



Woodford Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2011 AT THE VICARAGE, CHESTER ROAD, WOODFORD

PRESENT

Mr P Rodman	Chairman
Mrs H Buszard	Secretary
Mrs M Wood	Treasurer

Mr R Beatham, Mr R Berriman, Mr R Brammar, Mr F Brown, Dr D Buszard, Revd J Knowles, Councillor B Leck and Mr S Taylor.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Downes, Mr I Hanson and Mrs M White.

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 7 July 2011, were approved as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was noted that all the action points had been carried out and would be covered under the relevant items on the agenda.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Treasurer's Update

The Treasurer reported that the bank balance currently stood at £847.20. She and the Chairman had agreed that the WCC's present bank was not providing a particularly good service and they had therefore made arrangements to open new cheque and savings accounts with Barclays Bank in Bramhall.

(b) Fund-raising and Sponsorship

The Chairman explained that he was wanted to initiate a major fund-raising drive, so that the WCC could have a reasonable financial base available if the need arose to take professional advice in the interests of the community. He was thinking of arranging events such as suppers

or dinners with entertainment, to be held locally. He also hoped that residents could be encouraged to pay donations directly into the new savings account. He would be talking more about this at the AGM and would be seeking new members with fund-raising skills to join the WCC and take responsibility for this area. He would also welcome any further ideas or proposals from members.

The Secretary drew attention to the draft letter she had been prepared to encourage further sponsorship of the website, clarifying that such sponsorship was being sought specifically to cover maintenance and development costs of the website and e-newsletter. Various suggestions and amendments to the original draft were noted. Members discussed the various sponsorship options put forward and concluded that two packages should be offered - a promotional advertisement on either the Home Page or the News Page (with differential cost), in each case with a link to the business's own page on the WCC website and its inclusion in the list of sponsors on the Business Page and in the e-Newsletter. Various members volunteered to approach local businesses and follow up as necessary. Two existing sponsors would also be contacted to invite them to renew for a second year.

4. 2011 AGM

(a) Guest Speakers and General Arrangements

The Secretary reported that Mr Paul Lawrence from Stockport MBC had agreed to speak and update residents on the current position with respect to BAE site development and the draft SPD. The Chairman said that at the suggestion of David Buckley (his commercial property agent) he had been in touch with Mr John Halman of Gascoigne Halman to see whether he would be willing to speak about the local property market, with particular emphasis on the effect that the development might have. Although Mr Halman was otherwise engaged that evening, he had put forward the name of a colleague and this was being followed up.

ACTION: Chairman

It was noted that the AGM Notice and Agenda should be distributed to all residents by the first weekend in November. The Treasurer offered to arrange for photocopying and a new schedule for the delivery was drawn up. It was confirmed that the bar would be open from 7.30 pm and that members would arrive early to assist in setting out chairs, etc. Buckets would be used for donations, as at the previous AGM, and donations directly to the new bank account would also be requested in the Calling Notice.

(b) Elections of New WCC Members

The four co-opted members indicated that they would be willing put their names forward for election.

The Secretary reported that she had received a note from Mr Hanson, tendering his resignation because he felt that his other commitments did not leave him with sufficient time to make a meaningful contribution to the WCC. Mr Downes had also informed the Secretary that he would be leaving the UK to take up a new job in Australia at the end of October.

Members expressed their regret at losing both members and thanked them for their participation over the last few years.

There would thus be several vacancies on the WCC and it was agreed to mention this in the Calling Notice and seek new members with appropriate skills.

ACTION: Chairman/Secretary

5. SUB-GROUP REPORTS

(a) Development of BAE Site

There was nothing further to report at present. The WCC had been informed by Mr Harrison that the highway modelling work required to support the transport proposals has not yet been completed by BAe's consultants and that without that information Stockport planners were not in a position to finalise the draft SPD. It was not known when that document might now be expected and Mr Berriman offered to contact Mr Harrison directly for an update.

ACTION: Mr Berriman

Cllr Leck reported that the three local councillors had had a meeting with the Council planning officers with respect to the MAELR extension. Preparatory and design work was being undertaken, local land owners had been contacted and plans had been circulated showing the possible siting of an underpass at the A555 roundabout on Woodford Road. It was thus slightly more promising that the road might get built, although there was still a shortfall of £150m in funding until 2015.

Finally, it was agreed that Dr Buszard should take Mr Downes' place on this Sub-group.

(b) e-Newsletter and Website

Mr Brown confirmed that the newsletter database had been extended following the collection of email addresses by the LAP WG. He would be preparing a further document for circulation once the draft SPD had been released.

(c) Woodford War Memorial Community Centre

The Chairman reported that the WWMCC AGM was being held on 13th October 2011. It was agreed that he should be nominated to continue as the WCC representative on the Management Committee.

(d) Stockport Council Issues

Cllr Leck reported that action was in hand to the replace the SMBC Notice board outside the Community Centre, with Area Committee funds being made available if necessary. He also reported that signs were to be put up in Church Lane, Moor Lane and Jenny Lane indicating that the roads were unsuitable for heavy vehicles.

(e) Neighbourhood Watch

The local PCSO had issued a reminder that as the nights were drawing in, and particularly after the hour changed, householders should be vigilant and ensure that all necessary security measures, including locking doors and windows, were undertaken.

Mr Taylor expressed his concern about the practice of cold calling to persuade people into committing to a contract for services or products. It was becoming more widespread and often affected the more vulnerable people in the community, such as the elderly. Such calls were usually made from international bases, which were not subject to the same regulations as UK-based centres. He also felt that ‘survey’ calls should not request any personal information that might be used to identify the recipient of the call. Whilst recognising that this was not a matter on which the WCC could itself take direct action, he suggested that perhaps it could make a start by drawing these concerns to the attention of the authorities.

Cllr Leck offered to raise the issue at the main Council meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Leck

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 8 November October 2011, starting at 7.30 pm.

Approved

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