

Draft

Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on the 26th March 2019 at Edenfield Community Centre.

Attendees: - Management Committee – Ian Lord (Chairman); Margaret Filkins (Treasurer); Richard Lester; Paul Bradburn; Mark Whitehead; Mervyn MacDonald and Alan Ashworth (Secretary).

Apologies from Management Committee Members: - Paul Williams (Deputy Chairman); Richard Bishop & David Rawcliffe.

Attendees : -Members - Vincent Brady; Roger Barlow; Peter Haworth; Carol Ashworth; Quintin Crossley; Lesley Spurrell; Ron Marley; Colin Davies; Gill Hoyle; Les Adams, David Fisher; Trevor Latham; Liz Latham; Joanne Ash; Dorothy Jones; June Kenyon; Graeme Conway; Ken Parkes; Brenda Chester; Jenny Mead; Roy McDonald & Councillor Anne Cheetham.

Apologies from Members: - Walter Turk; Pat Turk; Stuart Dearden; Chris Bishop; Keith Kushner; Barbara Kushner; Michael Coyne; Ann-Marie Coyne; Peter Dawson; Peter Ash; Ken Holden; Gillian Hulme; Karen Duckworth; Karen Lester; Gaynor Brady, Gordon Worth & our M.P. Jake Berry.

- 1) **Opening Remarks.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to our first Annual General Meeting, thanked them for attending and introduced the individual Members of the Management Committee. He confirmed the Membership now stands at 215 with representation from approximately fifteen percent of the households in our neighbourhood area.
- 2) **Apologies.** The Apologies received are noted above.
- 3) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.** The Chairman asked if anyone present had any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests but none were declared.
- 4) **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on the 14th August 2018.** The Chairman asked if all who were present at the meeting on the 14th August had reviewed the minutes and agreed they were an accurate record of the meeting. Jenny Mead proposed the minutes should be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and Roger Barlow seconded the proposal. A vote was then taken; they were unanimously accepted with no objections or abstentions and duly signed by the Chairman.
- 5) **Constitution Amendments.** The Chairman advised the meeting that the Forum's Constitution was not exactly in accordance with the regulations on Neighbourhood Forums (Town and Country Planning Act 1990 section 61F(5)(b)(ii)) and read out the existing and proposed wording for the two clauses involved. The details were as follows:-

Clause 5.2 currently reads:

“Membership of the Forum is open to any person aged eighteen (18) years or more who lives in the Area and any person aged eighteen (18) years or more who works, and who has a long-term business interest in, the Area.”

The proposed new wording is

“Membership of the Forum is open to any person aged eighteen (18) years or more who lives in the Area and any person aged eighteen (18) years or more who works in the Area, whether for a business carried on there or otherwise.”

Clause 5.4 currently reads:

“Membership is open to

- (a) Borough Councillors for the Ward;
- (b) County Councillors for a division that includes all or part of the Area;
- (c) the Member of Parliament for a constituency including the Area or any part thereof;”

The proposed new wording is:

“Membership is open to

- (a) any elected member of Rossendale Borough Council or Lancashire County Council;
- (b) the Member of Parliament for a constituency including the Area or any part thereof;”

The Chairman asked if there were any questions relating to the change, no questions were raised. A vote was then taken; the motion was unanimously accepted with no objections or abstentions. The Chairman advised the change would now be submitted to Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) for final approval.

- 6) **Draft Local Plan.** The Secretary provided an update on the Local Plan and advised RBC had submitted their Regulation 19 Plan to the Planning Inspectorate on the 25th March 2019 which was approximately one month behind schedule. He confirmed the support the Forum had received for their Representation made on the 4th October 2018 was 1235 in total with 892 of these coming from the Neighbourhood Area itself.
He advised the Management Committee were continuing to question RBC with respect to their Plan and particularly with regards to the Employment Land requirement calculations which are subject to ongoing discussions with the Council’s Forward Planning Team. He highlighted the Representations made by Highways England and their subsequent change of view and confirmed the Management Committee were recording all the data to assist with the challenges to RBC’s Regulation 19 Plan.
He confirmed the ECNF Local Plan Committee were preparing for the Planning Inspectorate’s Examination probably in June 2019 and noted they expect to receive a schedule from the Inspectorate shortly.
- 7) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Secretary updated the Members on the progress with the Neighbourhood Plan and confirmed the Vision, Objectives and Policy Themes were being finalised and good progress was being made with the Baseline, Green Spaces, Key Views and Design Codes. He outlined the six stages that will take the Plan through to adoption by RBC with an approximate schedule.
- 8) **Annual Finance Report.** On behalf of the Treasurer the Chairman provided a comprehensive explanation with respect to the financial status of the Forum and thanked the Treasurer and the Scrutineer for their excellent work. He asked for any questions relating to the Accounts and answered one raised by Vince Brady with respect to the various grants received and their availability in the future. A vote with respect to the approval of the Accounts was then taken; they were unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions.
- 9) **Fund Raising.** Paul Bradburn thanked everyone who had contributed to the recent appeal on behalf of the Fund Raising Team and confirmed that the majority of funding raised to date came from the Coffee Morning and Quiz held in October and November respectively. He announced a further Quiz has been arranged for 7-30pm on April 27th in the Community Centre, the charge is £8 as before and this includes a potato pie supper. He further advised the Edenfield Residents Association will be holding a raffle at the Annual

Cricket Match between the Residents and the Village Team and the revenue from this will be given to the Forum. The Forum will also be participating at the annual Village Fete on the 8th June with other fund raising activities. He asked for suggestions from Members and the following were put forward for consideration by the Team: - Sponsored Walk; Auction, 100/200 Club; Cheese & Wine with a Speaker and a Horse Racing night. Paul thanked everyone for their contributions.

- 10) **Management Committee.** In line with the Constitution the Management Committee Members are required to apply for re-election on an annual basis and the Chairman confirmed that all existing Members with the exception of Gillian Hoyle have put their names forward for consideration. He thanked Gillian for her contribution, she was one of the original five members who started the Forum and she has worked tirelessly in promoting the Forum through Newsletters and Social Media. The Chairman then asked for approval for the existing Members to be re-elected and Councillor Anne Cheetham proposed the motion. A vote was then taken; the motion was unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions. The Chairman advised the Members there were two vacancies on the Committee and if anyone was interested in joining they should contact him.
- 11) **Date of Next Meeting.** We are targeting for September 2019 to coincide with the submission of our Draft Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan.
- 12) **Any other business.** Councillor Anne Cheetham raised the issue of the A56 flooding on a regular basis and suggested the Forum contact the Police to try to obtain data relating to the number accidents related to the flooding. She further commented that the closure of the A56 leads to chaos in the Village and this issue should be included in our challenges. Finally, Councillor Anne Cheetham thanked the Members of the Committee for all their efforts in getting the Forum from a blank sheet of paper to representing the Village and for all the research and challenges made on behalf of the residents. This was endorsed by all the Forum Members present.
- 13) The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions to the discussions and closed the meeting at 8-50pm.

Signed.....Chairman. Dated.....