next Village Hall meeting on 10th September 2018.</p> <p>e) A question was again asked about the problems with horses breaking through the fence next to the recreation ground. Those present explained their ongoing but futile attempts to get this addressed, and that it had been problematic for years.</p>	<p>Janet</p> <p>Dave</p>
20.	<p><b>Future events:</b> a second “Your Place, Your Voice” consultation session will take place at the Community Cafe at the village hall from 1.30 -- 4.30 on Friday, 24th August. Sessions will also be available, probably one in the evening and one at the weekend, in Orsett and Horndon-on-the-Hill. Let the planners know our vision for the Bulphan of the future.</p>	
21.	<p><b>Next Open Meetings:</b> Thursday, September 13th and Thursday 8th November, both 7.30 - 9pm at Bulphan Village Hall.</p>	

### **Bulphan Village Community Forum Chair’s report for AGM July 2018**

It is much appreciated that people give up their time to attend Forum meetings and events. The percentage of residents who attend Bulphan Village Community Forum meetings and events is the highest in Thurrock - which shows what an enthusiastic and supportive community Bulphan is. The Forum has been in existence for 12 years - what have we been up to this year?

We held a “Great Get Together” in memory of Jo Cox, and everyone who attended took part in helping to make the brilliant red gingham cafe signs we use every week;

The “No golfing, no horse-riding” sign was reinstalled at the entrance to the park;

We held a very well-attended “Down Memory Lane” exhibition of old photos, maps, documents & artefacts;

The memorial bench for Ian Denham was installed at the end of the playing field and is well-used;

We “wrapped up the hall” in November, to highlight the need to cover your face with a scarf when you go out in the cold weather, especially if you have a lung condition: this was in liaison with the local Health trust.

Peter Tarrant sourced a handsome, yet reasonably-priced Christmas tree for the village and the cost was shared between the Forum, the Community Cafe and village hall.

We liaised with Mardyke Rotary Club and Father Christmas again toured the village on Christmas Eve on his sleigh, and refreshments were served at the village hall.

A minute’s silence was held at our January meeting, in memory of Alan Cox, who multi-tasked as a volunteer for many village organisations and who is missed a great deal.

In February, we held a quiz to raise funds for the defibrillator, and we also co-ordinated training people willing to be Emergency Centre volunteers.

In March, we hosted an interactive community planning event, to help the council with producing their Local Plan, and Phil the Postman won the Lifetime achievement award: very well-deserved. Residents and organisations in the village had written letters to support Corinne White’s nomination.

The willow dome was refurbished by a very hard-working group of volunteers, and the Easter Antics event was very enjoyable.

In May, the defibrillator was officially unveiled by Phil: thanks to Dave Hale for installing the cabinet and offering to carry out necessary monitoring. We organised training sessions for use of the defibrillator and 16 people attended.

Our most recent event was the Equaliteas session at the cafe, which celebrated 100 years of women’s fight for equality.

Apart from these significant events, Forum representatives regularly attend Lower Thames Crossing meetings, Thurrock Association of Forum meetings, Orsett and Horndon-on-the-Hill Open Forum meetings, Thurrock Road Users Group, the bus-users group and also circulate relevant planning applications, and often respond on behalf of Forum members, sometimes speaking at Planning Committee meetings. We hold 6 Open Meetings a year, we have applied for 3 grants this year (we were unsuccessful with one, and await decisions on the others).

I’d like to thank my fellow officers Diane and John, and committee members Angie, Peter and David for always being willing to put in their time to make it a real team effort. Bulphan Forum exists to give the village a voice, and, to that end, we are always willing to listen and to represent the views of the people of Bulphan to the statutory organisations. Thank you all for the support you have given me as chair over the past year.