



Woodford Community Council

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 28th NOVEMBER 2019

WCC members present:

Terry Barnes Chairman

Jane Sandover Secretary

Avril Furness, Treasurer

Evelyn Frearson, Khan Moghal, Robin Berriman

Apologies have been received from Maxine Wood, Rev David Russell, and Chris Coppock and local councillors John McGahan and \Mike Hurleston

The meeting was attended by a further 18 residents and visitors

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The chairman opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all and also welcomed Councillor Brian Bagnall.

This year has been one of change as the Council spent time on revamping the organisation to reflect the changing demographics of Woodford with a particular reference to the garden village and the Neighbourhood Plan.

We have now a new treasurer Avril Furness and wish to thank Robin Berriman for his tremendous work in keeping the Community Council's finances in order.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The Secretary reported that the draft Minutes of the 2018 AGM had been available on the WCC website. Nothing had been noted that needed any amendment and she asked the meeting to approve the Minutes as a true record.

This was proposed by Khan Moghal, seconded by Robin Berriman and carried unanimously.

3. Annual Report

In his annual report the Chairman stated that there was a need to encourage more residents to join the committee to promote the interests of all the residents of Woodford by addressing issues that affect the community as a non-political organisation run entirely by volunteers. Your councillors support and attend meetings. This year the committee has worked on a revised constitution to reflect the village's growth and the aim of encouraging the new residents to feel a part of the community. The aspirations include traffic calming, cycle ways and to inform new residents. He also touched on the need to inform new residents of the local facilities. Plans are to revamp the website.

Community Council activities

Some committee members have continued to be involved in maintaining liaison with the Redrow development. This year there had been only two meetings with the Technical Director and Sales Team.

We have also been trying to replace the notice board that used to stand in Budgens but was decimated by a driver. This has been an ongoing task as we seek to find one we can afford.

Originally SMBC were going to procure one for us as WCC cannot reclaim VAT, and we were going to apply for some funding from our local SMBC committee, but their supplier was 4 times the expected cost. However Rev David Russell has found us another supplier and Redrow have agreed to help with the installation.

4. Treasurer's Report

This year we have gained a new sponsor, but lost two sponsors. If you have a business and would like it to be promoted, your information will go out with each newsletter/newsflash and be on the website, please contact the WCC via the website. We have also created a 'Just Giving Page' where you can contribute to the Community Council.

Our main cost is the website, and fortunately the outgoings have gone down as the Parish Magazine is not charging for our advert and the Neighbourhood forum has not needed any money. Originally the WCC set aside monies to assist the WNF. This can be seen in the past AGM minutes. As Terry mentioned we are looking to revamp the website so we still need to look for more funding/sponsorship.

The balance stands at £1291

Proposed by Evelyn Frearson and Seconded by Robin Berriman

5. Proposed changes to the constitution

Evelyn Frearson presented the amended constitution but mentioned that the committee is grateful to Khan Moghal for looking at the options including changing the title and introducing a subscription. These and other options were discussed at length including becoming a charity or a limited company.

It was decided that the name should not be changed but we have added a clause that specifically mentions the integration between the old village and the garden village. To make it clear we have also noted that the Woodford Neighbourhood Forum is a separate entity but WCC will work with the Forum. All residents of Woodford over the age of 18 are members of the community council and from these members, and a management committee would be elected at each AGM. Officers will be elected from the management committee at the first meeting of which there shall be at least four within the year..

The proposed amendments were put to the residents

Proposed by Helen Buszard seconded by Trevor Jackson and was carried unanimously.

6. Election of Management Committee members

The secretary noted that with regret Ron Beatham resigned in the summer, and Chris Coppock is stepping down and of course the village has lost a special resident; Morag White.

The remaining members on the committee have agreed to remain.

We do now have quite a few spare spaces and although not elected at the AGM as described in the new constitution they can be co-opted on to see if they would like to become a committee member.

Close of AGM

Evelyn Frearson then presented an update of developments around Woodford which can now be viewed on the website.

Update on Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

The Neighbourhood plan was submitted to Stockport MBC on 28th September after initial consultations. The Council then following the procedure as set out in the 'Act', issued its own

consultation, and then engaged an independent examiner who issued his report in March. This was accepted by the Forum. Following the May by-elections the plan went through various committees (although no alteration could be made) and the full council agreed that it could go to referendum which resulted in the plan going for Referendum on 12th September. Out of the 1171 eligible voters, 452 votes were cast (38.6%) and of these 433 voted yes (95.8%) with no rejected ballot papers. These represent better results than most other referendums and the first in Stockport.

Following this 'the plan' was 'made' and becomes part of Stockport's planning policy. The Forum is now a consultee for planning applications within its boundary. There have already been 24 applications referred to the Forum who have commented on 8, although Stockport still take decisions in the usual way.

Out of the research from questionnaires, there are things that are not planning matters and these have been published separately in a 'Supplementary Aspirations' document. This can be viewed on the WNF website and the Community Council will help to promote these. Things like traffic calming and footpaths, and the use of public transport, integrating the old and new communities.

Update on Local Development Plans

The planning application for the Handforth Garden Village was prepared by Engine of the North, which was an arm's length company belonging to Cheshire East Council and a consultation took place on the plan. Reorganisation took place in the council following local elections and all the arm's length companies were closed, who now owns the planning application. One of the main issues with the Handforth Garden Village is the effect of traffic on the A34 and roads in Stockport. This has not been resolved.

Cheshire East Council has been consulting on supplementary smaller sites Green Belt, in addition to the larger sites that were approved in the Local Plan. Some of these, such as those in Bollington, have resulted in objections from residents

Update on Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

The original first draft GMSF came out for consultation in 2013-14, and was challenged by many groups in the Greater Manchester Area as there was so much area taken out of greenbelt. Andy Burnham was elected Greater Manchester major and promised to try and find other places for new building work like what is known as brown field land (land that has previously been built on). The second draft GSMF came out in 2019. This had fewer responders but affected many more communities. 750 additional housing was put forward by SMBC on Redrow site, of which 40% would be 'affordable' in this second draft and the area would be taken out of greenbelt. This is over and above the 920 already with planning approval.

The planning technicalities are complex, but in a nutshell, GMSF began as a Joint Development Plan between the 10 local authorities in Greater Manchester. The arrival of an elected Mayor provided the option of preparing a Spatial Framework, for which the Mayor would be part of the approval process. However, it was subsequently discovered that the legislation did not allow a spatial framework to take land out of Green Belt. Unless and until the wording of the legislation is changed, GMSF will proceed as a Joint Plan, which requires approval by each of the 10 local authorities, but not the Mayor. The Government have requested that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority undertakes further consultation on the Joint Plan because it was so contentious among residents. Therefore, the timetable is delayed.

The next consultation on the framework is expected next June or July. Greater Manchester Authority is now concentrating on transport improvements. New figures from the Office of National Statistics with the predicted figures for future households is expected in March and it is thought that it would be lower to be lower than the ones used by the framework previously. The timetable is now; district approval in June/July 2020, GMCA approval in July and submission in December next year with examination in 2021 and adoption by December 2021, although experts believe it will take longer than this.

Introduction of Save Greater Manchester's Green Belt Group

This has developed following the initial GMSF of 2013-14, and represents community groups all across Greater Manchester, which now number around 40. It has become more knowledgeable and organised, and is now acknowledged by the GMCA as a stakeholder in the process. The Royton group for instance has challenged the figures as GMCA are using a 19 year period for the plans rather than the usual 15 year planning period, which is leading to an inevitable short fall of available land.

Update Stockport Local Plan

This will run alongside or a little behind the GMSF to take strategy into account and has been delayed due to the GMSF problems. The brownfield register is working so there is less greenbelt land at risk. There is a move to breathe life into Stockport Town Centre.

Update on Other Neighbourhood Plans Nearby

In Cheshire East; Poynton the referendum on their plan had a 25% turnout with a 87% yes vote, and the referendum on the Wilmslow neighbourhood plan had a 18% turnout with a 89% vote. Both these are now 'made'

In Stockport: High Lane NF are at the 'regulation 14' stage and getting ready to submit to SMBC, Marple NF are progressing and Mellor, Marple Bridge, Mill Brow and Compstall (MMMM) are still at an early stage.

Update on Poynton Relief Road

For those new to the area and not aware of this new road, this will run from a new junction off the Macclesfield road south of the existing industrial estate access, cross the Woodford Aerodrome on the Stockport side of the county boundary and then go under the existing Chester Road and link up with the Oil Terminus roundabout.

This now has full planning permission and compulsory purchase orders have been started. A judicial review is underway but work is expected to start next summer as a contractor has been appointed. The cost is £50.7million with £16.4 million from the Department of Transport, £5.6million from the Cheshire and Warrington local enterprise partnership and £19million from Cheshire East. £7.7 million will also come from developer contributions; £5.4million from 1500 new homes built in Handforth Garden Village and £2million from the sale of Cheshire East land and assets including the Adlington Industrial Estate.

Any Other Business

The Chairman thanked Evelyn for her presentation and response to all the issues raised by residents. He thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Minutes Approved, on behalf of the Community

Chairman

Date: