



Woodford Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JUNE 2016 AT 373 CHESTER ROAD, WOODFORD

PRESENT

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

Dr D Buszard, Mr K Coxey, Rev D Russell, Mrs M Wood

APOLOGIES: Mr R Beatham, Mr B Leck, Mrs M White

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Secretary noted that the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 6th October 2015, had been approved by email and were available on the WCC website, as were the Draft Minutes of the WCC AGM held on 26th November 2015.

2. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Treasurer reported that the current balance at the bank was £1,626, which included £526 that was being held on behalf of WNF. At Year End (31 Oct 2015) the balance had been £2,421 and since then payments out had been £400 to Primary Websites for website maintenance, £10 to the Church for printing and £25 on behalf of WNF. A donation of £20 had been received from a local couple for the use of three of Evelyn's photos, which they had seen on the website.

He also noted that local solicitors Jackson, Barratt and Gass were currently renewing their sponsorship for another year and Southfield House would be due to do so at the end of July.

3. FUTURE OF WOODFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Chairman explained that this meeting had been called to discuss the future of WCC following concerns expressed by the Honorary Officers. The main issues were:

- With the exception of Rev Russell, no new members had joined the committee since 2011 and no interest in doing so had been shown by any other residents, despite repeated invitations at AGMs. The Secretary had been undertaking her role for nearly eight years and the Chairman for six years, even though these were meant to be three-year terms of office.

- There was considerable overlap between the membership of WCC and the WNF Management Committee and also between the aims and objectives of the two organisations, as given in their respective Constitutions. It was becoming increasingly difficult to explain why there were two organisations in Woodford undertaking such similar roles.

The following points emerged from the general discussion that followed.

- It was felt that representation and support for the community would best be served by having just one group, rather than duplicating efforts, but it was not clear how this could be achieved. WCC represented all residents in Woodford, which would include the occupants of new houses on the Airfield development, and all residents were entitled to vote at WCC AGMs and to stand for election to the committee. In contrast, membership of the Neighbourhood Forum was open to residents in the Neighbourhood Area, which currently excluded the airfield, and also to people who worked in the Area. Individuals had to sign up to membership and only members on the formal register were able to vote at AGMs or become members of the Management Committee. This discrepancy would need to be resolved before any merger or amalgamation could be undertaken.
- Even if a single management committee were to be formed, strenuous efforts would still be needed to bring in proactive new members with innovative ideas to engage with the community.

Next Actions

It was agreed that the next action should be to hold a joint meeting with the WNF Management Committee, but it was recognised that with WNF's current priority being to complete the Neighbourhood Plan, it may be some time before a meeting could be arranged. In the meantime, the Secretary would have informal discussions with the WNF Secretary.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 2016 AGM

It was agreed that the 2016 AGM would be held on Thursday, 24th November, provided that a room was available at the Community Centre.

ACTION: Secretary

4.2 Launch of Redrow Show Houses

The Secretary reported that in response to her query, she had been informed that the Sales Unit would open on Saturday, 25th June and that a stakeholder's launch event would take place on the afternoon of Tuesday, 12th July. Invitations to this were expected to be sent out shortly.

4.3 Stockport Council

It was noted that as a result of the changes in Council composition following last May's local elections, Labour was now the largest group and membership of various committees had changed accordingly. Cllr Brian Bagnall had been appointed as Vice Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee and this news was welcomed.

4.4 WWMCC

Mrs Wood reported that in response to the Community Centre's request for support from the Redrow Community Fund, a grant of £1,000 had been offered and the Centre had been asked to organise an event at which the award could be presented.

It was agreed that, given the size of the new development and the number of new residents who might wish to use the Centre, this was a particularly ungenerous offer.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to leave this open for the present. A further meeting would be arranged by email as and when necessary.

Approved *Date*.....