



## **Woodford Community Council**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 IN THE CHURCH HALL, CHRIST CHURCH, WOODFORD**

#### **PRESENT**

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

Mr R Beatham, Mr R Brammar, Dr D Buszard, Mr K Coxey, Cllr B Leck, Mr S Taylor and Mrs M White.

**APOLOGIES:** Rev D Russell

#### **1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

(Minutes approved previously by email.)

There were no matters arising, other than those already covered by the Agenda.

#### **2. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The Treasurer reported that the WCC balance was currently £843 and that the WU balance was £2,660, after payment of £540 for legal services.

It was noted that there were currently only two sponsors for the WCC website and consideration was given to ways of raising further funds to assist in the maintenance costs. It was suggested that a grant might be available from the local Area Committee Flexibility Fund and it was agreed that this should be investigated.

**ACTION:** Secretary, Treasurer

#### **3. SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

##### **(a) Woodford Neighbourhood Forum**

Mr Taylor reported that with WCC's support, the WNF response to the Harrow Planning Applications had been submitted on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014, an extension from the original deadline having been granted. He outlined the subsequent stages in the planning procedures as follows. Council officers were currently collating comments following the public consultation and were putting together a Report with their response and recommendations. This would be submitted with the Applications firstly to the Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South Area

Committee for consideration at a special meeting, which would probably be held in early March. Following that, the Applications and Report (with comments/recommendations from the Area Committee) would go to the Planning & Highways Regulation Committee at a meeting that must be held by mid March in order to meet the statutory timetable for planning applications. The Planning Committee had the authority to make the final decision, although it was possible that, given the scale of the development, they might suggest that it should also go to the full Council for ratification. In addition, since it had been recognized that there was a departure from the SMBC Development Plan (because a small amount of greenbelt land had been incorporated within the detailed plans) there would probably be a recommendation that if the applications were accepted they should be submitted to the Secretary for State (SoS) for approval. The main concern arising from this was that it would be seen as a very minor departure and accepted as such, with no account being taken of the much larger grab of greenbelt land in the outline plans for the rest of the site, because it would be said that the latter were only indicative. Hence the need for WNF to ensure that the full facts were laid before Councillors and the SoS.

Mr Taylor also reported that the WNF Questionnaire was currently being finalised and would be printed after approval by the Management Committee. A meeting for all Forum members had been scheduled for Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at the Community Centre, when they would be asked to complete the questionnaire and have the opportunity to raise any queries or seek clarification from members of the Management Committee. It was hoped that they would then be willing to encourage and assist friends and neighbours to complete the questionnaire when it was distributed to all residents. The exact means of distribution had still to be decided.

The Committee then discussed the role of Woodford United and it was generally felt that it had now been superseded by the Neighbourhood Forum, which was continuing to represent the views of residents on the development of Woodford. It was therefore decided that it should be disbanded and the majority of its funds transferred to the Forum, with the remainder retained by WCC. In both cases the funds would continue to be used for the benefit of the community.

The following Resolution, proposed by Dr Buszard and seconded by Mr Coxey, was carried unanimously.

Woodford Community Council resolved to disband its Working Group *Woodford United* and transfer £2,000 of its funds to the Woodford Neighbourhood Forum and the balance to WCC.

It was also agreed that the simplest way of handling the funds would be to change the Woodford United bank account name to Woodford Neighbourhood Forum, with appropriate amendment of the signatories.

**ACTION:** Treasurer

WU members would be informed of these decisions.

**ACTION:** Secretary

## **(b) SEMMMS Update**

It was noted that SMBC Planning and Highways Committee had approved the Planning Application for its section of the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road on 22 January 2014, but Manchester City Council and Cheshire East Council had still to decide.

**(Secretary's Note:** The SEMMMS website subsequently indicated that Manchester City approved the Plans on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and that Cheshire East would consider them at its Strategic Planning Board meeting on 5 March 2014.)

### **(c) Newsletter /Website**

It was agreed that a new eNewsletter would be prepared, providing a summary of the reasons why WNF was opposing the Harrow hybrid application, with a link to the full submission.

It was noted BAe/CASS had recently submitted a Planning Application relating to the Avro Heritage Museum and this information would also be included in the Newsletter.

The WCC website would be updated accordingly.

**ACTION:** Dr Buszard, Secretary

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

Mr Taylor reported that matters were generally going well, although the cleaning contract had not yet been awarded. He also recognised that an increase in the number of bookings would be useful, although care had to be taken to ensure that the running costs of bookings were fully covered by the charges. He also felt that it would be helpful to have an analysis of the accounts (P&L) made available at each Management Committee meeting, so that there could be a clearer understanding of the financial progress being made throughout the year, and he would be raising this with the Chairman.

Mr Coxey suggested that since part of the WWMCC's remit under its Constitution was to provide opportunities for education for Woodford residents, the Centre might encourage the establishment of new groups, for example along the lines of Poynton's 'Men in Sheds' initiative, which could then lead to greater use of its facilities and increased bookings.

### **(e) Stockport Council Issues**

Cllr Leck reported that Stockport Council Tax was to be frozen at the current level for the coming year.

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

It was noted that the credit card fraud and similar scams relating to loan applications were still taking place and continued vigilance was essential.

## **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Community Help**

Mr Coxey suggested that WCC should take a lead in encouraging a sense of community spirit and good neighbourliness in Woodford, particularly with respect to looking after elderly or house-bound residents. It was agreed that this suggestion should be explored further.

**ACTION:** All

## 4.2 Community Problems

Attention was drawn to a number of minor local annoyances:

- It was noted that there were a number of cars being offered for sale that were parked on public land around Woodford. The same phone number was given in each case, indicating that they were commercial rather than private sales.
- There were ongoing problems with blocked drains that caused flooding, for example at the bus stop near the Garden Centre.
- There was concern regarding the number of potholes on local roads, particularly in Jenny Lane.

It was agreed that these were Council matters that should be reported to the appropriate Department. Alternatively, they could be raised as questions at Area Committee meetings and it was suggested that if anyone wished to do that, they should prepare an appropriate question that could be put forward by WCC on behalf of the Community. In addition, as telephone numbers for appropriate SMBC contacts became known, they would be added to the WCC website.

**ACTION:** All

## 4.3 Public Footpaths in Woodford

Mr Coxey suggested that a list and brief description of Public Footpaths within Woodford should be given on the website and offered to prepare it.

**ACTION:** Mr Coxey

## 5. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, commencing at 8.00 pm in the Church Hall. A further meeting was provisionally scheduled for Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

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