



Woodford Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22nd SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 373 CHESTER ROAD, WOODFORD

PRESENT

Mr P Rodman Chairman
Mrs H Buszard Secretary

Mr R Beatham, Dr D Buszard, Mr K Coxey, Mr B Leck and Mrs M White

APOLOGIES: Mr R Berriman

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman noted that this was the first meeting since the tragic death of Stephen Taylor and on behalf of the committee expressed members' sadness at the loss of a good friend and colleague.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, HELD ON 16th JUNE 2014

(Minutes approved previously by email.)

Minute 1

Litter Day – The Chairman reminded members that this was taking place on the following Saturday, 27th September 2014. Volunteers should meet at the Community Centre just before 10.00 am. As usual, equipment was being provided and rubbish would be removed by SMBC.

Freedom of Information Request – The Secretary confirmed that the documents had been forwarded to members, as agreed.

Crime – The Secretary noted that this action had been completed and a new page – Neighbourhood Policing – had been set up on the website. Relevant information, including the alerts from the Ringmaster Community messaging service, would be added on a regular basis.

Website hits – The information had been circulated, as agreed.

Minute 4.1

New Local Councillor – It was noted that Anita Johnson had been ill and the invitation to invite her to join the committee had therefore been deferred. An invitation to attend the AGM would be sent at the appropriate time.

2. FINANCIAL UPDATE

A report from the Treasurer confirmed that the full balance from the WU account had been transferred to WNF in July, as agreed. The balance of the main WCC account now stood at £1,409. Two sponsorship payments - £250 from Jackson Barrett & Gass and £200 from Southfield House - had been received since the last meeting and payments out had been made as follows: £200 for four months' website maintenance, £25 for room hire at the Centre for the AGM and £54 for a new lock for the Notice board.

The Chairman reported that he had approached Church Lane Garage regarding sponsorship and had received a positive response, which he would be following up.

ACTION: Chairman

3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

The Secretary confirmed that the large hall at the Community Centre had been booked for the agreed date of Thursday, 27th November 2014 and reminded members that the Notice/Agenda would therefore need to be distributed at the beginning of November. Invitations would be sent by email to Mark Hunter MP and to the local councillors. The AGM was scheduled to start at 8.00 pm, but members were asked to come a little earlier to help set out chairs, etc. The usual signing in arrangements would be put in place and no bar or other refreshments had been planned. The Agenda would cover the usual formal items, including a report from WNF. Regarding the election of committee members, there were currently 11 members (including Mr Brammar, who had temporarily withdrawn), all of whom had been elected or re-elected at last year's AGM. There were thus at least four vacancies.

The Secretary queried whether there should be any guest speakers or presentations at the AGM and this led to a general discussion regarding the future of WCC, since so many of its responsibilities with respect to planning had now been devolved to the Neighbourhood Forum. Many of the same people were involved in both organisations and it was obviously important to avoid duplication of effort wherever possible. However, it was also recognised that WCC had a viable status within the local community and was responsible for the website, which not only provided a platform for WNF but also covered a lot more news and issues of local interest. It was agreed that there was no valid reason to disband WCC at this stage, but it should perhaps maintain a slightly lower profile and hold fewer meetings, arranged on an ad hoc basis as the need arose. It was concluded that unless anyone had any specific suggestions for presentations at the AGM, the Agenda would include only the routine items required by the Constitution.

4. SUB-GROUP REPORTS

(a) Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

David Buszard gave a brief update, pointing out that the Committee had been struggling a little to maintain momentum after the tragic loss of Stephen Taylor and there were some issues still to resolve. A new email address had been set up – woodfordneighbourhood@gmail.com – and would be added to the WNF page on the website. There was also a need to re-establish contact with the Community Development Foundation and this was being undertaken by himself and Robin Berriman.

He went on to discuss the outcome of the SMBC Planning Committee deliberations at the extraordinary meeting on 29th July. As was now well known, the Harrow hybrid planning

application had been approved, but only by virtue of the Chairman's casting vote. The application had still to be submitted to the Secretary of State, which would happen as soon as the Section 106 Agreement had been finalised. This had been delayed for several weeks, but was now expected to be at the end of September. WNF had been promised that they would be notified and receive copies of the documents submitted. WNF would then make representations to the Secretary of State, requesting that the application be called in because it was a departure from the Development Plan in that it proposed building houses on Green Belt land outside the MEDS. This was the only reason that could be used to persuade the Secretary to call it in, but if he did a Public Inquiry would be set up and an Inspector appointed to consider all aspects of the application. Considerable support for this course of action had been lined up: letters had already been sent in by Cllrs Bagnall and Bellis and Mark Hunter had offered to speak directly to Secretary of State Eric Pickles. Mary Robinson, Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate had also offered her full support. Local residents would be encouraged to write in.

It was noted that the Podcast of the entire Planning Committee meeting was available on the SMBC website, where it would remain for six months after the date of the meeting. Action was currently being taken to obtain a permanent copy.

With regard to the proposed Handforth development, it was explained that following a record number of comments and objections to the CEC Local Plan, many of them pertaining to Handforth, an Inspector had been appointed to undertake a public examination to determine whether the Plan was sound. Having made a number of submissions, WNF would be involved in the hearings, which were now taking place, and would be represented by Evelyn Frearson, Paul Goodman and John Knight as appropriate.

Finally, with regard to the WNF Questionnaire, which was circulated earlier this year, it was reported that there had been an excellent response and completed forms had been received from about 25% of residents. The results were currently being analysed and preliminary findings would be presented at the first WNF AGM, which was being held on Monday, 29th September 2014. Members were reminded that this was a crucial meeting and were asked to encourage as many friends and neighbours as possible to attend.

(b) SEMMMS Update

Information had recently been received that work on the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road was scheduled to start in February 2015 with anticipated completion in Summer 2017.

(c) Newsletter /Website

It was noted that an eNewsletter notifying subscribers of the outcome of the Planning Committee meeting on 29th July had been circulated at the beginning of August and the website had been updated accordingly. A further newsletter would be circulated once SMBC had submitted the Harrow Application to the Secretary of State.

(d) Woodford War Memorial Community Centre

It was noted that the WWMCC AGM was being held on Wednesday, 24th September 2014. Mr Leck volunteered to become the WCC representative of the Management Committee and it was agreed that his nomination should be put forward.

ACTION: Secretary

(e) Stockport Council Issues

There was nothing to report.

(f) Neighbourhood Watch/Crime

Attention was drawn to a recent increase in vehicle crime throughout Stockport borough.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Postal scams

Mr Coxey raised the prevalence of postal scams and doorstep crime as examples of issues that were a particular problem for older, more vulnerable residents and queried what WCC could do to assist. He had mentioned the need to provide assistance for older residents in previous meetings, but apart from good neighbourliness on an individual basis, it was not clear how best this could be tackled. Updated information on crime was now included on the website, but of course not necessarily seen by those who needed it. It was suggested that since the AGM Notice/Agenda would be circulated to everyone in Woodford, there was an opportunity to include relevant information at the same time and Mr Coxey agreed to prepare a suitable draft.

ACTION: Mr Coxey

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was decided that the next meeting should probably be held in January 2015, with a specific date to be agreed by email nearer the time.

Approved *Date*