



## **Woodford Community Council**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2009 AT THE VICARAGE, CHESTER ROAD, WOODFORD**

#### **PRESENT**

Mr K Coxey    Chairman  
Mrs H Buszard                                        Secretary

Mr S Downes, Mr P Crompton, Dr L Evans, Mr D Hall, Revd J Knowles, Mr P Rodman, Mr C Roscoe, Mrs M White.

By invitation for Item 3                          Mr P Goodman

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Beatham, Councillor B Leck and Mrs M Wood.

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

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 3 September 2009, were approved as a correct record.

#### **2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### **Queensgate School**

It was noted the Secretary had written to Stockport Education Department, as agreed. A response had been received and circulated to members.

#### **3. DEVELOPMENT OF BAE WOODFORD SITE**

It was noted that, following the announcement of the closure of BAE operations at Woodford, Stockport Council had held a Public Meeting at the Community Centre on 15 October 2009 to discuss options for the future of the site. Presentations had been made by representatives from BAE Systems and from the Council Planning Department and residents' views had been sought via smaller workshop groups. The meeting had been very well attended, demonstrating the concern felt by residents. Feedback on the workshop discussions had been promised.

Mr Rodman and Mr Downes gave a report on the meeting of the BAE Systems Consultative Group, held on 21 October 2009, which they had both attended. They had found the meeting

very useful and felt that the BAE personnel present had been keen to work with Woodford residents via the Community Council. The meeting was also attended by representatives from Poynton Council, Macclesfield Chamber of Commerce and by a Cheshire East Councillor. They were very disappointed to note, however, that no representatives from Stockport MBC had attended, despite the importance of this major future development within Bramhall South. It was agreed that the WCC should raise this matter with the local councillors and ask them to attend future meetings whenever possible.

**ACTION: Chairman**

The Chairman then welcomed Mr Goodman to the meeting and invited him to speak to members about Stockport MBC's Core Strategy document, which was available for public consultation until 25 November 2009.

Mr Goodman made a number of pertinent comments on this document. He noted firstly that this was really a hybrid document. It was very long - at 140 pages - for a Core Strategy document and did not mention relationships with surrounding areas, such as Manchester Airport, East Cheshire and Tameside, which should have been covered. He felt that the spatial objectives, which focused on sustainable development principally within Stockport Central Area and other regeneration priority areas, were right, but he was a little concerned that the document excluded consideration of the Green Belt, even though a general North West review would be undertaken in 2011. He drew attention to Section 7, which indicated that the Borough's housing needs, as identified in the RSS, could be met without building on the Woodford site (sub clause 7.68), and to Section 8, which dealt with the Woodford site as a specific strategic location in more detail. Other points to be considered included the infrastructure costs associated with the development of the site and the runway, which could be seen as a liability. He felt that it was important that a long-term view should be taken with a coherent plan for the whole site, rather than a 'quick fix' that could result in a lot of short-term letting of the space.

Members expressed their thanks to Mr Goodman for his valuable analysis and agreed that it was essential that all residents be made aware of the consultation period – which was quite short – and the need to submit their views and comments. Mr Goodman agreed to assist further by putting together a list of key areas and questions that should be considered. It was decided that this information would be provided on the reverse of the AGM Calling Notice/Agenda, which would be delivered to all residents, and the topic would also be included for discussion at the AGM.

Finally, Mr Goodman mentioned the proposals that had just been put forward relating to centre of Poynton and suggested that they might also be relevant to Woodford residents.

#### **4. WCC WEBSITE**

The Secretary reported that the inaugural competition had been won by Ms Evelyn Frearson – details and a photograph were on the Competition page of the website. It was hoped that a second competition could be launched before Christmas and she had written to Woodford Park Garden Centre to see whether they might be able to donate a prize. So far she had not received a response, but would be following it up.

Once again, she and the Chairman urged all members of the committee to take an active part in providing information for the website, so that it could be kept up to date.

## **5. WOODFORD WAR MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE (WWMCC)**

Dr Evans reported that the dispute involving the WWMCC had now been resolved and that all litigation issues had been settled. He read a detailed statement describing how this outcome had been achieved and acknowledged Mr Freeth's valuable role in mediating between the two sides. The main points were as follows.

The Management Committee had rescinded the expulsion of Dr Evans, Mr Coxey and Mrs Hadley with a full apology. Mr Coxey had received a further apology rescinding other claims that had been made against him. Mrs. Hadley's claim for unfair dismissal had been settled out of court. Mr Garner had agreed to stand down as Chairman and from the Management Committee and Mr Freeth had agreed to allow his name to be put forward as the new Chairman, subject to agreement at the WWMCC AGM. Dr Evans, Mr Coxey and Mrs Hadley had agreed to resign from the Committee at the AGM to allow new members to be appointed.

It was confirmed that Mr Freeth had been appointed Chairman at the AGM on 22 October 2009 and he had subsequently resigned from the WCC. Mr Crompton had agreed to take his place as the WCC representative on the Management Committee.

Members welcomed this outcome and congratulated all those concerned on a reaching a mature settlement.

## **6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The following arrangements were made for the AGM, which was being held on Thursday, 26 November 2009.

### **Speakers:**

Mr Gallagher would be invited to speak about the WCC website in order to encourage residents to use it to the full.

Mr Bryant, SMBC Planning Policy Manager, would be invited to provide an update on the Public meeting and speak about the Core Strategy document, which would just have reached the end of its consultation period. It was felt that if possible it would be helpful for this to be tied in with local transport policy and SEMMMS.

**ACTION: Secretary**

### **Organization:**

It was agreed that the bar facility at the Centre should be requested from 7.30 pm.

**ACTION: Secretary**

WCC members were asked to come to the Centre at 7.00 pm to help to set up the room. There would be a signing-in procedure for all attendees and, as at the 2008 AGM, a donations box.

### **Notification**

The Chairman and Secretary would prepare the Calling Notice/Agenda, which as agreed under Item 3, would include information about the Core Strategy Development Plan document and the consultation process.

The Agenda would also draw attention to the availability of the draft Minutes of the 2008 AGM on the WCC website – or as a hard copy by request. There would thus be no need to provide copies for everyone at the meeting, nor for the Minutes to be read aloud.

**ACTION: Chairman/Secretary**

It was hoped that the notices could be completed and photocopied by the week commencing 2 November 2009, so that the distribution team could deliver them to residents that week.

## **7. SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

### **(a) Planning applications**

There were no applications of note. The Secretary reminded members that they could check the latest applications affecting Woodford via the website link.

### **(b) Stockport Council Issues**

In the absence of Councillor Leck, there was nothing to report.

### **(c) Footpaths**

The Chairman noted that he had received some reports on the state of local public footpaths and rights of way. He requested that the others send in their comments, which need only be brief, as soon as possible, so that he could collate the results and discuss them with the appropriate contact at Stockport MBC.

### **(d) SEMMMS**

Dr Evans noted that no information had yet been circulated to residents.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Litter day**

As agreed at the last meeting, the next ‘Tidy Woodford’ Day would be held on Saturday, 28 November 2009. Residents would be informed via the AGM calling notice and an announcement would also be made at the AGM.

### **8.2 Celebrating Volunteers Event**

The Secretary reported that she had received details of Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee’s ‘Celebrating Volunteers’ Event, which was to be held on Saturday, 14 November 2009 at Bramall Hall between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm.. The purpose of the event was to provide opportunities for people to find out more about volunteer-run organisations. There would also be an award ceremony for volunteers ‘who had gone the extra mile for the community’ and nominations were being sought.

The Chairman agreed to represent the WCC at the event.

### **8.3 Proposals for BAE Site**

Mr Rodman informed members that he was preparing an updated version of his own proposals for the Woodford site and would circulate them to everyone.

### **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at the Vicarage on Monday, 11 January 2010, commencing at the earlier time of 7.30 pm.

*Approved* .....

*Date*.....