



## **Woodford Community Council**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2010 AT THE VICARAGE, CHESTER ROAD, WOODFORD**

#### **PRESENT**

Mr K Coxey                                      Chairman  
Mrs H Buszard                                  Secretary

Mr R Beatham, Dr L Evans, Mr D Hall, Mr I Hanson, Revd J Knowles, Councillor B Leck, Mr P Rodman, Mrs M White.

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr F Brown, Mr P Crompton, Mr S Downes, Mr C Roscoe and Mrs M Wood.

#### **1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hanson to his first meeting of the WCC.

#### **2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11 January 2010, were approved as a correct record.

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

**Minute 1** - Re identifying residents who might need assistance in emergencies, no further suggestions had been made, other than everyone looking after their own neighbours.

**Minute 5 (c)** - Dr Evans confirmed that he had forwarded the report, as agreed.

**Minute 5 (f)** – Re Hill Top Farm, further concern was expressed regarding the number of lorries going to the site and the resulting muddy condition of local roads, which had not been helped by the road-cleaning lorry. Cllr Leck reported that planning extensions had been granted because of the harsh winter and he agreed to find out the final date set for completion of the work.

**ACTION:** Cllr Leck

## **4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **(a) Grant application**

The Chairman confirmed that the report had been submitted and payment of the second part of the grant for the website – approximately £600 – was expected in March/April.

### **(b) Fund-raising**

Mr Rodman reported that the sub-committee had not yet met, but was expecting to do so within the next few weeks. In the meantime, various ideas had been floated, including the suggestion of holding a serious raffle, with major prizes. Tickets could be sold over several months, culminating in the draw, which would take place at the proposed fund-raising event.

In response to a query, the Chairman explained that the WCC was hoping to boost its limited finances in order to have funds available should the need arise, for example to enable it to take professional advice on behalf of residents regarding the BAE site development or the SEMMMS issue. Further funding would also be needed to maintain the website, which would be discussed under item 5 (d). Of course, donations from individual residents would be most welcome at any time.

## **5. SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

### **(a) BAE site**

Mr Rodman reported on the meeting of the BAE Woodford Consultative Group, which had taken place on 4 March 2010. He explained that following the last meeting, when there had been a clear request from the group for a flow down of information regarding the proposed development of the Woodford site, BAE had invited its Head of Real Estate, Mr D Cave, and also a representative from CASS Associates to talk through the site strategy and answer questions. A brief summary of the discussions was given as follows.

- There would be 120 voluntary redundancies from the site in March, followed by another 200 to 400 by the end of the year
- Despite pushing hard for work on three further Nimrods, this was not going to happen and the site would therefore close when the current work programme was completed in 2012.
- No decision had been taken regarding the runway, but East Cheshire was pushing hard for the release of the land at the Eastern end to shorten the route of the proposed Poynton by-pass.
- Re housing on the brown field site, BAE still wanted permission for 900 houses, whereas Stockport was considering 450.
- BAE confirmed its wish to reach agreement on outline planning permission before the site was offered for sale. There had already been many expressions of interest, although it was recognized that site contamination could be a serious problem.
- Re the staging of a final Air Show, this was felt to be very doubtful and efforts were being focused on the closure.

As before, East Cheshire Council and Poynton were well represented at the meeting, but despite the strong request made to Cllr Goddard, there was no official representation from Stockport MBC – either from the Planning Dept or by an elected Councillor. Cllr Goddard

had nominated a personal representative in Mr Paul Carter, who was standing as a Lib Dem candidate at the May elections, and he had attended, but without the authority to speak for the Council. WCC members considered this to be most disappointing and it was agreed that the Secretary should write again to Cllr Goddard.

**ACTION:** Secretary

Finally, attention was drawn to the two Consultation exercises currently being undertaken by Stockport MBC – the short consultation on the Core Strategy, closing date 24 March 2010, and the consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement. Information on both was given on the WCC website and also on the WCC Notice Board. Re the latter document, it was noted that the WCC was not included in the official list of consultees on the Local Development Framework given in Appendix 1 and it was agreed that a comment to this effect should be made.

**ACTION:** Secretary

**(b) SEMMMS**

There was nothing further to report, although it was confirmed once again that funding for the first stage of the relief road system had been identified and allocated.

Cllr Leck drew attention to the proposal to set up the Greater Manchester Combined Authority representing the ten Greater Manchester authorities. This would be one of the two pilot statutory city regions announced by the Government in the 2009 Budget and if it went ahead a Joint Committee would be established to assume responsibility for delivering transport across the Manchester City Region. At present Stockport was the only authority not to agree to the scheme.

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

In the absence of Mr Crompton, there was no formal report. It was agreed that the Secretary should contact the Chairman of the Management Committee to enquire about progress on the revised WWMCC Constitution.

**ACTION:** Secretary

**(d) WCC Website**

The Secretary drew attention to the amount of work undertaken by Mr Gallagher in updating the website as frequently as had been needed recently and suggested that he be paid a more realistic monthly retainer. She proposed that from 1 April 2010 it should be increased to £50 per month and this was agreed.

**ACTION:** Treasurer

The cost would be met in the short term from the balance of the grant and during this period she or other members of the WCC could be trained to undertake most of the updates, although Mr Gallagher's expertise would still be needed as a back-up. However, if the WCC wished to retain the website as a primary source of information and means of communication for Woodford residents, further funding would be needed in the future. Sponsorship from local businesses was a possible solution.

Various suggestions were put forward for likely sponsors, including the Garden Centre, which might be willing to support the new Woodford Wildlife page, estate agents, who might consider promoting the Local Attractions page, the pub and the Deanwater Hotel, who could use the website to advertise forthcoming events. The exact nature of such sponsorship was

still a little certain and the Secretary offered to talk to Mr Gallagher regarding the various options that might be available. Details could then be included on the website.

**ACTION:** Secretary.

Mr Rodman and Dr Evans offered their assistance in approaching local businesses once the parameters had been clarified.

Finally, the Secretary confirmed that the closing date for the winter photographic competition had been extended until 28 March 2010. An independent judge (who was the donor of the champagne prize) would view all entries anonymously and decide upon the winner.

**(e) Stockport Council Issues**

No specific issues were raised.

**(f) General Planning Applications**

The Secretary drew attention to planning application DC 043918, a retrospective application relating to the change of use of part golf course to residential garden area. It had come to light because of the sale of other plots of land that had been designated recreational or agricultural land within Green Belt. She was raising the issue as a general principle, because there were a number of properties in Woodford that backed onto the Green Belt, but she made it quite clear that the WCC should not get involved in individual cases of this type.

It was agreed that it might be useful to include a short statement on the website drawing attention to the need to ensure the lawful use of such land.

**(g) Footpaths**

There was nothing further to report regarding public footpaths. The Chairman requested that members who had not yet walked their allocated paths or submitted a report should do so before the next meeting.

Mr Leck confirmed that he had reported the problems with pavements noted at the last meeting and that they had been listed for repair. He also informed members that Stockport Council was borrowing £2m to repair potholes in the Borough's roads.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Parish Magazine** – It was agreed that the WCC should continue to advertise in the magazine, but should update the content from time to time.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meetings would be held on Monday, 17 May 2010 at the Vicarage, commencing at 7.30 pm.

*Approved* .....

*Date*.....