

EDENFIELD COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HELD ON THURSDAY 14th JULY 2022 AT EDENFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

ATTENDEES - Management Committee - Ian Lord (Chair), Margaret Filkins (Treasurer), Mervyn MacDonald (Acting Secretary), Richard Lester and David Rawcliffe. 40 members

APOLOGIES - Management Committee - Paul Bradburn and Richard Bishop. 5 members

- 1) **Opening remarks and welcome** – The meeting commenced at 7.47pm with the Chair (IL) welcoming all attendees and then introducing the Management Committee members in attendance. He explained that it had not been possible to hold AGMs over the last two years due to Covid restrictions so now was the opportunity to catch up. He also explained that non-members had been invited to attend, but not vote, as the Forum was keen for all to have the chance to express their views. Furthermore, non-members were encouraged to become members and potentially to become Management Committee members.
- 2) **Apologies** – IL gave details of those who had sent apologies for being unable to attend.
- 3) **Disclosable pecuniary interests** – IL explained the need for disclosure of pecuniary interests. None were made.
- 4) **Minutes from last AGM held 26 March 2019** – IL advised that these had been distributed to all members with the notice of the meeting. He asked for a proposer and seconder, from those who had attended the 2019 meeting, that the minutes prepared be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was proposed by Stuart Dearden, seconded by Vince Brady, and approved by way of a show of hands with no objections.
- 5) **Forum activity report and 7) Development of ex green belt land** – An Activity Report had been distributed prior to the meeting which gave a summary of the Forum's activities since its commencement in 2017 and included a summary of the Forum's income and expenditure also from commencement and up to the end of the last financial year on 31 December 2021. Additional copies were available for anyone who required one.
IL advised that the Local Plan (2019 – 2036) for Rossendale had now been formally approved by the Council and he further explained that despite the considerable efforts of the Forum and others the attempts to persuade the Council and the independent Planning Inspectors to desist from removing the H66 land west of Market Street from Green Belt had ended in failure. This produced a number of comments from the floor from which it was clear that all those who spoke were most unhappy about the position albeit for various reasons. Transport issues were mentioned several times and IL advised that one of the conditions that needed to be satisfied before actual building could commence was a proper transport assessment and also for the issue of schooling provision to be resolved. He also mentioned that another condition was that a masterplan be produced which produced another adverse response from the floor in respect of the recent document issued by two of the developers. IL advised he did

not believe the recent document was a true masterplan as envisaged in the Local Plan and that the Forum would be seeking for this to be rectified but ultimately it was a matter for the Council to deal with. He also explained that the Neighbourhood Plan and associated Design Code should be followed by developers which might help with some of the points raised. Vince Brady addressed the meeting from the floor to advise that he had attended many of the public hearings in front of the Planning Inspectors and felt that the case put forward by the Forum was comprehensive and professional. Councillor Anne Cheetham raised points about Market Street parking and also that Lancashire County Council had resolved to better supervise parking in and around all the schools under its control plus that other transport issues were likely to arise when United Utilities started work in the Edenfield area on the Haweswater aqueduct. There was also a suggestion that a one way system should be considered. IL concluded that there was a lot for the Forum to consider from the points raised which would be considered at the next Management Committee meeting.


- 6) **Financial Reports and approval of accounts** – IL advised that, in addition to the summary of figures given as part of the Activity Report the Forum's accounts for the years ended 31 December 2019, 2020, and 2021 had been distributed to members with the Notice convening the AGM. He asked whether there were any questions or comments but there were none. He asked for a proposer and seconder that the accounts be approved. This was proposed by Barbara Lord, seconded by Jenny Mead, and approved by way of a show of hands with no objections. Margaret Filkins was standing down from the position of Treasurer and IL thanked her for her excellent work over the last four years.
- 8) **Neighbourhood Plan** – IL explained that the draft Neighbourhood Plan was being changed to reflect the new Local Plan (2019 – 2036) as adopted by the Council in December 2021. The Design Code had been updated and the revised version had been supplied to the Council who in turn had supplied them to some developers. He further explained that it was hoped the updated version of the Neighbourhood Plan would be available for public consultation in the near future and for the public referendum within nine month's time.
- 9) **Fund Raising** – IL advised that as per the accounts the Forum had undertaken various fund-raising events over the years to 2019 but nothing over the last couple of years. He further explained that although almost all funds raised had been spent there was no immediate need for further funds until there was documentation from the developers that needed consideration. In response to a question from the floor he said he thought the most likely area of expenditure would be with transport advisors. Mervyn MacDonald commented that it would be possible to spend almost unlimited funds, but the Forum had to be realistic. He added that to date many free of charge hours had been spent on Forum activities by some Committee members which if undertaken by third parties would have involved considerable costs. He further added that going forward it was important that the Forum gained additional Committee members.
- 10) **Election of Management Committee** – IL reported that Alan Ashworth and Mark Whitehead were both not seeking re-election and that Paul Williams had resigned as

a Management Committee member in 2021. He thanked them all for their extensive work for the Forum over the last four years. He further reported that the remaining seven Management Committee members (five in attendance plus Paul Bradburn and Richard Bishop) were all seeking re-election. Furthermore, Helen McVey had indicated prior to the meeting that she would like to join the Management Committee. Volunteers were sought from the floor for additional Management Committee members and Vince Brady put his name forward. IL asked for a proposer and seconder that the Management Committee be elected en bloc consisting of himself, Margaret Filkins, Richard Lester, David Rawcliffe, Mervyn MacDonald, Paul Bradburn, Richard Bishop, Helen McVey, and Vince Brady. This was proposed by Stuart Dearden, seconded by Karen Lester and approved by way of a show of hands with no objections. IL thanked the members for their support and advised there were still spaces available on the Management Committee and should anyone wish to volunteer after the meeting then they should contact him at any time.

11) Date of next meeting – IL advised that the next AGM would likely take place in March 2023. If, in the meantime, a general meeting of members was needed then one would be arranged.

12) Any other business – From the floor Quintin Crossley suggested that if “foot-soldiers” were required to canvass support for Forum membership or some other reason he would be prepared to assist and there could be others who would be similarly like-minded.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm

 IAN LEWIS, CHAIR 21/3/23