



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on
Thursday, 11th May 2017 at 7.30pm
in Bulphan Recreation Ground**

Present: Janet McCheyne (Chair), Cllr. Brian Little, Cllr. Sue Little, Angela Shearing (Committee), Bob Shearing, Judy Wright, Diane Perkins (Committee), Dawn McMahon, Corinne White, Bev Johnston, Kim Towlson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Society and Community Forum), Gill Miles, Colin Pankhurst, Alan Cox, Lynda Cox, Rod Addison, Iris Aedy, James Willes, Karen Willes

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting, which was held in the Diamond Jubilee seating area of the Recreation Ground as there was a model aircraft club auction being carried out in the village hall.	
2.	The minutes of the last Open Meeting held on 9th March 2017 were agreed and signed	
3.	<p>Matters arising from minutes not already on the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The meeting was held right next to the No horses/no golf sign, which had been put up by Dave Hale. b) Blocking off the lay-by on A128 has been progressing; the path has also been improved. The intention was to plant trees on the area where the lay-by used to be, but the contractors were unable to break through the concrete, so there will be a grassed bund along there, to deter parking and to protect pedestrians to some extent. c) Kim Towlson gave details of the Thurrock Association of Forums meeting, which discussed insurance, the Forums' website and admin money. The Forums' insurance for normal activities will continue to be funded by the council, with a blanket policy covering all Forums; the provision of a website for each Forum will continue and be monitored to ensure all Forums made good use of it; the pro rata admin funding will continue for now, but may be reviewed in the future. TAF meetings will only be held in future if there are issues to discuss, and not regularly as before. Janet thanked Kim for representing us and reporting back. d) The Easter Antics event was well supported: Janet thanked those who had helped out. The dedication of the Memorial Bench was carried out by Max. The bench will be secured in place in the near future. e) The streetlight outside 33 Church Road is now working. f) Cllr. Brian Little has sent an enquiry regarding the Brentwood Road sign (at its junction with the A128 near the Plough) obscuring sightlines and awaits a reply. 	
4.	<p>Treasurer's Report: treasurer Bernie had sent apologies but had provided a detailed document of income and expenditure to date. This showed that the Easter Antics made a profit of £43.46 (thanks mainly to the raffle proceeds); the Christmas Eve event had been funded by the Community Cafe; expenditure had included buying a new tennis net cord and re-galvanising one T-bar post (entranceway). Current balances are: Entranceway: £111.24; Drainage fund: £195; total available balance: £3,813.13</p>	Bernie/ Janet
5.	<p>Correspondence: Janet had received an invitation (as Forum Chair) to the Mayor-Making ceremony on 24th May and would be attending</p>	

6.	<p>Lower Thames Crossing update: Kim Towlson</p> <p>Kim provided background/history, and explained that very recently, Option C had been announced as the chosen route. Fairly detailed plans of the route and properties which would be affected were distributed and discussed; lists of key issues and points to note were also distributed. These included details of where to write to to support or object to the proposals. Residents were concerned that in the event of congestion, more vehicles would be encouraged to use the A128. Others were concerned about increased pollution, reduction of the Green Belt. Crucially, they did not think the chosen option would adequately reduce traffic congestion, especially in Thurrock. The Crossing Action Group have a number of websites and pages which disseminate information and Kim attends the Community Cafe most Fridays, if anyone needs specific information. Thurrock Road Users Group will meet after the General election, and Highways England will be presenting and answering questions. Please submit your questions to Kim or Janet. Janet thanked Kim for updating us and providing information.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning matters:</p> <p>a) Burrows Farm: Sims Milling appeal against an Enforcement Order took place recently, but had to be stopped as it would prejudice the council's position regarding further breaches on the site. A wider-ranging piece of work will now be undertaken to ensure all breaches are covered, and this work has taken priority over all other work at present. Janet thanked Cllr. Sue Little for her continued work on this matter.</p> <p>b) Land between Astons Villa and Appletons: the application by a Romani family to have 2 residential caravans on this site had elicited 21 comments from residents, all objecting. The decision had been "called in" by Cllr. Brian Little and would be considered by the Planning Committee on 18th May. Cllr Brian Little will speak against the application. There is also an opportunity for a resident to also speak: they must submit their name and statement by 14th May. Officers have recommended refusal of this application.</p> <p>c) Planning Performance report: Thurrock maintains its position within the top 2% of local planning authorities in the country (339 authorities in total). The Planning Service were approached by Brentwood Council, and Thurrock now manages Brentwood' Development Management team. Other local authorities have shown an interest in Thurrock service. This could bring income into Thurrock Council, and avoid redundancies.</p>	
8.	<p>Bus users: the bus users group has nothing new to report.</p>	
9.	<p>Village Hall: the village hall committee have engaged the services of a solicitor to help them with the transition to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and with negotiating the lease/shop building.</p>	
10.	<p>Bulphan in Bloom: the Spring Newsletter, flier advertising the Cream teas and plant sale on 20th May and envelopes seeking donations to Bulphan in Bloom's funds had been distributed throughout the village. The damaged entrance gate on Church Road would be repaired, starting tomorrow.</p>	
11.	<p>Police Newsletter: none received since last meeting.</p> <p>Speedwatch: Kim gave a brief report, confirmed that they can only operate in certain spots, and would appreciate more volunteers.</p>	
12.	<p>Memories Day: a reminder about the Bulphan Village Memories Day on Saturday, 30th September 2017. The exhibition would run from 3 - 8pm. Please ask your neighbours, family or people who used to live in Bulphan, if they have anything about Bulphan history, which they are willing to share.</p>	Janet

13.	Questions from the floor: Diane reported a person she didn't recognise walking along Church Road and spending quite a while studying the houses. She hailed a passing Met Police van but is not sure what the outcome was. A reminder to all to be vigilant.	
14.	Next Open meeting and AGM would be held indoors on Thursday 29th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.	
16.	Future meetings: 14th Sept, 9th Nov. Future Forum events: September 30th, 3 - 8pm: Bulphan Village Memories Day at the village hall; 4pm Sunday, 24th December: Father Christmas Sleigh Tour starting and finishing at the village hall.	