



Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

c/o Woodford Community Centre, Chester Road, Woodford, Stockport, Cheshire, SK7 1PS

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Minutes of Meeting of Woodford Neighbourhood Forum Management Committee Woodford Community Centre 31st July 2024

Attendance	Present	Apologies received
Mr Robin Berriman (RBB)	√	
Mr Paul Rodman (PR)		Corresponding*
Ms Evelyn Frearson (EF)	√	
Mr John Knight (JK)		Not heard from
Mr Paul Goodman (PG)	√	
Mr Terry Barnes (TB)	√	
Ms Jane Sandover (JS)	√	
Mrs Jude Craig (JC)	√	
Ms Maxine Wood (MW)		√
Mrs Janet DeVeichis (JDV)	√	
Ms Zoe Jones (ZJ)		
Mr Chris Coppock (CC)	√	

*Corresponding members wish to be kept in the loop but cannot routinely attend meetings

1. Apologies MW
2. Declaration of conflicts of interest None.
3. Minutes from meeting held on 31 Jan 2024 These had been circulated and typos corrected soon after the January meeting. They were approved at this meeting.
4. Matters arising None.
5. Financial update RBB reported that the balance in the account was unchanged at £690.13
6. Harrow/Redrow WGV extension proposals Those who had attended the stakeholder consultation event on 17 July 2024 reported back on their discussions with staff and observations of the information presented on display boards. It was noted that very little detail was presented and many key points were not adequately covered at the event, including: the Green Belt status of the site, the 2012 SPD, infrastructure requirements, conditions associated with current planning permission, potential expansion of the WWMCC premises, suitability of the land, accessibility and timing. However, it was also noted that many of these key points were covered in the Request for and Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report prepared on behalf of Harrow Estates, which had been submitted to SMBC and posted on the planning website. Action: It was agreed that EF should draft a response on behalf of WNF.

7. Stockport Local Plan

In July, Stockport Council had approved a new draft Local Plan to proceed to Regulation 18 consultation in September. This plan had proposed development on previously developed land with no Green Belt loss and achieved more housing units than GMSF. It was agreed that town centre regeneration achieved to date was looking good.

It was noted that EF and JC would attend a meeting via Teams on 29th August set up by Steve Johnson for representatives of the four neighbourhood forums in Stockport to discuss the new plan and the consultation. PG suggested that a useful exercise would be to compare our neighbourhood plan policies with policies in the new draft local plan.

[Post meeting note: this consultation was postponed in early August due to the Government consultation on proposed revisions to the NPPF and housing targets.]

8. NPPF

It was noted that the Government was proposing revisions to the NPPF and housing targets, which were very likely to have an impact on the draft Stockport Local Plan. There was a discussion about the feasibility and effects of the Government's aspirations.

9. Recent planning applications update

EF reported that the majority of recent applications had been for extensions and not contentious. The application for 8 dwellings on the kennels site on Blossoms Lane, which had been submitted in the previous year, had been discussed at an Area committee meeting. The three local ward councillors had raised good points during the discussion. EF had spoken to raise the issue of construction traffic on the very narrow sections of the lane. A site visit had been organised for members of the Planning and Highways committee. EF and JC had watched the webcast of this meeting and expressed surprise that members had not looked at the nature of the lane on the site visit. Conditions relating to construction traffic were left to the officers to agree and not discussed in the meeting. The WNF team noted inaccuracies in the information presented by the agents in the planning application, including a dog hydrotherapy pool that was referred to as horse hydrotherapy pool.

The application for a dwelling on the site of stable buildings on Church Lane, opposite Church Lane Garage, was discussed. It was agreed that there were no planning reasons for refusal and the low height of the modern style building would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than the existing structures.

10. Departure of Osian Perks

There was a discussion about who would be looking after planning applications in the Woodford Neighbourhood Area following the departure of Osian Perks, the role of external contractors and our point of contact.

Action: It was agreed that EF would write a letter to SMBC asking who our contact was now.

11. Summer Fair update and distribution of funds

EF and JC reported that the weather had been very wet at times during the fair, but the event had been a success nevertheless. A number of vehicles became stuck in mud on the field and were rescued by Richard Garner with his tractor. The neighbouring field had been too wet to use. Various dance displays had been a success and it was noted that they brought in their own crowds of parents and supporters, which was good. £400 was raised in fees for stall places. A suggestion was made to share these funds between the three organisations: WCC, WWMCC and WNF, subject to approval by each relevant committee. The WNF committee approved the suggestion at this meeting.

12. Date for AGM

A date later in October was favoured and the committee approved Thursday 24th October at 8

pm. JC entered the booking in the Centre's diary.

13. Contact with new MP and local councillors

EF noted that Cllr Dallas Jones had reported that the new MP, Tom Morrison was keen to meet members of the forum committee and was available on 8th August. He had asked if he could meet us at the Centre if possible. JC checked the Centre diary and booked the small hall for 4-6 pm on 8th August. Committee members who could attend were: TB, RBB, EF, JC and JS.

Action: EF to confirm with Cllr Dallas Jones.

14. Annual Monitoring Report

Action: EF to prepare the Annual Monitoring Report for 2023/2024 to be circulated before the AGM

10. Avro Heritage Museum

TB reported on key events at the museum:

- Visitor numbers had been good
- A planning application for the new building was soon to be submitted
- On Sep 7th and 8th there would be 1940s themed event
- On Sep 15th there would be a Heritage event with free entry
- There would be an event for Air Cadets
- On Sep 17th there would be an event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Avro moving on the Woodford site. Dignitaries, VIPs and members of WNF and WCC management committees were invited. There would be a number of fly-overs, including a Gypsy Moth. There would be a special lunch for limited numbers of dignitaries and VIPs.

[Post meeting note: Invitations have not been sent to all members of WNF and WCC management committees, but they are nevertheless welcome if they wish to attend, timetable 13.30 to 17.00]

15. AOB

CC enquired when the Woodford Neighbourhood Plan was due for review.

It was agreed that the plan would be five years old in September 2024, which is the timescale for review, but Steve Johnson had said that we could be fairly relaxed about it. We should check it, but it would not be necessary to change anything while it is still compliant with the Stockport Local Plan and the NPPF. Any minor changes could be made with little ado and would not need a full consultation and examination process.

[Post meeting note: we will need to review the WNP when the revised NPPF is published and when the new Stockport Local Plan is adopted to check for compliance.]

The suggestion was raised of considering whether any protection could be introduced against use of agricultural land in Woodford for solar farms. PG noted that it would be difficult to write neighbourhood plan policy to achieve this.

16. Next meeting

This will be the AGM on 24th October, 8 pm, Small Hall, Woodford Community Centre

Evelyn Frearson 21st August 2024