



**Minutes of the Open meeting and AGM held on Thursday, 29th June 2017 at 7.30pm in Bulphan Village Hall.**

**Present:** Janet McCheyne (Chair), 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), Colin Pankhurst, Alan Cox, Lynda Cox, Rod Addison, Sylvie Besant, Peter Tarrant, Iris Aedy, James Willes, Karen Willes, Suzanne Hanson, John Hanson, Fiona Bowman, Pat Rampling, Palo Singh, Dave Hale

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from several villagers, Bernie Benn (treasurer) and Cllr. Brian Little.	
2.	The <b>minutes of the last AGM</b> held on 30th June 2016 were agreed and signed	
3.	<p><b>Matters arising from minutes not already on the agenda</b></p> <p>a) The tree-planting had been successfully completed and the trees were thriving.</p> <p>b) Kim Towlson gave an update on the Lower Thames Crossing: now that Option C has been announced as the preferred option, there would be formal consultation in 2018. In the meantime, the Thames Crossing Action Group are hoping to hold a public meeting, the Thurrock Road Users Group will continue to make practical suggestions on how to mitigate the congestion in the meantime.</p>	
4.	<b>Chair's report:</b> Janet delivered the Chair's report in interactive rhyme.	
5.	<b>Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts:</b> Bernie had prepared a report, which was distributed to those present. The opening balance was £4,041.61, the closing balance was £3,560.91. Expenses had been related to the posts at the entranceway, a new tennis net cord, Easter Antics expenses and payment for tree-planting. Bernie added that £111.24 is ring-fenced for the entranceway, and £195.00 is ring-fenced for the drainage group. There were no questions on the accounts, which were approved.	
6.	<p><b>Sub-committee report:</b></p> <p>The Forum has only one sub-committee: Bulphan in Bloom. Committee members are Kelly Fiford (chair), Lynda Robertson (Vice-chair), Lynda Cox (secretary), Alan Cox (treasurer), Rod Addison, Sylvia Besant, Ron Smith, Derek Milsom, Graham Pinkerton, Dave, Hale, Dave Skingsley and Paul Eke. Ron Porter is the President.</p> <p>Bulphan in Bloom's balance at the end of Nov 2016 was £2744.47 (prior to paying for last year's plants @ £1020.00) - therefore a truer balance would be £1724.47.</p> <p>The balance at the end of the financial year (31st May 2017) was £4672.97. However, the final invoice for the plants which were put in earlier this month has yet to be received.</p> <p>Petty cash held £486.17. Total funds: £5159.14.</p> <p>Fund-raising during this calendar year has been as follows: Race Night £1574.00 (including 2 large donations); Cream teas and Plant Sale £616.11 (net); donations through envelope drop: £1592.82. Total funds raised £3782.93.</p>	

	<p>The only major expenditure, apart from plants, compost etc, has been the purchase of a self-propelled mower, essential for the large areas that we mow on a regular basis. It is our intention to identify other power tools we can purchase in order that some of our older members can still get involved.</p> <p>We have been fortunate enough to attract a few new volunteers in the past couple of months.</p> <p>Janet thanked Alan Cox for producing a very informative report.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Election of next year's committee:</b> the committee members having resigned, Kim Towlson took the chair and conducted the election of officers and other committee members:  Chair: Janet McCheyne Proposed by Corinne White, seconded by Pat Rampling: agreed  Vice-chair: no nominations received: this post will remain vacant for the time being  Treasurer: John Hanson Proposed by Janet McCheyne, seconded by Pat Rampling: agreed  Secretary: Diane Perkins Proposed by Janet McCheyne, seconded by Colin Pankhurst: agreed.  Committee members: David Gilbane Proposed by Janet McCheyne, seconded by Diane Perkins; Angela Shearing Proposed by Colin Pankhurst, seconded by Pat Rampling; Peter Tarrant Proposed by Diane Perkins, seconded by Colin Pankhurst: all agreed.  Janet thanked Kim, who left the meeting to attend Orsett's Community Forum meeting.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Minutes of the last Open Meeting</b> held on 11th May 2017 in the park were agreed and signed.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Matters arising which are not on the agenda:</b> none</p>	
10.	<p><b>Planning updates:</b> an application had been submitted for the old shop to be demolished and 2 houses built on the plot. The residents expressed 2 concerns: visibility when driving out of Albert Road, and the future of the Victorian letterbox. Janet explained the joint policy and statutory requirements regarding letterboxes, and it was agreed that Janet should contact the Royal Mail Collection Manager for this postal district, to request that the letterbox is moved to a safer site. Next to the telephone box at the village hall was suggested.</p>	Janet
11.	<p><b>New shop update:</b> Janet, Dave and Kristina Jackson from CVS would meet with Duncan Blackie, interim Property Manager for Thurrock Council, on July 12th, where further work would be carried out to progress the 99-year lease of the hall. The Council are including the car park as part of this.</p>	
12.	<p><b>Village Hall report:</b> the hall is even busier than before, with several new groups now hiring the premises. The new bench at the end of the park has been installed by Dave and John Spice, Dave has worked on the tennis net etc, which is now all ready for those people who, inspired by Wimbledon, want to use the tennis court. Work has also been done on the bollards at the entranceway. Some of that work was necessary because the council's mowing tractor driver had caused damage. He had also driven over the base for the new bench, breaking up some of the concrete.</p>	Janet
13.	<p><b>Drainage update:</b> Pat asked about the ditch at Victoria Road, which has recently been turfed. Alan said that Kelly would be talking to the owner/builder regarding the unsuitability of turfing the ditch. Further to that there are ongoing plans to reinstate the planting and drainage with the involvement of Anglian Water and Barhales: this has been on hold due to the building project adjacent to the ditch.</p>	Kelly

14.	<p><b>Police/Neighbourhood Watch update:</b> Janet had received the police newsletter, detailing Police activity during June. However, several residents expressed dissatisfaction with police communication following incidents, and the fact that they don't turn up at times. Residents didn't feel that our village received value-for-money from the portion of council tax they paid towards Essex Police. As the police no longer attend Community Forum meetings, residents asked for the link to sign up to receive emailed crime reports, which is here: <a href="https://www.police.uk/essex/116/crime/subscribe/">https://www.police.uk/essex/116/crime/subscribe/</a></p>	
15	<p><b>Questions from the floor:</b> Colin asked whether Orsett Hospital was closing. No councillors were present, but this was an item on the agenda of Orsett Forum's meeting. Janet would circulate the outcome of Orsett's discussion.</p> <p>Iris mentioned the Cream Teas to be held in aid of the church from 2 - 4 on Saturday, 1st July at the Parish Room.</p>	Janet
16.	<p><b>Next event:</b> Down Memory Lane (display of photos and memorabilia on Saturday 30th September in the village hall 2 - 8pm)</p>	
17.	<p><b>Next Open meetings:</b> Thursday 14th September and 9th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.</p>	