



*Giving the village a voice*

**Minutes of the Open meeting and AGM held on Thursday, 10th September 2020 at 7.30pm in Bulphan Village Hall**

**Present:** Janet McCheyne (Chair), Diane Perkins (Secretary), Angela Shearing (Committee), Jo Goddard (Committee), Dave Gulvin (Committee), Lynda Robertson (Committee), Kim Towlson (Chair of TAF), Cllr. Barry Johnson, Dawn McMahon, Judy Wright, Lynda Cox, Steven Nicholls, Sylvie Besant, Iris Aedy, Kay Stevens, Tom Neal, Helen Winter, Bev Byrne, Trish Dobson.

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed everyone to the socially-distanced meeting. Apologies had been received from several residents, Cllr. Sue Little and committee members Peter Tarrant and Annette Miles.	
2.	<b>Minutes of the last AGM</b> held 29th July 2019 were agreed and signed.	
3.	<b>Matters arising:</b> Steven Nicholls was thanked for refurbishing 2 of the drainage pumps. The third pump had still not turned up. It was decided that the Forum would not buy a replacement at this time: the drainage had been much improved, and the 2 existing pumps would be enough. The Postmen/women and Forum continue to press for the letterbox to be repositioned outside the village hall; the Albert Road/Recreation ground ditch had still not been cleared. Janet to follow up.	Janet
4.	<b>Chair's report on the last year:</b> Janet read out her report. She detailed the events, activities and initiatives which the Forum had carried out and thanked the many volunteers who had made these possible.	
5.	<b>Adoption of the accounts:</b> Annette had provided a copy of the examined accounts and a financial report. These were approved unanimously.	
6.	<b>Sub-committee report:</b> Lynda Robertson, vice-chair and treasurer of Bulphan in Bloom, gave their report. It had been a challenging year, with volunteers having to work more independently. Much had been achieved, but they struggle to maintain standards and need more volunteers. Understandably, they made a small loss this year, and will carry forward £8,961.21, of which £4,792.68 is ring-fenced for Victoria Road.	
7.	<b>Election of officers and committee:</b> Kim Towlson took the chair, thanked the retiring committee and conducted the election of officers and committee. The following were elected: Chair: Janet McCheyne was proposed, seconded and elected unopposed Vice-Chair: Jo Goddard was proposed, seconded and elected unopposed Secretary: Diane Perkins was proposed, seconded and elected unopposed Treasurer: Annette Miles was proposed, seconded and elected unopposed. Committee: Dave Gulvin, Angela Shearing, Peter Tarrant and Lynda Robertson were proposed, seconded and elected.	
8.	<b>Agreement to change of signatories:</b> current signatories are Janet McCheyne, Annette Miles and David Gilbane. As David is no longer on the committee, Lynda Robertson was appointed as the	

	3rd signatory.	
9.	<b>Approval of proposed changes to the Constitution:</b> in response to a request from TAF, Janet read out the proposed changes to the Constitution dealing with emergency situations. One minor amendment was made, and the changes were then agreed unanimously. Janet to post the amended Constitution on the Forum's website and let Lynn Gittins, Thurrock Council, have a copy of the new Constitution.	Janet
10.	The AGM being concluded, the Open Meeting followed. The <b>minutes of the last Open meeting</b> held on 12th March 2020 were agreed and signed.	
11.	<b>Matters arising:</b> the waste bin removed from outside the old shop has now been repositioned outside the new shop. However residents said it was always full: Janet to find out how often it should be emptied, and to ask for a bigger bin. Also to follow up on the waste management of the shop. The hall car park will be closed for resurfacing on 24th/25th September, with preparation work starting on 17th Sept. Janet apologised that there will be some noise and disruption but that this work is urgent. Residents agreed and expressed their appreciation that a benefactor had made this possible, funding most of the cost. £5,000 had come from S106 money, and a further £1,000 grant from Thurrock Council. Janet has applied to CEDF for a grant towards a perimeter path around the recreation ground. The Great British Spring Clean had been cancelled and moved to September 19th. Litter pickers on that day can bring their bags of waste to the hall, for collection by the council. Some progress has been made on the provision of a paved footpath from 33 Church Road to Bulphan Hall Farm, which would provide safer crossing places.	Janet
12.	<b>Planning and enforcement matters:</b> Brewers Farm enforcement action had been complicated by a recent fire at the premises; Atwal Villa enforcement is ongoing; issues at 86 Church Lane seem to have been improved. The councillors and Janet had attended a virtual meeting with representatives of a company wishing to install a 250 acre solar farm on the fen, near Harrow Road. Residents raised concerns over wildlife, footpaths, glint and glare and traffic and access. Until an application is put forward, no comments can be formally submitted. Janet asked if an exhibition and chance to question project team members in Bulphan Village Hall on Wednesday 7th October would be worthwhile and many at the meeting indicated they would appreciate that. Janet to arrange and publicise. A resident asked if S106 money would be given: it is thought that there would be a lump sum of "Community Benefit" money paid directly to the village and managed by the Forum, for local projects. A planning application for a crematorium, care home, GPs etc is likely to be put forward soon: there were concerns about this development, with access onto A128 being one of them.	Janet
13.	<b>Lower Thames Crossing Update:</b> Kim is a member of the Thames Crossing Action Group and explained the final consultation had closed, Highways England were preparing to submit a DCO for permission to go ahead, but are carrying out archaeological surveys in the area. Laura Blake is keeping people well informed and also liaising with those affected in Kent.	
14.	<b>Village Hall and shop update:</b> Janet read David Hale's Chair's report: he had used the hall closure as an opportunity to redecorate the hall and carry out many repairs. A new rear door had been fitted to give better access to the playing field. One hirer's organisation had folded due to COVID, but 2 new activities were starting soon (Little City for preschoolers, and Tai Chi). David announced his retirement as chair of the hall trustees and caretaker, but would continue to be the hall manager, carrying out the maintenance. Janet then mentioned that the church were interested in siting a clothes bank in the bin shelter to raise funds for the church. Although there was some support, there was also a significant amount of opposition, so the church will explore other sites.	

15.	<p><b>Speedwatch and police matters:</b> Kim said the police had said no community speed watch sessions were to be carried out during COVID restrictions. Horndon-on-the-Hill has significant amounts of speeding when the A13 is closed and Horndon is used as a cut-through. In response to resident complaints, Kim suggested the solution was in their own hands i.e. volunteer with the Speedwatch initiative. 10 people came forward in Horndon-on-the-Hill, and if more Bulphan residents were to volunteer, then when allowed to operate again, there would be more sessions in Bulphan. Tom Neal immediately volunteered and will undergo training by the police. Janet and Kim were aware of a security firm offering a private service and saying that this service was endorsed by Janet and Kim, as Forum chairs. This is not the case. No-one at the meeting indicated they would be interested in such a service.</p>	
16.	<p><b>Bus Users Group:</b> Judy reported there had been no problems at all with buses recently.</p>	
17.	<p><b>Thurrock Association of Forums update:</b> Kim reported that although 15 Forums were working well, providing much-needed support during COVID, there should be 20 Forums, to cover the whole of Thurrock. Kim is supporting 2 areas to reactivate their Forums. TAF delegates have not been able to meet since February.</p>	
18.	<p><b>Feedback from councillors:</b> Barry explained that the council's work had carried on through the pandemic, with new ways of working in some cases. Residents had asked about fly-tipping in Dunnings Lane, and the response was that the enforcement team will visit to establish the most appropriate form of action to take. A resident asked why enforcement action often seemed to be not followed through. Barry said the process was complex and if someone appealed, as the law stands, it is a long-winded and expensive matter to address.</p>	
19.	<p><b>Questions from the floor:</b> Kay Stevens expressed thanks for the footpaths being opened now. She had noticed a number of broken footpath posts and didn't know who was responsible for replacing/mending them. Barry advised her to report them to the council, giving the footpath numbers. It was suggested by a resident that the farmer could be responsible for maintenance of the signs.</p> <p>Kay also asked Forum members if they supported the idea of holding a boot camp once a week on a Wednesday evening, on the recreation ground (the trainer would supply lighting). The idea was supported, with some of those attending saying they would like to take part. Kay will now liaise with the Parks Engagement Officer.</p>	
20.	<p><b>Next event:</b> the next event is the dedication of the plaque commemorating the Spitfire pilot shot down over Bulphan. This would take place at 12.30pm on Tuesday, 15th September, 80 years to the minute when he actually crashed. The Rector will take the short ceremony and Jo agreed to play. Neil Speight from Thurrock Nub News will attend, as will residents who carried out research. Any others should maintain a distance.</p>	
21.	<p><b>Next meeting:</b> Thursday 12th November 2020, 7.30 - 9pm in the village hall</p>	