



WOODFORD WAR MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE
Registered Charity no 520141

MINUTES OF THE 62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 24th September 2014 7.30pm
Small Hall Woodford Community Centre

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Colin Griffin (Vice-President) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the WWMCC's 62nd Annual General Meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Colin Griffin, Evelyn Frearson, Brenda Mercer, Judith Craig, Jane Sandover, Kris Hayward, Rosalie Griffin, Helen Buszard, David Buszard, Jacky Baker, Graham Farrand, Geoff Law, Mary Law, Jayne McCall, Jim Preston, Barbara Preston, Paula Mott, David Mott, Susan Hulme, Lisa Gibson, Lisa Edwards, Huw Edwards, Ron Beatham, Geoff Lawrenson, Paul Bretherick, Barabra Allen, Paul Rodman, Bryan Leck

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Tim Tootle, Cllr Paul Bellis

ACCEPTANCE OF 2013 MINUTES

Paul Rodman proposed and Kris Hayward seconded that the previous minutes should be accepted. The acceptance was unanimous.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREV MINUTES

None.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Brenda Mercer presented the following report.

The Chairman began her report by expressing her deep sadness on the recent death of fellow trustee, Stephen Taylor, who she felt would be greatly missed by all who were privileged to know him. She was sure the floor would wish to join her in sending their sincerest condolences to his wife and family and asked them to observe one minutes silence in remembrance of a very dear friend and colleague.

One minutes silence followed after which the Chairman thanked the floor and began a summary of the year at the Centre, which had been very successful and had commenced with the formal opening of the Jubilee Garden. This was a joint project between the Centre and Woodford Women's Institute. The WI designed and maintains the garden. It has become a superb asset, commented on frequently by hirers and the Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the committee to all the members of the WI involved, who do such an excellent job.

The Chairman also informed the floor that further work had been carried out on the Woodland Walk. She reported that Evelyn Frearson would be giving a fuller update later in the agenda and she asked the floor to express a vote of thanks to Evelyn, her husband Kris, their son Adam and their daughter Jenny, for the sterling work they do in continuing to improve an area that was quite derelict before.

The Chairman then moved on to report on the indoor improvements completed this year, the most significant of which was the kitchen refurbishment which was successfully completed in March. The project was jointly funded, partly from the Centre's own improvement funds and partly with a grant from Wren of £6000, cost details for which Jane Sandover would cover in her Treasurers report. Jude Craig, in her Hon.Secretary report, would also cover the scheduling of the work, which was no mean feat, and how it has been received by hirers. The Chairman wished to thank a number of people involved in the project:

- Evelyn Frearson - for her work in submitting the grant funding application, a process which began whilst Evelyn was herself Chairman and which she has continued to see through to completion even though she is no longer a trustee of the Centre.
- Jane Sandover, Treasurer and resident architect, who designed the new layout, the changes needed to comply with regulations and who project managed the implementation.
- Tim Tootle for his work in liaising with contractors and overseeing the kitchen build and,
- Geoffrey Lawrenson for his contribution to the work done in making good gaps left in the flooring when old units were removed by sourcing and laying replacement quarry tiles and for providing his expertise on the building to the installers.

The Chairman then briefly reported on Bonfire Night which the Treasurer would cover in more detail later. It was again very successful. Appalling weather and the fact that both Manchester United and Manchester City were both playing that night were factors that could have kept people at home and they perhaps explain why the record levels of recent years weren't quite achieved, however, a very good turnout and excellent income were achieved nevertheless.

To improve site security, the Chairman reported that a height restriction barrier has been installed, plans for which were brought forward following an attempt to occupy the field in May 2014. This was thankfully resolved very quickly owing to prompt action by the committee. The Chairman informed the floor the committee had been successful in obtaining a grant of £1000 from Stockport Council and she wished to express a formal vote of thanks to Councillor Paul Bellis, and his colleagues on the Bramhall Area Committee, for supporting the application. The grant was received in July 2014 and will appear in the financial report for next year.

The Chairman stressed the importance of maintaining security at the Centre, protecting it as a venue not only for the various leisure activities, but also as a Polling Station and for meetings of community importance, such as the consultations held by both Stockport and Cheshire East Councils regarding the various housing developments that will affect Woodford residents. On that topic, the Chairman announced that Paul

Rodman, on behalf of the Woodford Neighbourhood Forum, had kindly agreed to provide a brief update. She expressed the hope that everyone would be able to find time to go along and support Woodford Neighbourhood Forum at their own AGM on 29th September.

The Chairman informed the floor that Jude Craig would be covering the bookings diary in her Honorary Secretary's report, however, it was looking very healthy. It was also worth noting that hires for functions, particularly weddings, play a major role in maintaining the financial viability of the centre and she wished to report that, to build on this income, the Centre had applied to be licensed for Civil Ceremonies and Marriages. It was hoped the Centre would be fully licensed shortly.

The Chairman then highlighted a number of upcoming events the members may wish to support, which were:-

- A Macmillan's World's Greatest Coffee Morning – Coffee and Cake fundraiser to be held on Saturday 27th September from 10am – 12am in the Small Hall.
- This year's bonfire night which, as always, will be held on 5th November. Anyone interested in helping on the day to get in touch – volunteers always welcome.
- New Year's Eve. A fabulous "Great Gatsby" themed evening will be held by Ian and Ben, the Bar Managers. Fancy dress whilst not obligatory could win a super prize. Tickets will include a welcome drink, 2 course hot buffet supper and champagne toast at midnight. Children welcome and will be entertained by a professional entertainer in the Small Hall so no need for babysitters!
- Burns Night Supper to be held in January – joint fundraiser with the Woodford Players which Jude will give you further details on later.

The Chairman then highlighted some further improvement work planned for the future, the first of which would be the resurfacing of the car park entrance area. It was also hoped the whole of the car park could be resurfaced at some point but this would need significant help to cover the costs. A project to seek other funding sources for that, perhaps also including extensions to provide some additional storage and small meetings rooms would be commenced this year.

The Chairman expressed thanks to everyone who has helped the committee in the previous year and those who provided volunteer effort in support of last year's bonfire. In addition she asked the floor to join her in a formal vote of thanks to Geoffrey Lawrenson for all the work he does for the Centre, whenever called upon.

The Chairman closed her report by expressing her thanks to everyone on the outgoing committee for all the time, energy, enthusiasm and ideas they contribute as a team, in helping to ensure the continued success and financial viability of a highly valuable community asset.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Judith Craig thanked everyone for their attendance and asked everyone to feel free to help themselves to cheese and wine. Thanks were given to the rest of the management committee for their hard work and support throughout the year. Further thanks were extended to Geoff Lawrenson whose input into WWMCC is both endless and tireless. The Secretary reported that the bookings to date were healthy at £34,500. The secretary reiterated the Chairman's comments about the lovely Jubilee garden and once again thanked the WI for their maintenance of same.

The Secretary reminded the meeting about the annual bonfire and asked if anybody wished to help they would be most welcome.

The Woodford Community Centre litter pick is Saturday 28th Sept 10am from WWMCC and their AGM would be 27th November in the large hall.

January 23rd is the date for the Burns Supper and Ceilidh. Tickets are £17.50 and will be available from the Centre after the Bonfire. This will be fun evening and a joint fund-raising venture between WWMCC and Woodford Players.

The kitchen renovation is now complete and the Secretary, thanked, on behalf of WWMCC, the regular hirers for their patience during the works. The completed works have generally been well received.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane Sandover presented the following report:

Status as of today - Current account £41,543.86, Savings account £43,038.21 The committee has tasked me to look for a better place to put our reserve, yet still to be able to retrieve money in an emergency. Last year the interest was just over £5.

Bonfire and fund raising - Further notes on the bonfire fund raising, Due to the weather, the ticket sales were down by £7k, but the sales of food and drink were only down by £2k, as the committee went for better quality food with simple prices. We also used our excellent barmen to provide drinks, this meant no requirement for heaters, gas etc and took an agreed commission. It is intended to do this again as they were able to sell more due to their professionalism.

Kitchen - The total cost of the kitchen refurbishment was £15,315, but as has previously been mentioned we paid out £660 to release a grant of £6000, a net grant of £5340 so it cost us £9975. Thank you to everyone who put up with the lack of kitchen for the duration. I also need to thank Jude and Rosalie for finding this time in the bookings calendar when we would not affect the bookings too greatly.

Other items - The larger debtors figure is the result of slow payment of hire fees at year end particularly where Wilmslow Dog Club had a new treasurer, but all fees have now been received. This is balanced by our friend and support Geoff Lawrenson being often very tardy in putting

in his bill; however we are now getting on top of the maintenance.

Your committee is running a very tight ship and all expenditure is discussed thoroughly. Sound proofing the centre and making people aware of the need to keep doors closed or lower the thermostat, has helped reduce the fuel bills by £2k pa.

We have a new package for telephones etc and we have now got Wi Fi for the Centre. The logging in will be for Centre users only and Jude will administer this.

Improvements to sound and light facilities, storage and car park improvements will be properly considered to improve the Centre as already mentioned.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Colin explained the make-up of the committee. First 3 positions on the management committee are Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. There being no other nominations, Brenda Mercer was elected unopposed as Chairman, Jane Sandover was elected unopposed as Treasurer and Judith Craig was elected unopposed as Secretary.

The next four positions on the Management Committee are representatives of the four affiliated organisations Woodford Community Players, Woodford Women's Institute, Woodford Community Council and the Parochial Church Council. Graham Farrand was elected unopposed as the Woodford Community Players' representative. Bryan Leck is to be the nominee for Woodford Community Council. Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Woodford Women's Institute (WI) are each putting someone forward to sit on the management committee but only after their own AGM's in October 2014. Paula Mott, Jacky Baker, Rosalie Griffin and Tim Tootle were also elected unopposed.

Lisa Gibson(Woodford resident) was elected from the floor

APPOINTMENT of AUDITORS / INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

Jane Sandover recommended Booth Ainsworth should be appointed as the continuing independent examiners.

Kris Hayward Proposed David Buszard Seconded the proposal and the acceptance of same was unanimous.

Grounds Report

Evelyn Frearson Grounds Update

Copse

- Started in 2011 with 100 free trees from Woodland Trust
- Area at front left of field ploughed
- Volunteers joined in planting day
- Planted double density

- Dry spring, wet winter, but more than half survived
- Bigger ones from home
- Will be thinned out to correct density
- Grass control needed

Wood Pond and Walk

- Spring 2012 started to tidy up wood and pond in corner of field
- Not noticed but had potential
- Bigger job, used for tipping
- Trees pruned, undergrowth and rubbish cleared
- Path created
- Mow once a month through summer
- Spring 2013 miniature daffodils donated by BH and planted along walk
- Came up again this spring to make a nice show of colour
- Donated and planted 150 bluebells along the walk
- Clay mound, some used to cover crockery tipping
- PR offered top soil. Offer gratefully accepted

Hedges

- Need trimming but not drastically as they are good for wildlife

More use of field

- Came up in responses to Forum questionnaire
- Problem is that it's underwater a lot of the year
- Drainage needed
- Field drainage not the complete answer
e.g field drains at front left were not stopping a persistent flood forming near the copse. However digging surface channels from the

flood to the ditch did drain it.

Commemorative Tea towels

- Unfortunately only 27 additional one were ordered, had to have a min of 100 and the price went up
- Could offer prints of the same design on heavyweight paper suitable for framing:
 - A4 50p
 - A3 £1

Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

WNF update by Paul Rodman. Questionnaire elicited 273 replies. Airfield. Planning Application not approved yet. Application sent to SMBC. Entrance, Demolition and hybrid applications submitted 1st phase is for 145 homes and plans were detailed. 450 units before school has to be built. Planning Application was split 6 – 6 and Chair placed casting vote to accept.. However because its developed on Green Belt it's being referred to Secretary of State. The only reason for call in is infringement of greenbelt. If Secretary of State calls it in then SMBC's decision is put aside. Viability assessment has not been done. MP Mark Hunter has spoken to Eric Pickles. More info will be available at WNF's AGM. Paul urged people to attend.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS	None
MEETING CLOSED AT	There being no other business, Colin Griffin closed the meeting at 8.30pm.