



Woodford Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2013 IN THE CHURCH HALL, CHRIST CHURCH, WOODFORD

PRESENT

Mr P Rodman	Chairman
Mrs H Buszard	Secretary
Mr R Berriman	Treasurer

Mr R Beatham, Mr R Brammar, Dr D Buszard, Mr K Coxey, Cllr B Leck, Rev D Russell, Mr S Taylor and Mrs M White

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, HELD ON 22nd APRIL 2013

(Minutes approved previously by email.)

Minute 6.2 Woodford Litter Day

The date previously agreed, Saturday, 28th September 2013, was confirmed and the Chairman agreed to contact the appropriate department within SMBC to arrange for the usual support – provision of litter pickers and waste bags and the removal of the rubbish collected.

ACTION: Chairman

2. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Treasurer reported that the balance in the main WCC account was £936 and the Woodford United account balance was £3,240.

3. SUB-GROUP REPORTS

(a) Woodford United/Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

Neighbourhood Forum

Mr Taylor provided an update on the current position. The six-week consultation period on the applications for the Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area had ended on 18th July. It had been expected that keeping to this timetable would enable a vote to be taken at the full Council meeting on 12th September. However, Richard Wood had informed him that SMBC would be seeking further legal advice, which would mean that the applications could not be put to a vote until the October Council meeting. This was very disappointing, since it

was felt that there had been sufficient time to consider legal implications in the period since the applications were first submitted.

Mr Taylor reported that he had been informed that the Daws Hill Neighbourhood Forum was appealing against the decision to exclude particular sites from its Neighbourhood Area.

Mr Taylor was also pleased to report that the grant application, which he and Mr Berriman had prepared and submitted, had been approved and funds of just under £7,000 would be provided to assist in the initial work of the Forum. Further funding could also be available after the Neighbourhood Forum had been formally approved by SMBC.

Harrow Workshops

Mr Taylor drew attention to the report he had circulated before the meeting and spoke briefly to it. Particular points noted were as follows.

- The Workshops did not form part of a pre-planning procedure agreed with SMBC and were therefore considered by Harrow to be a bonus.
- The proposed layout, including the large open areas and green streets, spread out over some 70ha – considerably more than the total MEDS areas - and was able to accommodate 800+ homes. As well as being an incursion into the Greenbelt, there was also a concern that unless the open areas were properly protected they could be subject to infill in the future.
- The plan indicated higher density housing and limited open space provision to the back of Bridle Road. It had been suggested that this should be reconsidered by Harrow.
- There was concern that little had been done to try to integrate the development within the existing village – exacerbated by Harrow's insistence on calling the development Woodford Garden Village.

(b) SEMMMS Update

It was noted that the Phase 2 Consultation period had ended on 19th July 2013 and the Secretary confirmed that general comments had been submitted on behalf of WCC, as agreed.

Mr Coxey had attended the recent Area Committee meeting, at which Jim McMahon (SMBC) had provided an update on the scheme. This included information from the Phase 1 Consultation, to which there had been 9000 responses with 70% in favour and 13% strongly opposed. Preferred options had been explained and an indication given that if all went to schedule a planning application would be submitted by October 2013, with construction due to start in late 2014 and opening of the road in 2017.

(c) Newsletter /Website

It was noted that an e-Newsletter, giving information about the Neighbourhood Forum, SEMMMS and the Harrow Workshops, had been circulated the previous month and the website had also been updated.

(d) Woodford War Memorial Community Centre

Mr Taylor reported that the WWMCC AGM would be held on 25th September 2013. He gave a brief update on routine issues and noted that planning was getting under way for Bonfire Night.

(e) Stockport Council Issues

Cllr Leck noted that the Central Government grant to SMBC was likely to be cut again in the next financial year and further savings would have to be made.

Concern was expressed over the poor state of the road surface in Jenny Lane. Cllr Leck explained that Council policy was to mend potholes of a particular size right away, but shallower ones would be left until the road was re-surfaced.

Attention was also drawn to the state of the grassy areas outside the main gates to the airfield on Chester Road. A complaint had been made to Avro Heritage Ltd last year and the areas had subsequently been cut and tidied. However, they were now overgrown again and it was agreed that a further request should be made for ongoing maintenance.

ACTION: Secretary

Mr Coxey informed members that he had attended the Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee meeting on 11th July 2013 and gave a brief report on items of interest.

- Sergeant Blackburn from Greater Manchester Police had been present and provided an update on Neighbourhood Policing issues. One issue of note was the increasing prevalence of theft of home delivery items left outside by couriers.
- Carolyn Turner (Public Realm Inspector) had attended the meeting to report on current issues and to answer questions in relation to environmental and highways issues. Problems concerning the use of 'A' Boards outside premises in Bramhall and also the hazards caused by emptied refuse bins being left in the middle of pavements or driveway entrances were discussed.
- The planning application from Sphere for the demolition of an existing store and the erection of a new MOT testing bay had been presented and recommended by the planning officer, but was refused by the Area Committee.

Finally, it was reported that a local resident had complained that the roundabout at the junction of Woodford Road and Chester Road looked derelict and in need of attention. He had suggested that re-planting might be undertaken as a community project. It was felt, however that there would be H&S issues for members of the public to do this and it was also pointed out that good visibility was needed at the junction. Cllr Leck agreed to submit a request for the Council to undertake more tidying and maintenance.

ACTION: Cllr Leck

(f) Neighbourhood Watch/Crime

It was agreed that the latest report from the local police would be added to the website.

ACTION: Secretary

4. 2013 AGM

It was agreed that the 2013 AGM should be held on Thursday, 21st November, subject to confirmation that the large hall in the Community Centre was available then.

ACTION: Secretary

Consideration was given to possible topics/speakers and various options were suggested, including a talk about Manchester Airport City and a presentation by Harrow. After some

discussion, it was decided that traffic issues in Woodford over the coming years would be the most relevant and interesting subject for residents.

ACTION: Chairman, Secretary

Mr Taylor queried whether new flight paths over Woodford had been agreed, following the closure of the BAe runway, since there had been noticeably more aircraft noise in recent months. It was agreed that this would be followed up.

ACTION: Mr Taylor, Secretary

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Seagulls

Mr Brammar commented that unusually large numbers of gulls had been observed in the vicinity of Bridle Road over the last few weeks. No-one could suggest a reason for this sudden influx.

6. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 30th September 2013 and a further meeting would be held on Monday, 28th October 2013 to agree final details for the AGM and arrange for the delivery of the Notice/Agenda. Both meetings will take place in the Church Hall, starting at 8.00 pm.

Approved *Date.....*