

Woodford Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2009 AT THE VICARAGE, CHESTER ROAD, WOODFORD

PRESENT

Mr K Coxey	Chairman
Mrs H Buszard	Secretary
Mrs M Wood	Treasurer

Mr R Beatham, Mr G Black, Mr P Crompton, Dr L Evans, Mr A Freeth, Mr D Hall, Revd J Knowles, Mr P Rodman, Mr C Roscoe, Mrs M White.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Downes and Councillor B Leck.

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 23 March 2009, were approved as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

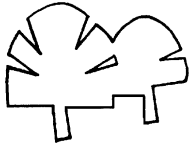
New Bank Account

It was reported that the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary had completed the necessary formalities to open a new WCC bank account with NatWest Bank in Bramhall. All transactions would require the signature of the Treasurer and one of the other two. However, nothing further had been received from the bank and the Treasurer agreed to follow this up right away. In the meantime, outstanding invoices would be paid via the existing Building Society account.

ACTION: Treasurer

Charity car wash

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to some of the parties concerned and had been told that there had been local concerns and that the car wash scheme would therefore finish at the end of the month when the current agreement ran out.



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3. WCC WEBSITE

The Chairman reported that the Sub-group had met as planned on 30 March 2009 and had subsequently made good progress in putting together the information required to set up the website. Photographs had been taken for the Homepage, local groups and businesses had been contacted to check their willingness to be included and a number of direct links to other websites with relevant information had been identified. The Constitution and confirmed Minutes of WCC meetings would be made available, as would the draft Minutes of the 2008 AGM. A list of WCC members would be given, but no other personal details provided. To facilitate communication with residents an email address info@woodfordcommunity.co.uk would be set up to link directly to the Chairman and Secretary. Permission had been given for the Woodford Village Calendar from the Parish Magazine to be used and once the website was live, a short piece about it would be published in that magazine. Mr Rodman had also approached Mrs Heather Braddock regarding the provision of information on the origins of Woodford. Mr Freeth had arranged for the re-design of the logo, copies of which were shown and approved.

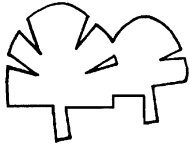
The Chairman noted that as a condition of the grant an interim progress report had been requested and confirmed that he would be submitting this very shortly. Finally, he reminded everyone that getting the website running was only the first step and that it was vital that the site was refreshed and kept up to date. He asked all members to play their part in doing this.

4. WOODFORD WAR MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE (WWMCC)

The Secretary reported that she had now received a letter from Mr Garner, the Chairman of the Management Committee, giving that Committee's response to the request made at the joint meeting held on 9 March 2009. The letter stated that it had been decided that Mr Coxey's expulsion from the WWMCC Committee should stand, but his expulsion from the Centre had been rescinded. Mr Black commented that although this response was inadequate in that it did not achieve all that the WCC had expected, there were positive aspects to it which should not be underestimated, particularly since Mr Garner had recognised the value of Mr Coxey's work within the Community and at the Centre. It was agreed, however, that Mr Coxey was owed the courtesy of a personal letter from Mr Garner confirming that his expulsion from the Centre had been withdrawn and that the Secretary should continue to press for this.

ACTION: Secretary

The Secretary also informed members that since the next meeting of the Management Committee had been scheduled for 13 May 2009, i.e. before the WCC had had the opportunity to discuss these matters, she had, with the approval of both Chairmen, arranged to attend that meeting as the interim WCC representative. She had, however, been a little disconcerted to be told at the start of the meeting that she would have to leave before certain agenda items were discussed. She then gave a brief summary of the meeting, drawing attention to various positive aspects of the discussions. Considerable time had been spent on



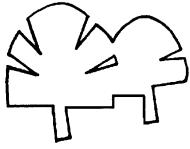
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the issue of security for the Centre, following the deplorable attack on Mr & Mrs Peddar. It had been reported that a draft revision of the Centre's Constitution had been completed and a few copies had been made available, although the content had not been examined at that time. It had been agreed that residents should be notified that the draft was available for consideration and it had been suggested that it should be put on the Centre's website, with hard copies available on request. The possibility of discussing it at an EGM had been raised. The Secretary noted that she had not had the opportunity to study the draft in detail, but one or two matters had given cause for concern. In particular, the right of various local organizations to nominate representatives on the Management Committee appeared to have been amended to allow only two to do so – the Woodford Players and the WI. Members agreed that this was not acceptable. A case might be made to drop all representatives and have a fully elected committee, but there was no reason to exclude some but not others. This view was shared by the Woodford Parish Council, which would also lose its representation. There was also an indication that in future all members of the Committee would have to sign a confidentiality clause. This was totally at odds with the promise given at the last WWMCC AGM that in future all actions and committee activities would be completely transparent and open to scrutiny by residents. It was pointed out that the Management Committee was elected to run the Centre for the benefit of residents and that it should not act like a secret society. It was agreed that these points would be put forward when the draft constitution was circulated for discussion.

It was reported that the WCC Chairman and the WWMCC Management Committee Chairman had both received identical letters sent by Mr Mark Hunter MP and co-signed by the three local councillors. The letter had referred to a schism between the two organisations and had suggested that a meeting should be held to mediate. However, it was felt that events had moved on and that there was no need for such a meeting. It was recognised, however, that there were still some very serious issues affecting others within the community and Dr Evans gave a brief summary of the current position with respect to the outstanding legal fees owed to the solicitors who had acted for the Centre and to himself. He also pointed out that his problems with the WWMCC were not a personal issue. He asked for support from the WCC since his actions had been and still were on behalf of all Woodford residents. In this context he also reminded the WCC that the WWMCC was specifically mentioned in clause 1.2 of the WCC Constitution (Purpose and Objectives).

Consideration was then given to the nomination of a WCC representative to replace Mr Coxey on the Management Committee and Mr Freeth offered to undertake this role. His formal nomination was agreed unanimously. It was noted that he would not be able to attend the next meeting of the Management Committee, which was scheduled for 3 June 2009, but it was felt that some of the issues of concern to the WCC should be raised by letter, so that they could be considered at that meeting. These related to noise levels, the maximum numbers attending events, the provision of financial information to trustees and the exact procedure to be set in place for the adoption of the revised constitution.

ACTION: Secretary



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5. SUB-GROUP REPORTS

(a) Planning applications

Mr Roscoe reported that the only application of note had been submitted - from Brick Market Ltd on Moor Lane - but the outcome was not yet known.

(b) BAE Systems

It was noted that Mr Malcolm Adams (Head of Public Affairs) would be contacting Mr Rodman to invite him to attend meetings of the local consultative committee.

(c) Stockport Council Issues

With regard to waste recycling, it was noted that current system was being changed and that in June residents would be receiving two new wheelie bins to replace the black box used for bottles and cans and the white sack for paper.

(d) Footpaths

It was reported that Mr Black was standing down from this Subgroup. He would be resigning from the WCC after the present meeting because of increasing work commitments. Members were very sorry to learn this and a Vote of Thanks was offered to Mr Black for his valuable contribution to the work of the WCC.

It was not known whether Mr Braide had as yet walked any of the footpaths and this would be followed up before the next meeting.

ACTION: Mr Roscoe

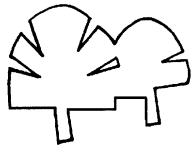
(e) SEMMMS

Dr Evans was pleased to report that further funding of £125m had very recently been approved by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities and this meant that the link from the A6 in Hazel Grove to the Airport could now be completed. A full consultation process would take place on details of the project and the work could possibly start in two years' time.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Crime in Woodford

Concern was again expressed over the recent crime wave affecting Woodford and the Chairman reported that he had had a meeting with PCSO Maureen Crehan to discuss what could be done. She had informed him that extra patrols had been set up, but police manpower



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was limited. It was therefore very important for all residents to take sensible precautions to protect themselves and their property and for neighbours to help each other and in particular look after the more elderly and frail members of the community. The establishment of formal Neighbourhood Watch schemes was recommended, with each group taking in about ten houses. PCSO Crehan would be providing information about this and also notices for the WCC Notice board, including details of Crime Stoppers. Her contact number was 439 2189.

Road safety

Members expressed concern about speeding traffic in Woodford, particularly on Moor Lane. It was also felt that the zebra crossing near the Baptist Church in Woodford Road was situated in a dangerous position because of the bend in the road, which obscured it from the view of traffic coming from the centre of Bramhall. Mr Freeth explained that a few days previously there had been a queue of three or four cars waiting at the crossing and another car had come round the bend too fast to stop and had instead mounted the pavement, narrowly missing his wife and child. It was therefore essential that appropriate warnings about the crossing were provided before the bend and perhaps rumble strips could be used to slow down approaching traffic. It was agreed that a letter to this effect should be submitted on behalf of the WCC.

ACTION: Secretary

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at the Vicarage on Monday, 6 July 2009 (and not on 13 July, as previously scheduled).

Approved

Ken Coxey, Chairman

Date.....