



Woodford Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 MAY 2011 AT THE VICARAGE, CHESTER ROAD, WOODFORD

PRESENT

Mr P Rodman Chairman
Mrs H Buszard Secretary

Mr R Beatham, Mr R Berriman, Mr F Brown, Dr D Buszard, Mr I Hanson, Revd J Knowles, Councillor B Leck and Mrs M White.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Downes.

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 29 March 2011, were approved as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minute 4 Spring Litter Day

It was noted that the litter day had been a great success, with a number of residents participating and 38 bags of rubbish being collected. It was agreed that a further litter day should be organized at about the same time next year.

Minute 6 Church Lane Parking

Cllr Leck confirmed that he had reported the problem to the appropriate body and further action was awaited.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Treasurer's Update

In the absence of the Treasurer, it was not possible to receive an update.

(b) Fund-raising

It was noted that following Dr Evans' resignation, no further progress had been made in contacting potential sponsors for the website. It was recognised that the website required a minimum level of funding in the region of £650 pa in order to maintain it at the present level and since this could not be met from donations, further sponsorship was essential. It was agreed that a standard form of wording would be prepared for use in an initial approach by email or post, which could then be followed up by personal contact.

ACTION: Secretary

(c) Funding for a Website Forum

It was noted that the application for funding from the Manchester Airport Community Trust has not been successful. It was agreed to defer further action for the present..

4. MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

The resignations of Mr Hall and Dr Evans were noted. Mr Hall had been a member of the WCC for over twenty years, during which time he had served as both Chairman and Treasurer for various periods, and members expressed their thanks and appreciation for his hard work and dedication. Members also acknowledged the significant contribution that had been made by Dr Evans. Formal letters of thanks would be sent to both.

ACTION: Secretary

It was agreed that any potential new members should be invited to attend meetings and if interested in joining the committee they could then be co-opted formally until standing for election at the next AGM.

ACTION: All

5. SUB-GROUP REPORTS

(a) Development of BAE Site

It was reported that the LAP Working Group had met the previous evening. There had been some discussion on the four scenarios put forward by BAE/Cass Associates in the Public Exhibitions and very approximate assessments of their financial viability had been put forward. A Submission based on the views of the various communities involved in the Working Group was being prepared and would be discussed at the next WG meeting, which was being held on 2 June 2011.

It was recognised that this document would necessarily represent a compromise between differing views of the participants. There was concern that the views of Woodford would be diluted, even though Woodford was the area that would be most affected by the proposed developments and both the MEDS (Major Existing Developed Sites) lay within the SMBC boundaries. It was agreed that when the draft Submission was available, which should be within the next day or two, it would be circulated to members together with the original WCC submission, so that a careful comparison could be made and comments put forward accordingly.

ACTION: Secretary, All

It was noted that the Public Exhibitions arranged by BAE/Cass Associates had been very informative and well attended. The exhibition boards and the questionnaire were now available online at www.futurewoodford.co.uk. It was recognised that the four scenarios put forward were only suggestions from BAE and did not represent the views of the planning authorities. There was some concern that, as presented, there seemed to be a slant to scenario 4 as the preferred option. This would appear to provide the most benefits for the community, but it would actually mean losing a significant area of Green Belt and would increase the size of the permitted development areas by some 45%.

The next stage in the Public Involvement programme was the Design Workshops, which were being organized by Stockport and Cheshire East Councils in order to allow all interested parties, including local communities and residents, to help to build a consensus on a vision for the development of the site. An invitation and detailed programme for the Workshops had just circulated and a number of places had been reserved for representatives from the LAP Working Group. It was noted that there was a very intense schedule, with participants being asked to commit to attending for five days during the week commencing 13 June 2011. Mr Berriman agreed to participate and Dr Buszard would also attend, subject to the rearrangement of a previous commitment. Cllr Leck would be attending in his official capacity. Mrs White indicated that she would also like to attend, but would need to review her commitments. Other Woodford residents who were known to have expressed an interest would also be approached. Mr Brown expressed his regret that he would be away that week and queried how best to put forward various comments he had received from residents in response to the Newsletters. Mr Berriman offered to raise them and it was agreed that they should also be sent to directly to Ian Harrison.

Mr Brown raised the possibility of arranging a formal visit to Buckshaw Village, the new development on the former site of the Royal Ordnance Factory in Chorley. However, after discussion, it was agreed that since that site was very different from the Woodford site (much larger and with far less Green Belt) it would probably not be useful.

(b) e-Newsletter and Website

Information regarding the Public Exhibitions and the invitation to the Design Workshops would be placed on the website and would be sent out in a Newflash.

ACTION: Secretary, Mr Brown

Further to the email received from Anna Triantis, it was agreed that a link to the 'AboutMyArea/SK7' website would be added to the WCC website, with a reciprocal link requested.

ACTION: Secretary

The Secretary reminded members that the closing date for the website Photo Competition was the end of May. She knew a keen amateur photographer who would be willing to act as an independent judge for the entries and this was welcomed.

(c) Woodford War Memorial Community Centre

The Chairman reported that the general refurbishment programme was making good progress.

(d) Stockport Council Issues

Cllr Leck noted that after the 5 May elections, no party had an overall majority on Stockport Council, although the Liberal Democrats were still the largest party.

(e) Neighbourhood Watch

Concern was expressed over the continued number of break-ins or attempted break-ins in the Woodford area.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 7 July 2011 starting at 7.30 pm.

Approved

Date.....