



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on
Thursday, 14th March 2019 at 7.30pm in
Bulphan Village Hall.**

Present: Janet McCheyne (Chair), Angela Shearing (committee), Diane Perkins (committee), Peter Tarrant (committee), Dave Hale, Corinne White, Steve White, Gwen Weeks, Roy Thomas, Iris Aedy, Judy Wright, Cllr. Sue Little, Brian Little, Kim Towlson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Forum), Dawn McMahon, Gill Miles, Rod Addison, Gill Abbott, Sally Butler, Tracey Potton, Irene Wellman, Denise Wakeling, Mike Lewis, Natasha Karamath

Guest speaker: Rob Groves, Chief Executive Officer, Friends of Hardie Park Ltd

Apologies: Cllr. Barry Johnson

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting and made Health & Safety announcements.	
2.	The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2019 had previously been distributed to those on the Forum email list and hard copies had been available at the Community Cafe. They were approved and signed	
3.	<p>Matters arising from minutes, not already on the agenda</p> <p>a) The letter box relocation from a vulnerable position outside the former shop (which may soon be demolished) to a safer position near the village hall was requested on 3rd July 2017. Despite photographic evidence that the letterbox will be in the front garden of the new houses to be built on the site of the old shop, Royal Mail have no plans to move it. Janet has escalated the issue to a higher level, and may have to go to OfCom if that is unsuccessful.</p>	Janet
4.	<p>Rob Groves: "Friends of Thurrock Parks" Rob gave us a brief history of the transformation of Hardie Park by volunteers, which started 10 years ago. Achievements include a very successful cafe, skateboard park, petanque court, gardening club (resulting in beautiful grounds), and many popular community events and groups. Inspired by Nesta's "Rethinking Parks", Rob applied for and received a Replication award. Hardie Park is supporting five local communities in Thurrock to replicate the successful Community Stewardship sustainable social enterprise model adopted by the Friends of Hardie Park. This involves groups taking on responsibility for funding, managing and maintaining their local parks.</p> <p>Building on this, Rob has created a networking group: "Friends of Thurrock Parks" and invited our Community Forum to join this group. They are currently challenging the Local Plan, and asking what provision there is for local parks.</p> <p>Rob went on to talk about The Land of the Fanns: Heritage Lottery Fund have part funded the five year Land of the Fanns scheme which aims to reunify and discover the landscape, strengthen attachment and create a sense of enjoyment of the landscape area for local people and visitors. (They have part-funded the Mardyke Way sign Bulphan Forum is installing by the Harrow Bridge). A group of Bulphan residents are working with LotF to develop a heritage trail and celebratory event. Janet thanked Rob for his interesting presentation and looked forward to working with him in future.</p>	
5.	<p>Treasurer's report:</p> <p>Current balance is £9,816 (of which £111.24 is ring-fenced for the entranceway £195.00 for the drainage group and £3441 for the Mardyke Way Interpretation sign). Since the last meeting, we</p>	

	have paid out £482 for advertising consent for the Mardyke Way sign, and received a grant of £250 from Small Sparks towards that consent.	
6.	Chair's correspondence: a) The Fields in Trust organisation have asked us to "Have a field day" on our recreation ground. It was agreed to hold an appropriate event on Friday July.	
7.	Lower Thames crossing update: As the consultation closed in late December, there is a quiet period and the planned recent Task Force Meeting was cancelled.	
8.	Thurrock Road Users Group: the next meeting was scheduled for 11th March but it as cancelled.	
9.	Thurrock Association of Forums: the next meeting will be on Mon. 18th March 2019 at South Ockendon Centre.	
10.	Planning matters: a) The Forum had queried the status of a large extension built onto Atwal Villa (formerly Astons Villa). The council had replied to say they are investigation the matter. b) Former Bulphan Shop: outcome of application to build 2 houses on the site has been approved. c) Former Harrow Inn: the Wellness & Weightloss Centre has been named The Glasshouse. Approval had been granted for the manager's house at the entrance. Although members have been surprised by the size of the new building, it apparently complies with the application plans and elevations. d) Martin's Farm: the application to demolish and rebuild as 2 semi-detached cottages had been withdrawn. e) Blacksmith's Field: volunteers had distributed 300 fliers in the village, and 39 comments had been received. However, residents had encountered problems with the planning portal on the last day of consultation and were unable to successfully submit their comments. Sue Little will follow up regarding the non-receipt of an objector's comment who lives immediately adjacent to the access road. f) Peartree Lane: there was a lively discussion on the 2 planning applications (6 houses and 8 houses) on plots in Peartree Lane. Residents detailed many problems associated with these proposals. It was agreed that Gwen Weeks and Steve and Corrine White would establish the ownership of the road. Everyone was encouraged to submit their comments, either online or by letter, before 4th April 2019. If the officer's recommendation was approval, Cllr. Barry Johnson would be asked to call in the matter, which would then be considered by the planning committee, with opportunities for a local resident and our councillor to speak at the meeting. If the officer was minded to refuse, this would not be necessary. g) A large extension which officer's had recommended for refusal at The Lodge, Fen Lane, would be decided next week.	Sue Gwen Steve Corrine Barry
11.	Bus users group: Iris and Judy reported on the last meeting and new bus route and timetable for the 265 bus to Grays were made available.	
12.	Village Hall update: All planning permissions have now been granted and the final draft lease and plan had been received. Signing the lease is imminent. Work can then start.	
13.	Cafe/Post Office: these continue successfully. Forum members felt strongly that the pricing structure should be looked at, as the prices were too low. Janet agreed to do that tomorrow, in consultation with the regular volunteers.	Janet
14.	Councillors' feedback: Sue reported that the council had overestimated the number of new homes needed in Thurrock and the previous target of 33,144 is now being estimated, and could be as low as 22,000. Consultation on the draft Local Development Plan had closed earlier this month. Sue suggested that developers should be asked to install charging points for electric cars in future developments.	

15.	<p>Bulphan in Bloom update: Rod reported that the delivery of the new noticeboard for the church is imminent and that there would be a Magic night in September. Bulphan in Bloom and the Forum are taking part in the Great Bulphan Spring Clean on Sunday 24th March, from 9.30 - 2. Refreshments provided at the hall. All were encouraged to come along and help out. Cllr. Sue mentioned that the council were clamping down on unnetted lorries, and ensuring verges were litter-picked before being mown.</p>	
16.	<p>Police & Speedwatch update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) PC Laura, PCSO Amy and Active Citizens Emma and Victoria visited the community cafe last week and took note of comments. b) Kim said that a spate of roadworks in Bulphan had prevented recent speedwatch sessions in Bulphan, but they could now restart. 	
17.	<p>Questions from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Corinne thanked the Forum and councillors for helping to get the burger van removed from near Middleton Hall. b) Residents are still concerned at the number of vehicles which park on the pavements, causing an obstruction and forcing pedestrians (often with young children and/or buggies) into the road. The advice was to report it online, with a photo showing the number plate if possible. If the offenders persist, ask the councillors to instigate enforcement. c) Regarding lorries parking on the cross-hatching opposite the Plough, Cllr. Barry had started the process of taking action. d) Sally asked if the Brentwood Road sign near Garlesters Villa could be lowered, as it severely impeded sight lines for drivers emerging from Brentwood Road onto the A128. Janet will report it online, and ask councillors to follow-up if no action is taken. (This matter had been raised some 2 years ago). 	
18.	<p>Next events: Easter Antics on Easter Monday, 1 - 4pm. Egg hunt for under-8s, cafe and bar open, various other activities.</p> <p>Next Open Meetings: Thursdays, 7.30 - 9pm 14th March, 9th May, 17th July (AGM) 12th Sept, 14th Nov 2019</p>	