



Woodford Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31st MARCH 2014 IN THE CHURCH HALL, CHRIST CHURCH, WOODFORD

PRESENT

Mr P Rodman Chairman
Mrs H Buszard Secretary

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

APOLOGIES: Mr R Berriman, Cllr B Leck, Mrs M Wood

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, HELD ON 10th FEBRUARY 2014

(Minutes approved previously by email.)

Minute 4.1 Community Help

It was agreed that this was an ongoing matter. In a specific emergency, for example really bad weather, members would be mobilised to coordinate help as required.

4.2 Community Problems

With regard to the cars offered for sale on public land, Mr Berriman had tried to ring the appropriate SMBC help line, but had given up after 15 minutes when his call had not been answered. The cars had disappeared shortly afterwards, but Mr Brammar reported that another one had appeared on the verge in Chester Road very recently. He had noted the telephone number given and this would be circulated so that members could cross-check it with any other vehicles offered for sale in the locality.

2. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Treasurer's report stated that the WCC balance was currently £1,403.93, including the transfer of £640.40 from the WU account, as agreed at the previous meeting. £2,000 remained in the WU account awaiting transfer to a new WNF account, which he was having to set up because Barclays had been unable simply to change the name of the account.

It was noted that the Secretary had investigated the possibility of applying for a grant from the local Area Committee Flexibility Fund to assist with the website maintenance costs, but it had been clear that the grants were available only for one-off projects and not for on-going costs.

A suggestion had been made that a small annual charge might be made for local businesses to list their details and photo on the website, as was done on Poynton Town Council website. This was considered, but it was felt that there were too few businesses in Woodford to make that worthwhile and that it might be better to find a third main sponsor. The Chairman agreed to approach Church Lane garage.

ACTION: Chairman

3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

It was agreed that the draft Minutes of the 2013 AGM, kindly prepared by Evelyn Frearson and circulated for consideration prior to the meeting, could be added to the website. They would then be submitted for approval at the 2014 AGM.

A provisional date of Thursday, 20th November for the 2014 AGM was agreed, subject to the availability of the large Hall at the Community Centre.

ACTION: Secretary

(Secretary's Note: It was subsequently found that the large Hall would not be available on 20th November and a new date of 27th November 2014 was agreed by email.)

It was noted that the Community Centre AGM had been scheduled for Wednesday, 24th September 2014 and the Neighbourhood Forum AGM for Monday, 29th September 2014.

4. LITTER DAY

It was provisionally agreed that this year's Keep Woodford Tidy day should be held on Saturday, 27th September 2014. This would be confirmed at the next meeting.

5. SUB-GROUP REPORTS

(a) Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

Mr Taylor reported that following the trial run held on 15th March 2014, the Questionnaires had been printed ready for circulation to all Woodford residents on the electoral roll. The final arrangements for the distribution would be made at the next WNF meeting, which was being held on 7th April 2014.

He also reported that he, David Buszard and John Knight had attended a meeting with Jennie Daly from Harrow and Mike Watts from Planning Consultants Nathaniel Lichfield on 25th March. The meeting had been called by Ms Daly shortly after the WNF comments on the Planning Applications had been submitted, instigated, he believed, at the suggestion of SMBC. It had been noted that SMBC had exceeded the time by which they should have responded to the applications (16 weeks from the original submission), but Harrow appeared to be relaxed about that. Harrow was currently drafting the Conditions and Heads of Terms for the Legal Agreements that SMBC would impose, but this was not considered to be unusual. The only concession that Harrow had offered was they would have no objection to WNF being involved in the discussions on the Conditions, but this would be a decision for SMBC.

Finally, it was noted that the Appeal by the Daws Hill Neighbourhood Forum against the decision by Wycombe District Council to exclude two specific areas from their Neighbourhood Plan had been turned down. A copy of the detailed Judgement was still awaited.

(b) SEMMMS Update

It was noted that the Planning Application for the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road had now been approved by all three local authorities.

(c) Newsletter /Website

It was noted that an eNewsletter had been circulated towards the end of February, as agreed, and the website updated accordingly.

(d) Woodford War Memorial Community Centre

Mr Taylor reported that the installation of the new kitchen was almost complete, although costs had risen because of the need to install an expensive extraction system over the cooker.

Mr Coxey requested that serious consideration be given to encouraging new groups to use the Centre by offering free room hire or discounted fees for the first few meetings. It was agreed that the summer would be a good time to do this, when associated heating costs would be minimal.

It was noted that when asked about providing financial assistance for the Centre, Harrow had indicated that they might be prepared to support future capital projects as a way of encouraging integration when residents started to occupy the new houses.

(e) Stockport Council Issues

Concern was expressed at recent press reports that implied that CEC and Stockport had reached an agreement to allow a Gypsy/Travelling Show People site on CEC-owned land within Stockport. The Chairman had raised this with Paul Lawrence, who had responded as follows.

‘There have been no discussions whatsoever between the two Councils on any specific site. When and if discussions take place, site appraisals will be required. In practise, it is hard to see how relatively inaccessible sites within the green belt could be deemed to be appropriate but to repeat, there has been no discussion of any kind between the two Councils on this issue in respect of any particular sites.’

Nevertheless, it was suggested that a Freedom of Information request should be made to SMBC to see exactly what discussions had been undertaken.

ACTION: David Buszard

(f) Neighbourhood Watch/Crime

The Chairman reported that he received regular updates from the police via Ringmaster and it was agreed that where relevant these would be added to the website.

ACTION: Secretary

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Public Footpaths

Mr Coxey reported that he had not been successful in contacting the SMBC officer responsible for footpaths, but he had compiled a list and short description of all the footpaths in Woodford and it was agreed that this should be added to the website.

ACTION: Mr Coxey, Secretary

6.2 Website Hits

It was agreed that updated information should be obtained on the number of hits received on the WCC website.

ACTION: Secretary

7. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 16th June 2014, commencing at 8.00 pm in the Church Hall.

Approved *Date*.....