



## **Woodford Community Council**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JULY 2012 AT THE VICARAGE, CHESTER ROAD, WOODFORD**

#### **PRESENT**

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

Mr R Beatham, Dr D Buszard, Mr K Coxey, Revd J Knowles, Cllr B Leck, Mr S Taylor, Mrs M White and Mrs M Wood.

#### **1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

It was noted that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 7 June 2012, had been approved by email.

#### **2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

##### **Minute 4 Woodford Litter Day**

The Chairman reported that this had been very successful, with 21 residents and friends turning out on an appallingly wet day to pick up 27 bags of rubbish.

#### **3 FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The Treasurer reported that there was a balance of £920 in the main account. A separate account had been opened for donations made in response to the Woodford United initiative and there was now over £1,000 in that account, with considerably more already promised.

#### **4. SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

##### **(a) Woodford United (WU)**

The Chairman reported that the Working Group 'Woodford United' had been set up following the circulation of the e-Newsletter, as agreed at the last meeting. There were now some 23 members of the group, with between them a wide variety of relevant professional expertise, including two ex-chief town planners. A number of Sub-groups had been set up to address various issues and consolidate opposition to the development plans. The Group had already

held five meetings. At the meeting held the previous evening, attention had been drawn to the draft SPD, which was to be issued by SMBC for public consultation. This document was already in the public domain and a copy had been made available at that meeting. It had been noted that there were no substantial changes to the version issued, and then withdrawn, by Cheshire East Council. In particular, the specific figure of 950 houses had been retained.

**(Secretary's Note:** The draft SPD can be downloaded from <http://democracy.stockport.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=4887> )

Cllr Leck informed members that the SPD would be put before the Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012, prior to its issue for public consultation, and he confirmed that this would be an open meeting. The venue had still to be confirmed, since a larger hall, preferably in Woodford, would be needed to accommodate the anticipated number of attendees. It was agreed that residents should be informed of this date and encouraged to attend. The public consultation period would then run for six weeks from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012. It was noted that SMBC was intending to hold two public meetings at the Woodford Community Centre during that time, the proposed dates being 7<sup>th</sup> September and 29<sup>th</sup> September.

It was also reported that WU had prepared a questionnaire for circulation to all residents and businesses in Woodford in order to ensure that everyone was aware of the proposals for the development of the site and to find out their views on it and seek a mandate for the WCC to represent them. It also included a modest proposal to raise funds. The distribution was almost complete and volunteers were currently collecting the completed questionnaires. So far the results had been very encouraging.

WU had also discussed the new Localism Act and had suggested that the WCC should set up a Neighbourhood Forum with a view to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. A plan for the Airfield could be drawn up in co-operation with the neighbouring Poynton and Adlington Parish Councils. There were various stages involved in doing this and the Committee gave unanimous approval for WU to initiate these proceedings.

Finally, it was proposed that Mr Paul Goodman of Goodman Associates Ltd should be appointed as adviser to the WCC in relation to current planning issues within Woodford. This proposal was approved unanimously and members expressed their appreciation that Mr Goodman was taking on this work on a pro bono basis. A formal letter of appointment would be sent to him.

**ACTION:** Secretary

#### **(b) e-Newsletter /Website**

It was agreed that a further e-newsletter should be prepared and circulated. This would give the timetable for the consultation on the SPD, with a link to the draft document and the dates of the public meetings, including the Area Committee meeting in August. It would urge everyone to participate and make their views known. An update on the work of WU and the initial results from the questionnaire would also be provided. Similar information would be included on the WCC website and it was agreed that a separate page should be added for WU.

**ACTION:** D Buszard/Secretary

Attention was drawn to the leaflet that had recently been distributed by 'PAULA' – Poynton Against Unnecessary Link Roads to the Airport. It was not clear who had been responsible for the leaflet and when Mr Goodman had raised a number of pertinent queries using the email address given on its website, he had not received any response. It was agreed that its aims were contrary to Woodford's interests, since if it achieved its aim of stopping the building of the extension at the eastern end of A555, whilst the western end went ahead, there would be considerable more airport traffic flowing through Woodford, as well as through Bramhall and Poynton.

With regard to funding, it was confirmed that this was now effectively in place for the entire route from the airport to the A6 and the scheme was still on schedule for completion in 2017.

### **(c) Woodford War Memorial Community Centre**

Mr Taylor gave a brief update as follows.

- A new Treasurer was being sought following the resignation of Mr Metcalf
- Preparations had started for the Bonfire Night and the New Year's Eve Extravaganza.
- Efforts were being made to promote the Centre as a wedding venue, with a Bridal Fair being planned for Spring 2013.
- The new garden provided by the WI at the side of the Centre was an attractive feature and there were plans to plant more trees.

### **(d) Stockport Council Issues**

Cllr Leck reported briefly on the problems that SMBC had been experiencing when the Finance Director of SK Solutions, a Town Hall owned company responsible for various civic services, had stepped down after a £5m deficit had been found in its finances.

### **(e) Neighbourhood Watch/Crime**

The Chairman reported that the Ringmaster System, which he first described at the WCC meeting held on 27 March 2012 (Minute 5(e)) was now live and people could register for the free service, which provided information about crimes, incidents and events in their area.

He also drew attention to StopFordian, a new private security firm that provided a mobile response service in the Stockport area.

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**5.1** It was agreed that the information on the WCC notice board outside Budgens would be updated.

**Action:** Chairman/Secretary

**5.2** It was noted that the grassy areas outside the main gates to the Airfield on Chester Road were still overgrown and unsightly and it was agreed that a further request would be made for proper maintenance.

**Action:** Secretary

**(Secretary's Note:** Two days later, before any action had been taken, the grass had been cut by a contractor employed by Mr Harvey of Avro Heritage Ltd.)

5.3 It was noted that there was still a problem re parking at the end of Church Lane opposite the church. Double yellow lines were needed so that buses turning around there were not hindered by parked vehicles. Cllr Leck agreed to raise this matter again.

**Action:** Cllr Leck

5.4 Members were extremely sorry to learn that Rev Knowles would be retiring as Vicar of Christ Church Woodford and moving to a new house in Handforth. Consequently he would no longer be a member of the WCC. On behalf of everyone, the Chairman offered a vote of thanks and appreciation for the major contribution he had made to the work of the committee and for his wise counsel, which had so often prevailed. His hospitality in providing a room at the Vicarage for WCC meetings was also acknowledged with gratitude.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

In view of the Area Committee meeting on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> August, it was agreed to reschedule the next WCC to Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012, with the venue to be confirmed.

*Approved* ..... *Date*.....