



Minutes of the Open meeting and AGM held on Thursday, 9th July 2015 at 7.30pm in Bulphan Village Hall

Present: David Gilbane (Chairman), Naomi Cooper (Treasurer), Janet McCheyne (Secretary), Cllr. Sue Little, Dave Hale, Bob Shearing, Colin Pankhurst, Iris Aedy, Yvonne Conway, Kelly Fiford, Sylvia Marsh, Corinne White, Ron Smith, Ed Lacy, Len & Lin Arber, Bernie & Steve Benn, Fiona Bowman, Gail Wilson, Bev Johnston, Sylvie Besant, Kerry Jackson

Visitors: Helen Catterick (Chadwell, Orsett & Bulphan Adults Health Co-ordinator)

1.	Welcome and apologies: David welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Cllr. Brian Little (at a planning meeting), PC Brian Sargent (annual leave) Diane Perkins, Denise and Jason Wakeling, Sandeep Jassar and Ron Porter.
2.	Police liaison: PC Sargent had sent an email asking for any questions from residents to be forwarded to him. No matters were raised at this time. However, see item 9
3.	Helen Catterick explained that she supports people in Chadwell St Mary, Bulphan and Orsett who may be vulnerable due to age, disability or mental health needs. She gave us examples of how she was doing this already, and left information leaflets. She is not time-limited and can be contacted by email hcatterick@thurrock.gov.uk , phone 07710 950318 or to refer someone, email localareacoordination@thurrock.gov.uk
4.	Chair's report: David announced that Naomi Cooper has taken the decision to step down as treasurer and member of the Forum committee. He thanked her for all she has done: obtained protected status for the QEII Fields in Trust, raised £1,000 towards last year's Proms in the Park, has worked tirelessly towards improving the park (willow dome, play equipment, football goals and entranceway). Those in attendance expressed their appreciation and David presented Naomi with a bouquet. David outlined the role that the Forum continues to play in the community, highlighting concerns, liaising with local councillors, local government, the police and other public bodies, reporting planning issues and arranging a few annual social events.
5.	Treasurer's report: Naomi distributed her report: the Forum currently holds the following balances: Petty cash: £6.47; bank: £11,876.71; drainage funds: £195.94. Total: £12,079.12 She also set out costings for the entranceway enhancements, funded by SunEdison (Fairwinds solar farm, Lower Dunton Road). Not all have been paid for yet, and this is reflected in the bank balance. The yearly accounts are currently being verified and will be distributed once signed off.
6.	Election of committee: Cllr. Little took the chair: she thanked David, Naomi and Janet for their work over the past year, and then conducted the election of the chair: David Gilbane was proposed by Corinne White, seconded by Yvonne Conway, and elected by a majority. David resumed the chair, proposed Janet McCheyne as secretary. This was seconded by Bernie Benn and passed unanimously. Janet McCheyne proposed Ed Lacy as treasurer, David Gilbane seconded this and it was passed unanimously. Bernie Benn was proposed as a committee member by Kerry Jackson, seconded by Corinne White and passed unanimously.
7.	Amendment to the constitution: the following addition had been proposed and distributed 7 days ago: <i>"The general committee may establish such sub-committees as it sees fit and all sub-committees shall submit minutes of their meetings to the Forum."</i> This was passed unanimously. A revised Constitution would be sent out with the minutes and displayed on the Forum website (www.bulphancf.org.uk)
8.	The minutes of the last Open Meeting held on 9 th April 2015 were distributed, agreed and signed.
9.	Matters arising which are not on the agenda: a) Thurrock 100 walks had been launched today, and would be taking place in Horndon-on-the-Hill, Orsett and Bulphan tomorrow, arriving at the village hall at 7.45pm, where the Bluegrass Folk Festival would be in full swing. Residents were invited to join the walk, or part of the walk.

	<p>b) Broadband update: the A128 would be restricted from Monday in the Orsett Hall to Goldenbridge section due to Broadband improvement work.</p> <p>c) Speedwatch training: Cllr. Sue Little said that funding had been secured for a training session at South Woodham Ferrers on August 25th 2015 and funding had also been secured for the purchase of a speed gun. Sponsorship may be available for a second speed gun. Some concerns were expressed by residents that this should be police work and there were potential safety issues. Trained volunteers would be able to make their own arrangements regarding time commitment etc. Some residents thought a speed sensor sign would be more effective. Janet to write again to the council to find out how this could be put into place.</p> <p>A resident asked if a letter could be sent asking what value our village is getting from the police service, especially as our contribution via council tax has risen this year.</p> <p>Cllr. Sue Little was thanked for taking up this project.</p>
10.	<p>Planning updates:</p> <p>a) Little Malgraves hospice/50 houses: this had been passed by the planning committee and must be nationally ratified. However, Cllr. Sue Little has put in a complaint about the way the meeting was conducted.</p> <p>b) Wick Place: replacement of burnt barn is still being considered</p> <p>c) Burrows Farm: Cllr. Sue Little was asked why no enforcement of the many breaches at Burrows Farm was not taking place: she would ask questions on our behalf. Janet to write also, mentioning the run-off from the gateway, the muddy road which obscures the white lines, the bonfires, storage of vehicles and the very bright distracting lights as well as unauthorised use of most of the site.</p> <p>d) Care home in Church Lane: this was being considered by the planning meeting on the evening of the Forum meeting.</p> <p>e) Pieris Place: discussion of the 19 houses to be built to the east of A128 generated a lively general discussion about S106 money and how it is allocated. Sue suggested that the Forum write to Clive Collins and Andy Millard saying that our community is impacted by development but that S106 money goes elsewhere, and Bulphan residents would like Bulphan S106 money to go towards the needs of our community. It was suggested that residents be more proactive and ask developers for the benefits they need. Also to respond to planning consultations by detailing what benefits we would expect should planning permission be granted.</p>
11.	<p>Shop update: as the shop has been actively marketed (as a shop) since our last Open Meeting, the shop committee needed to know the village's views on whether the shop committee should press ahead with issuing shares to fund the setting up costs, getting planning permission for a portacabin for up to 3 years in the village hall car park, recruiting volunteers and fitting out the community shop. Or whether a deadline should be set and if the shop is not sold by then, actively pursue the temporary shop project. There was a vote: 9 voted to press ahead now; 8 voted to set a deadline and then pursue if appropriate. 6 abstained. This will be reported back to the shop committee.</p>
12.	<p>Bus consultation: Thurrock Council need to review the amount of money spent on bus services and are consulting with those passengers who use the 265 bus running from Grays to Bulphan via Stanford-le-Hope, Horndon-on-the-Hill, Orsett and West Horndon. Janet has consultation forms: return by 10th September.</p>
13.	<p>Thames Crossing update: no firm decision seems to have been reached yet; a resident asked about the Paramount development the other side of the Thames, and Sue Little said that following her intervention, Thurrock Council were now promoting the job opportunities etc.</p>
14.	<p>Bulphan in Bloom update: Kelly mentioned recent events and projects (cream teas and plant sale, tidying the 3 lavender beds, the robinia hedge in Church Road, summer planting of begonias) and shared future projects: a piece of farm machinery appropriately displayed on the remaining bed near Ashville; replacement of the village entrance gate in Church Lane; a car treasure hunt and a magic/hypnotist evening fund-raiser.</p>
15.	<p>Drainage update: no-one from the drainage group was present and no questions were raised.</p>
16.	<p>Village Hall update: the village hall were pleased to welcome the Bluegrass Folk Festival for the weekend and their music provided a pleasant background to the meeting.</p> <p>Dave Hale reported he had been seeking quotes for insulation of the ceiling because of high heating costs. It seemed that £15,000 - £25,000 would be needed.</p>
17.	<p>Questions from the floor: a question regarding Burrows Farm is minuted in 1-c). Cllr. Little was asked why the mobile library service had been discontinued: Cllr. Little answered that it was under-used and expensive, and the vehicle was now unreliable. She mentioned the Homelink library service, whereby volunteers visit</p>

	those who can't get to a library, on a monthly basis, bringing books/talking books/DVDs etc. Please promote this to anyone who might need that service. They are also seeking more volunteers to help with this.
18.	Future events: our next event would be the Christmas Eve Father Christmas Sleigh Tour.
19.	Next Open meetings: Thursday, 10 th September 2015 at 7.30pm in Bulphan Village Hall Thursday, 12 th November 2015 at 7.30pm in Bulphan Village Hall