



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on  
Thursday, 12th September 2019 at 7.30pm  
in Bulphan Village Hall.**

**Present:** Janet McCheyne (Chair), Angela Shearing (committee), Peter Tarrant (committee), Jo Goddard (committee), Dave Gulvin (committee), Kim Towlson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Forum Chair) Dave Hale, Corinne White, Roy Thomas, Dawn McMahon, Denise Wakeling, Bob Shearing, Peter Bennett, Keith Blackmore, Steve Nicholls.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Barry Johnson, Cllr. Sue Little, Annette Miles (treasurer), Diane Perkins (committee), Lynda Robertson (committee), Angela Wilson (Orsett Forum chair) and several residents.

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting.	
2.	The minutes of the AGM held on 29th July 2019 had previously been distributed to those on the Forum email list and hard copies had been available at the Community Cafe. They will be approved and signed at next year's AGM.	
3.	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes, not already on the agenda</b></p> <p>a) Janet had found out where the community pumps are, in case they are needed in an emergency: Sol at 12 Fen Close has one pump, and the new resident at 10 Fen Close, has two pumps. Janet will speak to both, and find out a contact number, if they are needed.</p> <p>b) As it had been confirmed that most of the length of ditch running between the houses in Albert Road and the Recreation Ground is the responsibility of Thurrock Council to keep clear, Janet will request this to be carried out.</p> <p>c) A resident had, after the last meeting, generously offered to sponsor the monthly skip at the hall. However, there had been significant feedback pointing out some probably drawbacks to providing this. It was agreed that the skip idea would not go ahead, and Janet hoped that the village community would be willing to help out any individuals who had waste they were unable to transport to the tip. The generous resident had indicated that they were OK with the funds offered being given to the shop project instead. Janet to confirm this.</p>	<p>Janet</p> <p>Janet</p> <p>Janet</p>
4.	<p><b>Treasurer's report:</b></p> <p>Current balance is £3,277.41 (of which £111.24 is ring-fenced for the entranceway, £195.00 for the drainage group and £1,559.00 grant related to the Interpretation board). Since the last meeting, we have paid out £4,000 as a loan to the shop build costs (<i>but see item 9</i>)</p>	
5.	<p><b>Planning matters:</b></p> <p>a) Both Pear Tree Lane applications had been refused. No appeal had yet been lodged. Residents would be vigilant to ensure work did not start on the sites ahead of permission being granted.</p> <p>b) Judds Farm application had also been refused.</p> <p>c) The decision on Cosy (to build a pair of semi-detached houses) would be decided later in the month: neighbours and the Highways Dept. had commented, raising objections.</p> <p>d) Atwal Villa was still the subject of enforcement action. Cllr. Little to update later</p>	Sue
6.	<p><b>CIL</b></p> <p>Kim explained that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that local authorities can set on new development in order to raise funds to help fund the infrastructure, facilities and services - such as schools or transport improvements - which are needed to support new homes and</p>	

	businesses in the areas. A group from the Thurrock Association of Forums are working to ensure that CIL payments are used for the purpose intended, and will share any updates.	Kim
7.	<p><b>Interpretation Board</b></p> <p>The Interpretation Board for the beginning of the Mardyke Way has now been made. Janet met with the installer's surveyor and the farmer and agreed the exact position of the sign, near the Harrow Bridge. The sign will be installed next week, and the official unveiling will follow on a Friday afternoon soon after. Denise and a pupil from Bulphan School will be asked to perform the unveiling (Denise will be dressed as Clarinda Richards, the Bulphan Hermit) and there will be a celebratory event afterwards at the village hall. Janet to liaise with the school, and advertise the date, once decided.</p>	Denise Janet
8.	<p><b>Village Hall Report</b></p> <p>Dave Hale introduced the newly co-opted trustee Steve Nicholls, and mentioned future fundraising events (Band Night on 21st September, Magic Night on 28th September, Variety Evening on 19th October, Fun Dog Show (date to be confirmed), possible Murder Mystery evening. The cafe and PO continue successfully. Regarding the building of the new shop, all permissions are now in place, the builder had been appointed, the proposed shopkeepers had been confirmed and Bulphan in Bloom's distribution of a flyer asking for loans or donations towards the shop project had resulted in a number of loans and a number of donations. The shortfall in building costs had now been covered, but there will be other future costs, so loans/donations are still very welcome. It is hoped to start building at the end of September.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Proposal to donate, rather than loan, £4,000 to the shop build fund</b></p> <p>At the last Open meeting a loan of £4,000 towards the shop project had been agreed. However, it had been proposed that the loan should become a donation. Forum funds are to be used on community projects. There are currently no significant projects identified, except for the shop build, which is a priority. It was agreed unanimously that the £4,000 should now be accepted as a donation to the shop build fund.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Bus Users Group</b></p> <p>No report available for this meeting. However, the Women's Institute are running a national campaign to improve rural bus services.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Police liaison/Speedwatch</b></p> <p>Our local PC Laura had recently attended the Community Cafe, where issues raised had been parking on pavements, and fly-tipping. Where the pavement is obstructed, parking on the pavements should be reported to the council. As the junction of Victoria Road and Church Lane is affected regularly by pavement-parking, if yellow lines around the junction were added, it then becomes a police matter. (The plants obscuring that junction were also a problem. Bulphan in Bloom had agreed to cut them back, but haven't yet done so)</p> <p>Fly-tipping continues to be a major problem: householders will face higher penalties if they use unlicensed waste carriers and we are asked to check carriers' licence (and photograph it if necessary, to have evidence if you are prosecuted). A resident felt that harsher penalties for those caught would be some deterrent but all agreed it is difficult to know what can be done to stop the problem.</p> <p>Kim said that the Speedwatch team was very small, and that they intend to operate in Church Road and Church Lane soon. Volunteers are always welcome (and Denise volunteered to join the team).</p>	BiB
12.	<p><b>Feedback from councillors</b></p> <p>No councillors could be present, as both had commitments in council meetings. Janet will share any feedback she receives.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Thurrock Association of Forums</b></p> <p>Delegates from the 14 Forums would be meeting on Monday, and Kim and Janet will report back in due course. At the recent Orsett Forum meeting, it was announced that, due to having too few volunteers, there will be no Orsett Christmas Fayre this year.</p>	

14.	<p><b>Thames Crossing Update</b> It took quite a while for the many consultation responses to be collated, but an interim report is now published. Highways England are carrying out ground investigations at various sites. They have not yet applied for a Development Consent Order. Jackie Doyle-Price wants route C3 to be scrapped and route C4 to be adopted, east of Orsett and through parts of Horndon and Bulphan.</p>	
15.	<p><b>Bulphan in Bloom update:</b> Rod and Peter reported that further work had been done in the conservation area of the churchyard, and BBC Essex had interviewed Frank, Ron, Kelly, Lynda Cox and the Rector following the church's award as the Best Kept Churchyard in Essex. Peter B. encouraged people to attend the Magic Night. There would be a village clear-up on 22nd Sept and later, replacement of plants in the planters.</p>	
16.	<p><b>Questions from the floor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A resident asked if there would be disabled parking at the shop. Janet said that resurfacing and marking out of the shop would be the next project to be addressed, once the shop was up and running. There would be no need for a ramp at the shop entrance.</li> <li>b) A resident asked if there were plans to widen the car park entrance, or to provide in-and-out access. Janet said that the Highways policy at the moment was not to allow further access points onto Church Road, but that there is capacity to widen the gateway. No definite plans were yet in place for this, but it could form part of the car park refurbishment project.</li> <li>c) A resident asked if big lorries would deliver to the shop. Janet explained that the shopkeepers had other shops: the big lorries would deliver to one of their other shops, and a small van would bring goods to Bulphan.</li> <li>d) A resident asked if a plaque could be put up at the Glass House to indicate that it was the site of the former Harrow Pub. Janet is meeting tomorrow with the manager at the Glass House and this is one of the matters she will raise.</li> <li>e) A resident asked if there was a date for moving the letter box from outside the former Post Office to outside the current Post Office. Janet replied that she regularly asks the contractors, and stresses the urgency but has not yet been given a date.</li> <li>f) A resident asked about the new bins which had been installed alongside the current bins. The new larger bins are dual purpose and can take general waste and dog faeces (bagged). They can be used now.</li> <li>g) A resident asked about the B17 Air disaster memorial service. This will take place on Saturday, 21st September at West Horndon. At 10am, the commemorative bench in West Horndon Recreation Ground will be blessed and there will be a Spitfire flyover. At 10.30am there will be a service in St. Francis Church, and afterwards there is an opportunity to drive to Nutty's Farm and walk across the field to the actual site where one plane came down. Refreshments will be available at the church, and a display of artefacts can be viewed.</li> <li>h) A resident queried the proposal to buy a banner saying "New shop coming here" or similar, as he thought the money would be better spent going towards the shop project fund. Denise said she had sourced a similar banner for £10, so it was agreed to go ahead with its purchase.</li> <li>i) A resident asked if anyone knew the derivation of "Mardyke". A helpful resident suggested, and Google confirmed, that it was a river that runs to the sea.</li> </ul>	<p>Janet</p> <p>Janet</p>
17.	<p><b>Next events:</b> Interpretation Board unveiling and celebratory event - date to be confirmed Christmas Eve Father Christmas Sleigh Tour Possible New Year's Eve "Community Cafe" event, subject to the hall being available. VE75 Celebrations - 8th, 9th and 10th May 2020 (involving Jo, our own piper, town crier and church bell-ringing on the Bank Holiday on 8th May, an indoor street party on the 9th, and a church service on 10th May). We will need to register our event. A resident queried why VE75 was being celebrated, when VJ75 was more significant. The Royal British Legion and the Government will be working together to ensure that the 75th anniversary of</p>	

	VJ Day on 15 August 2020 and the “forgotten army” will be commemorated in an appropriate way, and we will hope to support that.	
18.	Next Open Meetings: Thursday 14th Nov 2019, 30th Jan, 12th March, 4th May, AGM 30th July, 10th September, 12th November 2020, all at 7.30 - 9 in the village hall	