



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on  
Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm in  
Bulphan Village Hall**

**Present:** David Gilbane (Chairman), Janet McCheyne (Secretary), Dave Hale, Colin Pankhurst, Iris Aedy, Alan and Lynda Cox, Peter Bennett, Diane Parsons, Eric Lawday, Cllr. Jane Pothecary

1.	<b>Welcome and apologies:</b> David welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from committee member Ed and Janet McCheyne who joined the meeting later and a number of residents.
2.	<b>Cllr. Jane Pothecary Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Protection:</b> It was explained to the councillor that the level of attendance was far below usual levels. The councillor explained what her portfolio covered. This included things such as fly tipping. She was asked if the council had plans to use technology such as remote hidden cameras. Technology use is being looked into by the council. Discussion and feedback was given about an incident at the layby near the Orsett Cock on the A128. The question was asked about the untidiness generated by the layby next to the village on the A128 and can the layby be removed. Councillor would look into.
3.	<b>Minutes of the last Open meeting and AGM</b> held on 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2015: these minutes were agreed and signed at the end of the meeting
4.	<b>Matters arising which are not the agenda:</b> a) Community Speed Watch - was not discussed due to the absence of Cllr. S.Little b) Footpath improvement - was not discussed due the absence of Cllr. S.Little c) Vehicle activated speed sign - Email was read out stating that the road would have to be surveyed to gather evidence of speeding. This had been added to the schedule.
5.	<b>Treasurer's Report: David</b> in Ed's absence reported the balances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Current account: £4,121 (of which £635-24 is solar funding to be used for the entranceway and £195 is ring-fenced for the drainage group)</li> <li>● Cash: £6.50</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Update on the Community Cafe and Outreach Post Office.</b> David Hale reported that the Community Cafe continues to grow in popularity. The suggestion was given that Cllr B.Little move his surgery to coincide with the Cafe.
7.	<b>Update on Solar Farm:</b> The Chair read out a letter received that stated that the project had been put on hold due to changes in government policy regarding subsidies.
8.	<b>Suggestions for potential S106 contributions:</b> The updated list was read out. It was presented that any further suggestion would be welcome
9.	<b>Current planning matters:</b> a) Shop change of use was announce. Further to this a statement was read out from the Village Shop committee that stated that any future venture would have to be managed commercially because it was felt that volunteers would not be able to commit enough to a sustainable project. b) The decisions re: Victoria Road and Wick Place were read out.

10.	<b>Village Hall report:</b> David Hale reported that the hall was doing well. They are looking at quotes and ideas regarding the insulation of the ceiling. They are in the early stages of looking into the transfer of ownership from the council.
11.	<b>Feedback from councillors:</b> The councillors were not available to give any.
12.	<b>Police Matters:</b> No police matters were raised.
13.	<b>Neighbourhood Watch Report:</b> It was reported that from the last forum meeting no separate meeting had managed to take place. Assurances were given that the village is still a relatively safe place but vigilance was needed over the coming holiday season.
14.	<b>Bulphan in Bloom update:</b> It was reported that the group's treasure hunt was poorly attended. A discussion took place over the decline in resident participation in some such events around the village in recent times.
15.	<b>Future events:</b> a.) The possibility of the proms in 2016 was discussed. There would not be a grant to subsidise the event this year. Cost savings on the fireworks were deemed to be unlikely as they were already shortened. Members present felt that the risk of making a loss on putting the event on would be too great and voted against holding the Proms in the Park this year. b.) The Father Christmas Sleigh will go ahead as usual on Christmas Eve 4 pm at the village hall.
	<b>Next Open meetings:</b> Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2016 Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 (AGM)