



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on
Thursday, 14th November 2019 at 7.30pm
in Bulphan Village Hall.**

Present: Janet McCheyne (Chair), Angela Shearing (committee), Peter Tarrant (committee), Jo Goddard (committee), Dave Gulvin (committee), Diane Perkins (Committee) Kim Towlson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Forum Chair) Rev. Sue Mann (Rector), Cllr. Barry Johnson, Pauline White (LAC), Tracey Potton, Jessica Potton, Lynda Cox, Dave Topliss, Linda Topliss, Lisa Young, Linda Young, Rhiannon Holbrook, Helen Cripps, Judy Wright, Iris Aedy. Rod Addison, Roy Thomas, Dawn McMahan, Denise Wakeling, Peter Bennett, Steve Nicholls, Andrea Nicholls

Apologies: Cllr. Sue Little, Annette Miles (treasurer),

No.	Detail	Action
1.	Janet welcomed all to the meeting and asked Pauline White to explain what a LAC was. Here's the answer: Local Area Coordinators support people who may feel vulnerable due to age, frailty, disability or mental health needs. LACs get to know those they are supporting and help them to access the right support and services if needed. Pauline can be reached on 07710 950319.	
2.	The minutes of the Open Meeting held on 12th September 2019 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) Janet has spoken to one of the 2 residents in Fen Close who are storing the pumps, and will speak to the other one and find out more about the pumps and whether they need servicing. Steven Nicholls offered to accompany Janet. The arrangement, should you have an emergency requiring the pumps, is to 'phone Janet on 0775 283 6902 and Janet will then alert those storing the pumps that you need access to them. b) Janet has asked the council, via their website reporting portal, to clear the ditch between Albert Road and the Recreation Ground. It has not yet been done. c) The A13 will be closed under the Orsett Cock this coming weekend, from Friday evening until Monday morning: please avoid the area if possible. It is hoped signage and other measures will deter too many drivers from cutting through the villages to avoid the congestion. 	Janet Steven
4.	<p>Treasurer's report:</p> <p>Current balance is £4,277.41 (of which £111.24 is ring-fenced for the entranceway and £195.00 for the drainage group). Since the last meeting, the cafe has added £1,000 to the balance.</p>	
5.	<p>Planning matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No appeal has yet been lodged for the 2 Peartree Lane developments. b) There has been a delay on the decision on Cosy (to build a pair of semi-detached houses). We have no further information c) No update on Atwal Villa, which is still the subject of enforcement action. d) An Environmental Impact Assessment had been submitted by the airfield, to build 750 homes. We await a planning application. e) 2 planning applications relating to the old shop site have been submitted: one is an amendment to the previously submitted application, raising the ridge height, dormers and eaves, and one was a new application. Residents had several concerns: one was that it appears that the front boundary will still reduce the footpath to such an extent that it will 	

	not be passable. Application references are 19/01654/FUL and 19/01659/NMA. You can comment on the new application until 28th November.	
6.	<p>Village Hall Report</p> <p>The builders are making good progress on the shop and causing minimal disruption to hall users. Steven Nicholls explained that hall trustees have registered the shop area for VAT, we have our VAT number, we will pay and claim our VAT digitally with free software provided by Price Waterhouse Cooper.</p> <p>£370 was made towards shop funds at the Variety Evening (with further village hall funds being made from bar takings). Thanks to Bella for organising the Variety Evening, and to Bulphan-in-Bloom who donated the proceeds of their Magic Night to the shop building fund.</p>	
7.	<p>Victorian letter box After much correspondence with Royal Mail, the letter box outside the old shop was removed. We had been told it would be replaced, in a brick pier, at the village hall, near the new Post Office. It was however rebuilt outside the Zion Hall (rather than the village hall). Despite our protests, the engineer insisted it was correctly sited. Users of the Zion Hall find that it seriously impedes their view when driving out of the car park; the postmen are not happy about having to park near a junction and a bend; there may also be an impact on cars exiting Stanley Road; Ian Blackburn from the Zion Chapel has provided useful evidence of how dangerous it is, and Janet will write to the Complaints Panel of Royal Mail, copying in our councillors and the Highways Department at the council, and request that it is relocated to outside the village hall.</p>	Janet
8.	<p>Plaque at The Glass House Retreat: Roy Thomas, whose family ran the Harrow Inn for many generations, offered to sponsor a plaque at the Glass House Retreat, acknowledging the origins of the site. The Jarvis family (owners of the spa) agreed to have it displayed in their reception area, and a design has been agreed in principle.</p>	
9.	<p>VE75/VJ75 Celebrations: Bulphan's events for VE75 have been registered. There will be a themed cafe on Friday 8th May 2020 (which is a Bank Holiday); at 3pm, thousands of pipers around the world will play Battle's O'er, a traditional air performed on the bagpipes at the end of a battle, and VE Day 75, a tune specially written for VE75. Jo Goddard, Bulphan resident and bagpipe player, will play those for us, outside the hall. At 7pm, our village crier, Steve Benn, will declaim the "Cry for Peace" and the church bells will be rung.</p> <p>On Saturday, there will be a "street party" in the village hall, followed by a 40s evening with live entertainment.</p> <p>On Sunday, at 10am in the village hall, there will be a special church service for villagers from Bulphan, Orsett and Horndon-on-the-Hill.</p> <p>VJ75 celebration details have not yet been confirmed, but will be held on Sat. 15th August 2020.</p>	
10.	<p>Bus Users Group: Judy and Iris had attended the last bus users group meeting. Very few people use the Bulphan bus to Grays/Lakeside, but it an essential service to those who do not drive. We were encouraged to use the bus whenever we could.</p>	
11.	<p>Police liaison/Speedwatch</p> <p>Residents expressed deep concern about speeding vehicles in many of the village roads. Recently, 50mph signs had appeared on the lanes, reducing them from 60mph. However, the roads are narrow, with sharp bends. Some residents wanted to see a lower limit adopted. Havering consulted carefully on speed limits on rural roads in their area, and have set Fen Lane at 30mph. Thurrock didn't carry out any consultation as far as we know, and have set Fen Lane at 50mph. Several people mentioned that the 50mph signs would encourage people to "drive to the limit".</p> <p>Over the years, various speed reduction measures have been suggested, with good reasons why they could not be adopted. Vehicle-activated speed signs were said to be effective, but there are complications with having them.</p> <p>Kim said that the most constructive thing that residents can do at the moment is to join the Speedwatch team: it's very small at the moment and relies heavily on volunteers from Horndon and Orsett. He asked people to contact him if they would like to be trained and join the team.</p>	

	Residents of Brentwood Road/Peartree Lane told us about alarming incidents which had occurred because articulated lorries were missing the entrance to the Blue House Farm container depot and using Brentwood Road to perform a U-turn. They requested a bollard at the junction to deter this manoeuvre. Peartree residents had further concerns about vehicles (mainly delivering to the woodyard) going at inappropriate speed from A128 into Brentwood Road and along Peartree Lane. They requested a 30mph hour limit to start at the A128/Brentwood Road junction. Kim recommended that all those affected write or report online individually to highways, explaining the hazards and requesting the bollards and 30mph speed limit.	
12.	Feedback from councillors: Cllr. Barry explained that because of the general election, councillors were “in purdah” and there was no update at the moment.	
13.	Thurrock Association of Forums Kim said that there are still 15 active Forums, and that he was still working in 5 other areas to restart inactive Forums.	
14.	Lower Thames Crossing Update Highways England are carrying out ground investigations at various sites. They have not yet applied for a Development Consent Order.	
15.	Bulphan in Bloom update: There were now signs outside the church indicating that Bulphan had the best-kept churchyard in Essex. Lots of pansies have been planted, and BiB will be doing more planting outside the church. Janet asked if there was any update on the request to cut back the phormium plants which obscure the road name signs at Victoria Road, and hamper vision when exiting Victoria Road into Church Lane. Secretary Lynda Cox said she would find out.	Lynda
16.	Questions from the floor: there were no questions from the floor	
17.	Next events: Mitu Ahmed, Parks Engagement Officer, will be visiting the cafe on Thursday 21st November, to find out what activities to encourage physical activity he could put on in our park. It was pointed out that if the grass is not cut, the park cannot be used for any physical activity, so Janet would make Mitu aware of this. Barbara Rice, from HealthWatch, will attend the cafe on Friday 22nd November and chat with people about what her service can offer. Christmas Eve Father Christmas Sleigh Tour Possible New Year’s Eve “Community Cafe” event, subject to the hall being available. VE75 Celebrations - 8th, 9th and 10th May 2020 VJ75 Celebrations: 15th August 2020	Janet
18.	Next Open Meetings: Thursday 30th Jan, 12th March, 14th May, AGM 30th July, 10th September, 12th November 2020, all at 7.30 - 9 in the village hall	