



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on  
Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2-17 at 7.30pm  
in Bulphan Village Hall**

**Present:** Janet McCheyne (Chair), Cllr. Brian Little, Angela Shearing (Committee), Bob Shearing, Alan Cox, Lynda Cox, Judy Wright, Diane Perkins (Committee), Dawn McMahon, Colin Pankhurst, Bernie Benn (Treasurer), Roy Thomas

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting.	
2.	The <b>minutes of the last Open Meeting</b> held on 10th November 2016 were agreed and signed	
3.	<p><b>Matters arising from minutes</b></p> <p>a) Further professional advice had been received regarding the trees to be planted in the park, and all trees have now been planted. Thanks to Rod for tree-sitting and to Grass Roof Company. All trees have plastic guards and the Royal Oak has a timber fencing guard. Thank you also to Naomi for organising all this.</p> <p>b) The resident who expressed an interest in providing a memorial bench at the far end of the park is taking this forward and it will be a great asset</p> <p>c) The closure of the layby on the A128 has resulted in dramatic improvements in that area and residents would like to thank those involved in enabling this. There are now more lorry parks in Thurrock, and others planned.</p> <p>d) Pieris Place building site: concerns continue over HGV movements, lack of signage and muddy roads: Cllr Brian Little has been liaising with principal planning officer Leigh Nicholson over this and will continue to pursue the matter. A resident also complained about a muddy road on the A128, on the Thurrock side of the railway bridge at Barnards Farm. Cllr. Little will also highlight this.</p> <p>e) Christmas Eve event: this had again been well-supported. Thank you to the Community Cafe for not only donating cakes, but also funding the event. Suggestions for next year include Janet buying the correct hot chocolate, ensuring the new lighting unit outside the hall had been replaced and trying to slow Father Christmas' reindeer down a bit: he got round the village in record time!</p>	<p>Cllr. Brian Little</p> <p>Janet BVHMC</p>
4.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> Bernie reported expenditure of £84, which included galvanising one of the entranceway posts. The Christmas Eve event had cost £36 but the Community Cafe had funded this. A £20 donation had been received from the Hornsby family. Total current balance is therefore £3,506.61p, of which £111.24 is ring-fenced for the entranceway improvements, and £195 is ring-fenced for drainage improvements.</p> <p>Janet will forward details so that Bernie can apply for our annual £200 admin grant from Thurrock Council. Bernie was thanked for her report.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Planning matters:</b></p> <p>a) The application for an assisted-living complex near Martins Farm had been refused.</p> <p>b) The application for another storage barn at Slough House had been refused because the council had concerns regarding the intensification of traffic movements.</p>	

	<p>c) The application for the Harrow site to be a Wellness and Weight-loss centre will be decided 8th February 2017. Residents were very concerned about the industrial-scale fly-tipping which has taken place at the site. It is understood the Environment Agency is dealing with this: Cllr. Brian Little will find out the current position and update us. There was an extended discussion on fly-tipping and littering, both in Thurrock and nationally. Cllr. Little said that Thurrock Council were now issuing on-the-spot fines to litterers and there were initiatives planned to sweep the borough regarding litter-picking on roadsides. Residents felt the landfill tax levels were a deterrent and, cost-wise, were counter-productive and that this also applied to local cuts to cleaning and greening.</p> <p>d) Enforcement action: the council had sent a report regarding enforcement action against the storage yard at Burrows Farm, a property in Church Lane which sought to build a residence in the garden and a roadway being built without permission on a local golf course.</p>	Cllr. Brian Little
6.	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <p>a) the council are seeking residents views on whether council elections should continue to be held every year, for 3 years out of 4, or just once every 4 years. Cllr. Brian Little explained the implications of both systems. Responses are asked for online, so Community Cafe volunteers will be happy to assist residents who do not have internet access.</p> <p>b) A13 roadworks newsletter: an A13 roadworks newsletter had been received, and would continue to be received monthly. As portfolio holder for Highways, Cllr. Brian Little has been proactive in involving and informing residents re highway matters. This particular newsletter related to the widening of the A13 between Manorway and Orsett Cock. The aim is to minimise disruption using common-sense traffic management. Work on this project will possibly start in the autumn.</p> <p>c) Church Lane will be closed at Martins Cottages on Tuesday 21st February, to replace a telegraph pole. It is assumed there will be access from each end for residents, but no through traffic</p> <p>d) Janet has written to the West Horndon Surgery, asking if there can be a prescription collection and drop-off point in Bulphan. A local resident has volunteered to provide that service if agreed.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Village Hall matters:</b></p> <p>a) Janet reported new regular bookings: Pilates and ballet.</p> <p>b) Corinne and Janet had met with Kristina of CVS (Council for Voluntary Services, a support organisation who are independent of Thurrock Council). Very useful advice on many aspects of hall management had been received, and CVS support would be ongoing.</p> <p>c) The hall committee continue in negotiations with the council's Assets Department, to achieve a mutually-acceptable lease.</p> <p>d) The hall have applied for a Premises Licence, which will mean that local organisations will be able to sell drink, show films, perform music and carry out other activities during their bookings. No alcohol will be stored on the premises, and the public will not be able to come in to buy alcohol.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Bulphan in Bloom matters:</b> Lynda Cox reported that since the last Forum meeting, BiB had held their AGM and all post-holders remain the same. Their next event will be a Race Night on 25th March. Details will be leafleted nearer the time.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Police update:</b> the Community Policing Team sent an update for the month of December, which detailed the numerous operations and actions taken by the police in Thurrock during that month (2 sides of A4 with small print!), including an off-duty</p>	

	<p>policeman arresting a shoplifter. Let Janet know if you would like a copy of these monthly newsletters.</p> <p><b>Speedwatch:</b> recruits for training as Community Speedwatch members are being sought, as the next training session is about to be organised. A new Bulphan recruit has come forward.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Bus users meeting:</b> Judy Wright thanked Cllr. Little for giving the bus-user representatives a lift to the last meeting. Judy had asked for the bus-provision days to be changed from Monday, Thursday and Friday to Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Indications are that that this will be enabled. Judy will ask at the next meeting if the morning bus on those 3 days can arrive half-an-hour earlier, enabling residents to get to hospital and doctor appointments on time. Should Judy not be able to attend the meeting, Cllr. Brian Little will take it forward on the bus-users' behalf.</p>	<p>Judy Wright Cllr. Brian Little</p>
11.	<p><b>Questions from the floor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Residents asked for an update on the Lower Thames Crossing. Cllr. Brian Little assured us that our MP was adamantly against Option C and there are still investigations as to whether the proposals on the table at the moment will actually address the congestion and pollution problems.</li> <li>b) A resident pointed out that for around 10 years, details of the local doctors on the back cover of the Hobnob were inaccurate. Janet to let the editors know.</li> <li>c) Cllr. Little mentioned a recent accident at Doctor's Corner (the bend by Cherry Orchard Farms in Conways Road) and said that improvements would be made (e.g. cat's eyes etc).</li> <li>d) A resident asked about the long-awaited No horses/no golf signs for the park: Janet to send Cllr. Brian Little the correspondence regarding this, so that he can follow it up</li> <li>e) A resident reported an ongoing issue regarding wheelie bins: Cllr. Little had taken action, but would look into it further.</li> </ul>	<p>Janet</p> <p>Janet</p> <p>Cllr. Brian Little</p>
11.	<p><b>Next Open meeting:</b> Thursday 9th March at 7.30pm in Bulphan Village Hall</p>	
12.	<p><b>Future meetings:</b> 9th March, 11th May, 29th June (AGM), 14th Sept, 9th Nov. <b>Future events:</b> Monday, 17th April, 1 - 4pm: Easter Antics children's egg hunt and family afternoon.</p>	