



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on
Thursday, 12th March 2020 at 7.30pm in
Bulphan Village Hall.**

Present: Janet McCheyne (Chair), Angela Shearing (committee), Annette Miles (treasurer), Lynda Cox, Judy Wright, Iris Aedy, Rod Addison, Roy Thomas, Dawn McMahon, Denise Wakeling, Steve Nicholls, Corinne White, Ron Smith, Dave Hale, Kim Towlson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Forum)

Apologies: Lynda Robertson (committee), Peter Tarrant (committee), Jo Goddard (committee), Dave Gulvin (committee), Diane Perkins (committee), June Morgan, Tracey & Jess Potton, Cllr. Sue Little, Cllr. Barry Johnson

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting and pointed out H & S procedures. Our numbers were somewhat depleted, due in part to restrictions related to coronavirus.	
2.	The minutes of the Open Meeting held on 30th January 2020 had previously been distributed to those on the Forum email list and hard copies had been available at the Community Cafe. They were agreed and signed.	
3.	<p>Matters arising from the minutes, not already on the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Steven reported that 2 electric submersible pumps had been located. One pump needed a new hose, which Steven had bought on behalf of the Forum. These 2 pumps will be stored in houses in Fen Close. If residents need to borrow them, they can text or 'phone Janet on 0775 283 6902. The 3rd pump, which is a larger piece of equipment and is petrol-driven, has not yet been located. The Forum would appreciate any clues as to where it might be. We have located the hose, but not the pump (or petrol can). Janet thanked Steven for the time and effort he has put in re the pumps. b) Clearing of the ditch between Albert Road and the Recreation Ground has not yet been carried out by the council. c) The waste bin which was taken away from outside the former village shop has not yet reappeared anywhere in the village. Janet will continue to chase. d) There has been no response as yet to our request to relocate the letter box (again) to the correct site. Janet will chase e) The plaque acknowledging the Harrow Inn has been installed at the Glass House Retreat, in the foyer. Roy and Janet to find out if it needs backing to make it more prominent. f) The amount collected on Christmas Eve by the Mardyke Rotary Club in Bulphan was £428.72 g) A very successful Active Parks session was held at half-term, and a total of 50 people (children and adults) attended and took part (the highest attendance in Thurrock). Adult gentle exercise sessions continue on Tuesday mornings, 10 - 12noon, and there will be a family event in the Easter holidays. 	<p>Janet</p> <p>Janet Roy Janet</p>
4.	<p>Treasurer's report:</p> <p>Current balance is £4,317.73 (of which £111.24 is ring-fenced for the entranceway and £149.32 for the drainage group, £45.68 having been spent on new hose for a pump).</p> <p>It was agreed that refurbishing of the car park, drainage of the playing field and other relevant projects could be added to the Infrastructure Requirement List, so that S106 planning obligation funds relating to future developments could be allocated to Bulphan's needs. Suggestions for other projects to add to the list are welcome: they need to be projects which would provide</p>	All

	<p>improved or increased community or social infrastructure for which a need has arisen due to a new development taking place.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Janet could apply for appropriate grants towards those projects.</p>	Janet
5.	<p>Planning matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Blacksmith's Field 116 home proposed development appeal is now closed for comments and we await the inspector's decision. b) King's Farm have got to include impact assessments relating to highways and flood risk when they submit their application for 750 homes on the airfield. Cumulative effects must also be assessed: if the Blacksmith's Field development goes ahead, it is less likely that the airfield application will be granted. c) There is an extension of permitted rights application under consideration in Pear Tree Lane. 	
6.	<p>Village Hall Report</p> <p>The new table store is now fitted with racks. The new door adjacent to the table store to allow for easy access to the recreation ground will be fitted in about a month's time.</p> <p>The shop is currently being stocked, and will officially open at 5pm on Friday 27th March. The next day, the shopkeepers will be providing (free) refreshments from 3.30pm in celebration.</p>	
7.	<p>VE75/VJ75 celebrations update: details for the VE75 weekend remain as minuted in previous meetings. Ration books which entitle residents and ex-residents of Bulphan to attend the afternoon tea party, and Curfew Passes available to all for the live party band evening will be available from the community cafe, or by contacting Janet, from next week. A flyer giving full details of the whole VE75 weekend, with notification of the shop opening on the reverse will be distributed as soon as possible. Annette offered to do some deliveries. Janet will seek other volunteers.</p> <p>A cast aluminium plaque to commemorate the Spitfire pilot, who was shot down over Bulphan on 15th September 1940, will cost about £400. Janet has applied for a grant to cover that cost, plus £50 for installation. Research is still going on to find out exactly where the plane came down, as RAF records are unclear. A great-nephew of the pilot has been found and Janet will keep him informed of what we are doing.</p>	<p>Janet Annette Janet</p> <p>Janet</p>
8.	<p>Bus users group: Judy said that the date of the next meeting was to be confirmed. Iris asked if the Forum could support her request that the steps and approach from Morrison's car park up to the bus station could be kept clean and safe. It is believed it is council land. Janet to follow up.</p>	Janet
9.	<p>Speedwatch: regarding Speedwatch, Kim Towlson, local co-ordinator, said that he had found it difficult to persuade enough volunteers to go out in inclement weather. More volunteers are needed, in order for training sessions to go ahead. Many people voice complaints about the speeding and it would help if they came forward to volunteer for the community speedwatch.</p>	
10.	<p>Police matter: Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, Kim, outlined some of the trends in crime in the Orsett Ward. He urged people to use steering wheel locks to deter vehicle theft.</p>	
11.	<p>Lower Thames Crossing Update</p> <p>The supplementary consultation ((which will probably be the last chance to comment on the LTC) closes on 27th March 2020. Here is the link to view it online: www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/consultation-2020. You can use the Highways England response form to comment, or you can simply write a letter or email detailing your concerns. Post to FREEPOST LTC CONSULTATION (That's the whole address and you don't need a stamp). Email</p>	

	<p>LTC.CONSULTATION@TRAVERSE.LTD. Pollution has got to be one of the biggest of the many issues.</p> <p>Kim emphasised that Highways England's activities in the area relate to exploratory work, and work on the LTC itself has not started, and they do not yet have permission for the project to go ahead. Kim also pointed out that Highways England have cut aspects of their original plans, in order to make the scheme appear affordable, but that after the disruption of building the LTC itself, the cut elements would be added later, prolonging the disruption to those living in or travelling through the area.</p>	
12.	<p>Bulphan in Bloom update:</p> <p>The lavender beds were recently weeded and refreshed (in the rain!); the war grave in the churchyard has been refurbished and now looks splendid; the Great British Spring Clean joint venture (BiB and the Forum) will be on 21st March and will be based at the church this year. All very welcome. Iris suggested that some rubbish bag rings be purchased to make litter-picking easier. This was agreed. Janet to buy them.</p>	Janet
13.	<p>Feedback from councillors: both councillors said they had nothing to report.</p>	
14.	<p>Questions from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Janet mentioned that the new Dementia Day Care facility in Orsett Cricket Club was offering free taster days, every Tuesday and Thursday. They can also help carers to source help with funding. b) Some residents had received leaflets from the council detailing how to deal with your rubbish. Comments were made that the process seemed arduous, but it was pointed out that Thurrock Council's service is better in some respects compared to other local councils. c) A resident asked about Parish Councils. Residents in an area with a Parish Council have to pay a precept (anywhere between £15 and £200 a year per household). Parish Councils have a legal status and some planning powers. There are no parish councils in Thurrock. d) Residents were concerned about several sites around the village where there was frequently water right across the road and water running down the road rather than in ditches. Janet recommended that those who are affected should continue to report the problem. e) Kim informed Forum members that St. Luke's Hospice (Thurrock) was partly built and was due to be finished by the end of the year. It sits behind the housing development on Lower Dunton Road. 	
15.	<p>Next events:</p> <p>Mitu Ahmed, Parks Engagement Officer, continues Active Parks coffee mornings with gentle exercise on Tuesdays, 10 - 12 at the hall and park. He will also be running a Family Active Parks session during the Easter Holidays.</p> <p>Funding Workshop at the Community Cafe on Friday 20th March</p> <p>Great British Spring Clean Saturday, 21st March, 10 - 2 based at the church. Includes refreshments, litter pickers, bags and bag holders. Bring your own gloves and hi-viz if possible.</p> <p>VE75 Celebrations - 8th, 9th and 10th May 2020</p> <p>VJ75 Celebrations: 15th August 2020</p> <p>N.B. There will be no Easter Antics this year, due to unavailability of committee members, and the VE75 celebrations.</p>	Janet
16.	<p>Next Open Meetings: Thursdays 14th May, AGM 30th July, 10th September, 12th November 2020, all at 7.30 - 9 in the village hall</p>	