



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on
Thursday, 13th September 2018 at 7.30pm
in Bulphan Village Hall.**

Present: Janet McCheyne (Chair), Dawn McMahon, Dave Hale, Corinne White, Kim Towlson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Society & Community Forum), Angela Shearing (committee), Bob Shearing, Roy Thomas, Beverley Johnston, PC Laura Brady

Apologies: Diane Perkins (committee), Cllr. Barry Johnson

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.	
2.	<p>Matters arising from minutes of the AGM on July 9th, not already on the agenda</p> <p>a) The shrub obstructing the pathway to the school has been cut back</p> <p>b) Janet had received one objection to the “No dogs in the MUGA” signs. As the Forum had instigated the refurbishment of the tennis courts into a MUGA and had contributed a considerable amount of funding towards it, it was felt that it was appropriate for the Forum to respond to requests to install these signs. Janet will write to the objector explaining, and then the signs would be put up.</p>	Janet
3.	<p>Questions to PC Laura Brady: we had welcomed our neighbourhood police officer to the Community Cafe last Friday and it was good to see her again. She answered questions about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● parking on pavements: this is very rarely a police matter as it’s not illegal. However, obstruction of the pavement should be reported to the council enforcement team (online with a photo if possible). ● Quad bikes/anti-social driving: the police have new strategies for combating this: ● When asked what Forum members can do to support the police, Laura said please report all crimes: even if the police don’t (or can’t) respond, it will help to report, as if there is no evidence of the extent of the problem, then no resources will be allocated. 	
4.	<p>Speedwatch update: Kim was pleased to say that 7 new volunteers had come forward. However, there was a delay in Speedwatch training at the moment and Kim was hoping that Active Citizens might be able to train new volunteers to Speedwatch and also take part in Speedwatch activities. Laura explained that Active Citizens were similar to PCSOs, except they were volunteers and wore civvies. They received training, and accompanied Neighbourhood police officers on patrol.</p> <p>Kim had requested that Speedwatch sites could be extended, but his request would carry more weight if more Speedwatch volunteers were seen to be active.</p> <p>Speeding drivers’ details are noted, sent to the police, and they receive a written warning. If there are repeated offences, they are visited, fined etc.</p>	
5.	<p>Treasurer’s report: the application for Annette Miles to be a signatory is in hand. Current balance is £3,433.25 (of which £111.24 is ring-fenced for the entranceway and £195.00 for the drainage group).</p> <p>The Forum’s grant application for an interpretation sign by the Harrow Bridge, at the start of the Mardyke Way has been successful. £3441 has been awarded by the Community Action Fund, £1559 by the Land that Fanns, leaving £1392 match funding which we provide. Forum members queried the cost of the interpretation board. The specification</p>	

	<p>had been for interpretation boards matching those already along the Mardyke Way, and only 1 company had been able to quote for that.</p> <p>The Community Cafe is operated under the umbrella of the Forum. Over the 3 years it has been running, total takings have been £8,576.35, total outgoings (which include donations to community projects) £5,105.44, resulting in a balance of £3,470.91. Forum members were asked to consider donating some of that to the shop-building project, should there be a shortfall.</p>	
6.	<p>Lower Thames crossing update: The Thames Crossing Action Group are still fighting Option C, which does not alleviate congestion or improve air pollution and would prefer option A14, a tunnel, connecting with M25 north of J30. Option C would reduce pressure on the Dartford Crossing by 14%, whereas A14 would provide a 40% reduction. A14 would also improve air quality. Now that Highways England have realised there are some flood risks along the route, they have a new “red line map” which now takes double the amount of land, compared with the earlier red line map. There will be a question and answer session with Highways England, at Orsett Village Hall on Wed. 19th September, 5 - 8pm.</p>	
7.	<p>Thurrock Association of Forums: Kim, as chair of TAF, said that at the next meeting of delegates from all the Community Forums, a fairer funding formula would be considered. The current formula was originally based on ward populations, but Forum areas and ward boundaries do not all align now, and funding has been reduced to admin funding only. The proposal was to distribute the funds equally between all 14 active Forums.</p>	
8.	<p>Planning matters: no enforcement update from the councillors was available. Janet had responded, on behalf of the Forum, to a change of use application for the outbuilding at Jusootus to become a 2-bedroomed bungalow. Brentwood Road at Middleton Hall will shortly become a no stopping/no loading/no waiting road.</p>	
9.	<p>Bus users group: there had been no issues with the buses, and Janet would take Bulphan’s representative, Judy to the next meeting on Wed. 19th Sept at the Civic Offices.</p>	Janet
10.	<p>Village Hall update: Dave Hale reported that the Bluegrass Festival had been a well-organised event and provided valuable income for the hall. Louise of Parkview had raised concerns at our last Forum meeting, about noise from weekend hall bookings, banjo-playing at 1am during the Bluegrass Festival and hall users obstructing drives. The village hall committee had discussed all these matters and would write to Louise. Angela Shearing was thanked for planting, watering and nurturing the hanging baskets and containers at the hall, which all looked splendid.</p> <p>Trustees are currently investigating whether VAT is payable on the shop-build. The lease with the council has not yet been provided by them.</p>	
11.	<p>Bulphan in Bloom update: a mutually-beneficial agreement has been made between Bulphan in Bloom and the village hall: Bulphan in Bloom now enjoy 20 free hours for events and 60 free hours for “tea and toilet” working parties etc. In return, they will assist Dave with the grounds maintenance. Next fundraiser/social event: Race Night on 29th September.</p>	
12.	<p>Questions from the floor: a question was asked about resurfacing the village hall car park. Janet explained that the Forum had applied for a grant to do this: no decision on the grant had been made, and the work could not be carried out until building work on the shop was completed.</p>	
13.	<p>Next Open meeting: Thursday, 8th November at 7.30pm, Bulphan Village Hall</p>	