



**Minutes of the Open meeting held on  
Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30pm in  
Bulphan Village Hall**

**Present:** Janet McCheyne (Secretary), Ed Lacy (treasurer), Bernie Benn (committee) Iris Aedy, Cllr. Sue Little, Cllr. Brian Little, Judy Wright, Angela Shearing, Lynda Cox (Bulphan in Bloom), Jim Mortimer, Kim Towlson (Horndon-on-the-Hill Forum chairman)

1.	<b>Welcome and apologies:</b> Janet welcomed everyone to the meeting.	<b>Action</b>
2.	The <b>minutes of the last meeting</b> were agreed and signed	
3.	<b>Matters arising:</b> Janet to email Cllr. Brian Little, requesting a weight limit on Fen Lane and Dunnings Lane, because of the damage caused to verges and drains, and worsening of potholes due to large vehicles using these narrow lanes. A cycle path consultation had been launched, but the map and proposals didn't cover Bulphan at all. Sue has asked for some means of Bulphan residents being able to respond to the consultation.	Janet  Sue
4.	<b>Treasurer's Report:</b> Ed reported the following balances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Current account: £4,010.16 (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 £44.70</li> <li>● Easter Antics this year had made a small profit (£1.63p)</li> </ul>	
5.	<b>Community Cafe and Outreach Post Office:</b> the Outreach Post Office opened on 31st March and is open in the village hall every Thursday and Friday, 1.30 - 4.30pm and the Community Cafe is also open for those hours. Janet and friends leafleted the village, promoting the Post Office and business has increased as a result. There is an expectation that the Post Office will move into a permanent site in the next 2 years.	
6.	<b>Lower Thames Crossing:</b> a group (Cllr. Brian Little, MP Stephen Metcalfe, George Abbott, John Kent and Matt Jackson, met with Roads Minister at Westminster. They are currently drafting a more professional presentation to forward to the minister. The minister stressed that no decision had yet been made. Although things have quietened down, following the closure of the consultation period, a group of volunteers still meet. They are working on providing large banners and removing the "No" posters as they become tatty. They also intend to meet with Kent campaigners to pool resources. There is a possibility of a demonstration in London at some point, and they have been raising awareness at local events.	
7.	<b>Current planning applications and decisions:</b> the planning application for 4 houses at Hatch Farm stables was approved, subject to conditions (screening, adequate sight lines etc). Burrows Farm: Cllr Sue Little was pleased to report that 3 notices have been served (2 on Burrows Yard 2, one on the main site). These will take effect in a few weeks time, if the landowners don't appeal. The councillors have asked for monthly enforcement reports, as up to now, we have had to keep asking for this information. Cllr. Sue Little will chase the concern about the dazzling light at Burrows Yard 2.	Sue
8.	<b>Village Hall update:</b> residents viewed the final plans for an extension to the east of the hall, to be used as a village shop and Post Office. The planning application would be submitted next week, and there would be a public meeting on Thursday 9th June, where the proposals would be discussed. Bernie and Janet had today finished planting the WI Centenary bed.	

9.	<p><b>Feedback from councillors:</b> The meeting congratulated Sue for doubling her majority; Brian explained that there are now 17 Conservatives, 17 UKIP councillors and 13 Labour councillors. John Kent retains the post of leader of the council for the next 2 years, but administration arrangements for the council will not be announced until, probably, 25th May.</p> <p><b>Layby on A128 near Four Acres:</b> After reminding us that an adequate lorry park has got to be in place before lorry-parking in laybys can be enforced. However, he has asked Ann Osola (Head of Transportation and Highways at Thurrock Council) to put into place a plan for provision of a lorry park, and subsequent enforcement procedures. The area does seem to be tidier and the bin is being emptied regularly.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Speeding vehicles:</b> we have been put on a list of sites to be considered for a Vehicle-Activated Speed sign. This will probably be sited in a fixed socket and remain for 3 - 6 months, and then be moved to another local area, on a rota system. Sue pointed out that the thigh-high socket would need to be protected. Sue would continue to push for more details of when we would be getting the VAS.</p> <p>Community speedwatch: operating successfully (report on numbers of vehicles “caught” available on request). Kim said that there were now only 4 regular volunteers, and more would be welcome. Cllr. Brian Little said he was hoping to join them. Kim said most drivers seemed to appreciate the Speedwatch initiative.</p> <p>A resident asked about speeding and noisy quad bikes driving dangerously through the village: Sue recommended that if possible, photo them, and then contact the police. Our 3 villages’ PC is now Natalie Malone. Janet to contact her to find out how she would like to engage with the 3 village communities.</p>	Janet
11.	<p><b>Neighbourhood Watch:</b> there is some doubt about the status of Bulphan’s Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Janet to contact Sandeep Jassar to get update. Kim offered to have a chat with him.</p>	Janet
12.	<p><b>Bulphan in Bloom update:</b> the grass at the junction of the A128 and Church Road is now being cut regularly; the churchyard has been mowed and strimmed; the paving around the Interment of ashes plot has been relaid and box hedges planted; paving has been laid outside the lychgate in preparation for a bench in memory of Julie and Erwin Hannemann. Bulphan in Bloom would be holding a Plant Sale and Strawberry tea this Sunday. BiB welcomes more volunteers.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Questions from the floor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A resident had requested a bench to be placed at the far end of the recreation ground. This was considered a good idea and will be taken forward.</li> <li>b) Rod Addison has taken care of a number of trees, but they now need planting in the recreation ground. Villagers had been repeatedly asked for suggestions as to where they should go. No suggestions had been offered, but Naomi’s intention was for some shade near the children’s play area.</li> <li>c) A number of residents are reporting that dog owners are not all picking up after their pets. Sue will ask the council how many fines for this have been handed out. Witnesses should note the car registration or the address of the dog-walker and report it to the council <a href="https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/dog-bins-and-dog-fouling/dog-bins-and-dog-fouling">https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/dog-bins-and-dog-fouling/dog-bins-and-dog-fouling</a></li> <li>d) A number of residents are being disturbed by a dog which barks constantly. Janet to send the address of where the dog is kept to Brian.</li> <li>e) A resident had reported that obstruction of pavements is worsening. It was suggested that the Forum drafts a polite notice, gently pointing out that the parked car/overgrown hedge/builders’ bulkbag was making it difficult for pedestrians. Sue would contact the relevant person in the council refuse department and ask them to ensure that binmen put wheelie bins back on residents’ property, and don’t obstruct the pavement.</li> </ul>	Janet  Sue  Janet/ Brian  Janet Sue
16.	<p><b>Next Open meeting:</b> Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (AGM)</p>	