



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on
Thursday, 9th May 2019 at 7.30pm in
Bulphan Village Hall.**

Present: Janet McCheyne (Chair), Annette Miles (Treasurer), Angela Shearing (committee), Diane Perkins (Secretary), Peter Tarrant (committee), Dave Hale, Corinne White, Steve White, Gwen Weeks, Roy Thomas, Iris Aedy, Judy Wright, Cllr. Sue Little, Kim Towson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Forum), Dawn McMahon, Gill Abbott, Denise Wakeling, Paul Lawrence, Beverley Johnson, Bob Shearing, Jo Goddard, Dave Gulvin, Palo Singh, Angela Wilson, David Tucker, Pauline White (LAC), Claire McComb, Peter Bennett, Richard Robertson,

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 14th March 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 campaign to save our letter box which is currently outside the former shop continues. Janet has found evidence from elsewhere in the country to support our request to retain this part of our cultural heritage in Bulphan.</p> <p>b) The Easter Antics had been enjoyed by those who came. Thank you to all volunteers. Costs were £7. Cafe takings: £32.90. The raffle made a profit of £63.28 for village hall funds, and the bar took £33 and the profit will go to hall funds.</p>	Janet
4.	<p>Treasurer's report:</p> <p>Current balance is £5,718.41 (of which £111.24 is ring-fenced for the entranceway and £195.00 for the drainage group). Since the last meeting, we have paid out £40 for printer cartridges and £6,220.80 for the Mardyke Way sign. We have received £43.50 contribution to the cost of the Christmas tree, and £2,119.46 from the cafe proceeds.</p>	
6.	<p>Chair's correspondence:</p> <p>a) Janet receives a vast amount of information, some more useful than others. Relevant info is passed to members via email, Facebook or hard copies at the community cafe.</p> <p>b) Attention is drawn to Thames Delta Community Radio, Thurrock's own radio station which can only be accessed online at the moment.</p> <p>c) The Land that Fanns and Kinetika are engaged in a project to record stories of the historic Bulphan Fen and Orsett Fen in drawings, paintings, photography and digital media. This is part of a wider project covering the whole Thames Chase Forest area. They are also planning walks to encourage people to engage with the fenland. See details in "Next Events". Project leaders will also attend the community cafe sometime in August to collect stories.</p>	
7.	<p>Lower Thames crossing update: As the consultation closed in late December, the quiet period continues.....</p>	
8.	<p>Thurrock Road Users Group: Kim attended the last meeting, which focussed mainly on the A13 widening and problems on the A1306. Apparently, the 30mph limit is improving traffic flow. A</p>	

	resident asked if the rumour that a toll would be put on the A13 was true: this was categorically denied by Kim and by Cllr. Sue Little.	
9.	Thurrock Association of Forums (TAF): Kim, as chair of TAF, is trying to reactivate forums in the 5 areas not covered currently, as they do provide a voice for residents and carry weight with the council.	
10.	<p>Planning matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Forum had heard nothing after the council said they are investigating the status of a large extension built onto Atwal Villa (formerly Astons Villa). Cllr. Little agreed to find out the outcome. b) Blacksmith's Field: the application to build 116 homes, 3 retail units and a pub on the "horses' field" has not yet appeared on the planning committee's agenda. There had been 42 public objections, and many concerns from the statutory consultees. c) Peartree Lane: Gwen Weeks and Steve and Corrine White have not yet had a satisfactory answer regarding the ownership/status of the road. There had been 15 public objections to the site behind Conifers, and 20 public objections to the site behind Southover. Statutory consultees had raised many issues and the submitted plans had been amended to some extent. A resident asked if the Forum could register to speak at the planning meeting, setting out residents' objections. Janet would register. d) The large extension which officers had recommended for refusal at The Lodge, Fen Lane was approved by the planning committee. e) Cllr. Little said that enforcement officers continue to monitor the decommissioning of Burrows Yard 2. f) A Freedom of Information request had been raised about the green belt/brownfield status of Kings Farm airfield. We will look online to view the answer when available. g) A resident asked for more information about how planning decisions are made, and why some are delegated to officers and others go to committee. Cllr. Little answered this. 	<p>Cllr. Little</p> <p>Gwen C'rinne Steve</p> <p>Janet</p>
11.	<p>Bus users group: Judy reported on the last meeting. The rerouted 265 bus to Grays had lengthened journey time from 20 minutes to 45 minutes. Judy would suggest ways to shorten the time, at the next meeting. Cllr. Little hoped that now the bus went past Blackshots, during the school holidays, young people might like to go on the bus to the leisure centre for a swim or other sporting activities.</p> <p>The bus route now passes Long Lane Community Hospital, which is likely to be Bulphan's Health Hub.</p>	
12.	Village Hall update: An EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) survey would be carried out on 21st May. This should allow the lease to be signed and building work to commence.	
13.	Cafe/Post Office: increase in prices had not affected attendance at the cafe, and there hadn't been too many moans.	
14.	Councillors' feedback: there had been no local elections in the Orsett Ward. Conservatives still have most seats, but not an overall majority.	
15.	Bulphan in Bloom update: Bulphan in Bloom and Forum members took part in the Great Spring Clean. We had received a letter from the council thanking us for our participation. 37 volunteers took part and collected 67 bags of waste. Bulphan in Bloom had also been working hard to keep the churchyard tidy. The Best Kept Churchyard judges had visited. The new church noticeboard, dedicated to the late Alan Cox, is now installed and looks very handsome. At their last clean-up day, supreme efforts were put into tidying and repairing the willow dome. The next event is the Cream Tea and Plant Sale, 2 - 4pm on Sunday 2nd June at the Parish Room/Churchyard.	
16.	<p>Police & Speedwatch update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) PC Laura visited the community cafe last week and took note of comments. 	

	<p>b) Kim said that he would still like to hear from volunteers who would like to join the next session for Community Speedwatch training at the Swan pub in Horndon-on-the-Hill on 5th June at 6pm.</p>	
17.	<p>Questions from the floor:</p> <p>a) Kim thanked the Forum for allowing the annual friendly Charity Football match between The Swan and The Bell to use Bulphan's football pitch. The Swan won 4 - 0.</p> <p>b) Janet had been offered 2 concrete table tennis tables. After discussion, we will consult with young people in the village to find out if it would be well-used, and we will also look into the logistics of transporting the tables. Orsett Forum may be interested in having one.</p> <p>c) Cllr. Little had been asked in another village about village boundaries. The council officers had been unable to tell her. Kim and Janet will supply boundary maps.</p> <p>d) Steve White drew our attention to the Essex Wildlife Trust's online reporting of sightings of wildlife. If you go to www.essexwtrecords.org.uk and record the species of ANY wildlife sightings in the village. The data collected can be invaluable when protecting sites from inappropriate development. Fliers in the cafe for more details.</p> <p>e) A resident mentioned an ongoing problem with bin emptying and replacement of bins. Cllr. Sue gave advice</p> <p>f) A resident mentioned that if you wish, for instance, to have bulky waste removed by the council, the only payment option is online. The meeting felt this was discrimination against those who do not have access to online payments, and asked Cllr. Little to take this complaint up for us.</p> <p>g) An Albert Road resident raised the problem that the drainage ditch between the recreation ground and the houses in Albert Road was very congested with growth (including saplings). Janet will find out whose responsibility it is to clear this ditch. Since the council installed the fence between the ditch and the field, it is impossible for volunteers to clear it, and it would appear to be the council's responsibility anyway. It provides crucial drainage to that part of the village.</p> <p>h) Dog fouling was reported as increasing. Kim mentioned that the Scouts in Horndon had installed lemonade bottles on some lampposts in the village, with rolls of poobags for public emergency use. It seems to have made an improvement. Janet will approach the Scouts/School to see if this is a project they would like to take on. Various other novel ideas were suggested.</p>	<p>Bev Peter Janet Kim Janet</p> <p>All</p> <p>Cllr. Little</p> <p>Janet</p>
18.	<p>Next events:</p> <p>Land of the Fanns project walk: Wednesday, 29th May, meet 2pm at the Dog & Partridge, walk across the historic Bulphan/Orsett Fens. Circular walk. Not accessible for buggies or wheelchairs. Denise Wakeling will lead the walk.</p> <p>Next Open Meetings: , Monday 17th July (AGM) Thursday 12th Sept, Thursday 14th Nov 2019 all at 7.30 - 9 in the village hall</p>	