



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on Thursday, 10th May 2018 at 7.30pm in Bulphan Village Hall.**

**Present:** Janet McCheyne (Chair), Dawn McMahon, Peter Tarrant (Committee), Iris Aedy, Corinne White, Kim Towlson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Society & Community Forum), Peter Bennett, Angela Shearing (committee), Bob Shearing, Denise Wakeling, Roy Thomas, Cllr. Sue Little, Cllr. Barry Johnson

**Apologies:** John Hanson (treasurer)

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the last Open Meeting</b> held 8th March 2018 were agreed and signed.</p> <p><b>Matters arising from minutes not already on the agenda</b></p> <p>a) Defibrillator: this is now fitted, connected and registered and is ready for use. Training sessions will be Friday 25th May 3.30 - 5pm at the hall and Thursday, 7th June, 6.30 - 8pm at the Parish Room. There will also be a training session at Bulphan WI's January meeting. The official unveiling ceremony is preliminarily booked for 3.30pm on 25th May, before the first training session. Phil the Postman will unveil it.</p> <p>b) 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. No response re bus timetables/school holidays. Jackie Doyle-Price had replied to our letter regarding London boroughs buying up housing and land in Thurrock and thereby reducing that available to Thurrock Council for social housing. Jackie explained that this was common practice, and that Thurrock Council invested in land and housing in cheaper areas.</p>	Janet to confirm
3.	<p><b>Treasurer's report:</b> Current balance is £3,186.23 (of which £111.24 is ring-fenced for the entranceway and £195.00 for the drainage group).</p> <p>Grants: the agreed application for a grant for an interpretation sign at the Harrow Bridge (start of the Mardyke Way) will be submitted soon; the meeting was asked to agree to the Forum also applying for a CEDF grant to repair and resurface the village hall car park, after the building work associated with the shop was complete. There was unanimous agreement.</p>	Janet
4.	<p><b>Chair's correspondence:</b> Lynn Gittins, Community Liaison Officer for Thurrock Council, had emailed to say that if voluntary groups were holding events in Bulphan, subject to some conditions, they could apply to Lynn for the Forum insurance to cover their event. Kim Towlson pointed out some possible restrictions on that.</p> <p>Upminster Crematorium organise tours of the facility: Janet had found the tour very interesting, and was hoping to organise a tour for anyone interested, in the autumn.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Lower Thames crossing update:</b> residents near the proposed route had expressed to concerns to Highways England about local roads which would be cut off (e.g. Heath Road). HE have amended plans so that this doesn't happen. The formal consultation start date has been pushed back from August to late autumn. Air pollution is still the action group's No. 1 concern.</p>	

6.	<b>Thurrock Road Users Group:</b> new portfolio holders will be announced at the end of May, and it was hoped this group would continue.	
7.	<b>Planning matters:</b> Cllr. Sue Little provided an update on Burrows Yard 2 (the storage depot): all defendants pleaded guilty to contravening an enforcement notice. There is now a confiscation timetable in place in respect of proceeds of crime and the matter is set for hearing in September 2018. Despite being prosecuted, the owners have continued to carry on with the business. The council's prosecution team are in the process of obtaining further evidence which will be used to secure an injunction to ensure compliance with the Enforcement Notice.	
8.	<b>Bus users group:</b> Peter Bennett remarked how polite and respectful the secondary school children travelling home on the bus from Brentwood are.	
9.	<b>Village Hall update, including new shop:</b> there may be some progress made with the detail of the lease tomorrow.	
10.	<b>Bulphan in Bloom update:</b> the AGM has been held, and there are some new committee members. Newcomers to the village seem keen to get involved in Bulphan in Bloom. There have been favourable comments following the recent churchyard clear-up, and there will be a strawberry cream tea and plant sale to raise funds on Saturday, May 12th, 2-4 in the Parish Room at the church. A future event will be held to raise funds for a memorial to Alan Cox, which will be a new noticeboard for the churchyard.	
11.	<b>Police Newsletter:</b> no recent police newsletter had been received. Residents asked when the "Coffee with Cops" initiative would come to Bulphan. Janet will try to find out. Cllr. Little mentioned Operation Buzzard, which gives the police the opportunity to develop their response to rural crime with the assistance of new technologies such as the force drone which can help to gather evidence to crack down on offenders. A lively discussion on whether this was an invasion of privacy was sparked, but the majority of those present were happy about the use of police drones. <b>Speedwatch:</b> Kim reported that 3 new volunteers had been recruited, but that there had been some delay in receiving training, which has to be delivered by the police..	Janet
12.	<b>Next event:</b> unveiling of the defibrillator plaque by Phil the Postman at 3.30pm on Friday 25th May 2018 at the village hall (to be confirmed)	Janet to confirm
13.	<b>Comments from the floor:</b> a) A resident asked the councillors if something could be done about the very wide, deep and dangerous rut in Doesgate Lane, opposite the building site at Manor Farm. Councillors recommended reported this online on the council site. Councillors can then follow up if no action is taken b) A resident asked if the hedge which was overhanging the highway by at least a metre in the old Brentwood Road, opposite Garlesters Farm, could be cut back. The councillors again recommended reporting it online and they would then follow up if necessary. c) Several residents complained about continued parking of lorries on the cross-hatching opposite the Plough, on the A128. The council's principal engineer for Highways has said this is not illegal. However, if it is a sign-written lorry, please send a photo and details of the company and vehicle registration number, and Cllr. Sue Little will follow this up. d) Several residents also complained about the continued parking of lorries and anti-social behaviour by their drivers outside Middleton Hall, Brentwood Road. There is now also a mobile burger van operating at this site. Cllr. Sue Little will investigate.	Cllr. Sue Little  Cllr. Sue Little

	<p>e) A resident complained about the worsening potholes at the end of Church Lane: he was again advised to report them online, and the councillors would follow up if no action was taken.</p> <p>f) A resident asked what the mowing schedule for Bulphan Recreation Ground was, as the grass was extremely long. Cllr. Barry Johnson will follow this up.</p>	<p>Cllr. Barry Johnson</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p><b>Next Open meetings:</b> Monday 9th July (AGM) 2018, at 8pm in the Village Hall; Thursday 13th September 7.30pm</p>	