# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 2023

At Woodford War Memorial Community Centre

**WCC members present:**

Terry Barnes Chairman

Jane Sandover Secretary

Avril Furness, Treasurer

Evelyn Frearson, Rev David Russell, Peter Crossen, Avril Furness, Kris Hayward

## Apologies have been received from, Maxine Wood, Cllr Ian Powney (IP), Cllr Jeremy Meal (JM), Khan Moghal, Cllr Dallas Jones, Jude Craig

1. **Chairman’s Opening Remarks**

The chairman opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all.

**2. Annual Report**

Terry Barnes presented the Annual Report:

It has been another busy year.

With the local elections in May, two new councillors were elected. All were invited to committee membership. Having busy meeting schedules has meant that attendance at WCC meetings is not easy for the councillors but we were pleased that Councillor Dallas Jones has been able to attend at least two meetings since her election. We hope that Councillors Powney and Meal are able to attend in the future.

The main items discussed by the committee were:

**Sponsorship**; The community council relies on sponsors to cover the limited expenditure which is incurred in the year. The closure of the Deanwater will result in just one sponsor remaining.

**Communication** The production of regular Newsletters and Newsflashes on the website

**Notice Board** The ongoing saga of the notice board is approaching resolution. The site at Budgens has been agreed and discussions with a contractor to erect the notice board have taken place.

**Summer Fair.** This was very successful event, of which more will be heard after the formal AGM.

**Winter Festival is** due in early December.

Over the year we met regularly and Jane our secretary has done sterling work as has Avril our treasurer.

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

The draft Minutes of the 2022 AGM had been on the website since January.

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Kris Hayward and seconded by Evelyn Frearson.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Avril Furness presented the Treasurer’s report:

Last financial year, the sponsorship from Avro Heritage Museum was received and banked but the monies from the Deanwater Hotel arrived after the year end, so at start of the year the bank balance stood at £1130. The total income was £750 and total outgoings were £252 for website upkeep. With the closure of the Deanwater Hotel, the Community Council will lose some revenue. It is a real help for the WCC to be able to use the Church Hall.

Redrow have donated £1200 towards a ‘Winter Fest’ to take place on 7th December.

Approval of the Treasurer’s report was proposed by Evelyn Frearson and seconded by Maxine Wood.

1. **Election of Committee members**

The members on the management committee have agreed to stay on as members.

Note there are 7 places available on the management committee should anyone wish to join it. All residents in Woodford are members and they can be co-opted on to see if they would like to become a member. They can also get in touch via [info@woodfordcommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@woodfordcommunity.co.uk)

1. **Close of the AGM.**

**Part 2: Local Updates**

**Woodford Neighbourhood Forum (WNF)**

EF presented the update:

It is 10 years since the formation of the neighbourhood forum in 2013. We consulted residents and the council regularly in the 6 years it took to prepare the neighbourhood plan, which was approved four years ago at the referendum in 2019.

The Forum comments on planning applications within its area and advocates for community aspirations to protect footpaths, cycle ways and integration of new and old communities

On average we are notified about 50 planning applications per year, but numbers had been lower so far this year. We assess whether applications comply with our policies and send our comments to the council planning officers.

EF reported on examples of planning applications this year.

There have been many applications for extensions, which are usually fine.

We support redevelopment of previously developed land but advocate for keeping the village character, such as Flora Cottage, 40 Hall Moss Lane, and Moorend Golf Range.

We have submitted objections to a small number of contentious applications, which include: Infilling of gaps in the housing which didn’t match our policy (on Church Lane and Bridle Road), 5G masts, design of the Commercial Centre on Woodford Garden Village, new housing on a Quiet Lane, request for a screening opinion on a solar farm proposal near to Old Hall Lane

We have a policy on limited infilling of a gap in the housing line which adds more detail and clarity to the national policy. The officers have found this very useful. Three applications for infilling were refused by the council. The applicants appealed. In one case (on Bridle Road), the planning inspector upheld the appeal and the application was permitted. In two cases (Church Lane and Bridle Road), the planning inspectors dismissed the appeal and the application was refused.

We monitor use of the neighbourhood plan by the council in deciding planning applications and produce a report which is circulated to members and council officers, reported at our AGM and posted on our website for the public to view.

We work with the community council and local councillors to advocate for implementation of the Community Aspiration. Successes include: Quiet Lane status for Church Lane and Blossoms Lane, guides to footpaths in Woodford, Woodford Showcase event in 2022, Woodford Summer Fair in June this year, Woodford Winter Festival this December

Overall we believe that the neighbourhood plan is working to achieve the vision and objectives.

A review is due after 5 years in 2024, but the council officers have advised us that minor adjustments can be made without redoing all the laborious steps to achieve approval. Many of our policies may well be incorporated into the new Stockport Local Plan.

**Winter Festival**

Peter Crossen presented the plans and preparation for the event to date:

It was noted that it was 4 weeks until the event.

The roads on the estate are not yet adopted by the Council, but a small section near the Aviator is adopted. It will be necessary to apply to the Council for permission to close that section. PC had done a risk assessment and the messages from the Council were favourable.

Insurance would be needed.

A music licence would be needed and PC was in process of applying.

PC would check with the Aviator and the Christmas tree and lights.

The roads at area for the festival will be closed from 3.30 to 10 pm. The event will run from 5.30 to 9.00 pm.

Redrow will send a photographer.

The committee explored ideas for stall and entertainment,

Stewards would be needed. Members present volunteered.

Publicity included posters, flyers, parish magazine and social media.

Flyers would be put through doors on the weekend before the event.

Claire of the Worker Bee market had been very supportive

**Summer Fair**

This had been a very successful event with a very large number of attendees on a very hot day. More volunteers were needed to organise car parking on the day. There had been just one incident involving one of the people running the fairground suffering from heat exhaustion.

*Minutes Approved, on behalf of the Community*

*Chairman Date:*