

EDENFIELD COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HELD ON TUESDAY 21st MARCH 2023 AT EDENFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

ATTENDEES - Management Committee - Ian Lord (Chairperson), Mervyn MacDonald (Treasurer and Acting Secretary for the AGM), Margaret Filkins, Richard Bishop, Paul Bradburn, Helen McVey, Vince Brady, Richard Lester and David Rawcliffe plus co-opted members Ben Bentley and Martin Dearden.

APOLOGIES - Management Committee – None

ATTENDEES – Members – 21

APOLOGIES – Members – 4

- 1) Opening remarks and welcome** – The meeting commenced at 7.46pm with the Chairperson (IL) welcoming all attendees and introducing the Management Committee members in attendance. He explained that this third AGM was taking place nine months after the last AGM to realign the AGM into March each year following the disruption caused by Covid restrictions. He then explained that non members had been invited to attend, but not vote, as the Forum was keen for all to have the chance to participate. He also advised that the Forum now had circa 350 members representing 28% of households in Edenfield up by 10% over the last year. This, he explained, was a welcome increase and helped to give the Forum a stronger voice with the Council.
- 2) Apologies** – IL gave details of one member who had sent apologies for being unable to attend and a further three apologies were given from the floor.
- 3) Disclosable pecuniary interests** – IL explained the need for disclosure of pecuniary interests. None were made.
- 4) Minutes from last AGM held 14 July 2022** – IL advised that these had been distributed to all members with the notice of the meeting and further copies had been given out to attendees on their arrival. He asked for any errors or omissions to be brought to the attention of the meeting but none arose. He therefore asked for a proposer and seconder that the minutes prepared be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held 14 July 2022. This was proposed by Paul Bradburn seconded by John Ayers and approved by way of a show of hands with no objections.
- 5) Treasurer's Report and Approval of the Year Ended 31 December 2022 Accounts** – The Treasurer referred the meeting to the 2022 Accounts and his written report thereon distributed in advance of the meeting with the notice convening the meeting and further copies given out to attendees on their arrival. He then gave a brief overview of the figures and invited questions from the floor of which there were none. IL asked for a proposer and seconder to the resolution to approve the Accounts. The proposer was David Fisher, seconded by Peter Dawson and the accounts were approved by way of a show of hands with no objections.

- 6) Forum activity report** - IL advised that it was a requirement that Forum members were appraised of Forum activities and an activity report covering the period since the last AGM had been distributed to members with the notice convening the meeting with further copies given out to attendees on their arrival. He commented that much of the activity of the Forum over the last nine months was probably well known to members as it was mostly in respect of the consultations undertaken by developers which the Forum had made considerable efforts to encourage all residents to participate in. Questions or comments were invited but none arose. IL advised that as the activity report was for information only it was not necessary/appropriate for it to be formally approved.
- 7) Development of ex Green Belt land (site H66)** - IL advised that following the Local Plan (2019 – 2036) for Rossendale being formally approved by the Council in December 2021 it was not surprising that developers had now moved towards planning applications. In this respect he advised that the Forum had established a very useful pattern of meetings with the planning office and so far meetings had taken place in October 2022 and January 2023 with a further meeting scheduled for next week. It appeared that the Council were engaging positively with the Forum and keeping the Forum up to date with progress. In addition the Forum had engaged in two meetings with Peel Holdings with another likely to take place in April. However there had been no dialogue with Taylor Wimpey. The Forum was trying to get the best for the Village but there were many issues to resolve not least the high number, wide ranging and well thought out objections from residents to the Taylor Wimpey plans plus the considerable number of more technical objections submitted by statutory consultees. 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. Matters raised included the lack of a Masterplan in an acceptable form, whether bus companies had been consulted, Exchange Street access issues, the apparent refusal of planning permission on a site in Whalley due to traffic problems which might be a useful precedent and the stance of United Utilities with the potential need for sewerage pumping stations. Transport and car parking issues were mentioned several times and IL advised that the Forum had been in contact and met with LCC Highways Department and had engaged SK Transport to respond to the transport assessment produced by Taylor Wimpey as part of their planning application. In this respect SK had also had contact with LCC Highways Department. SK were also involved in the representations made at the Public Hearings so were very familiar with the issues involved and would continue to be involved as and when necessary in the future. Points were made about the significant extra traffic produced by by-pass closures, the potential of on street parking being restricted and that recently Bury Road was the subject of a southbound “width restriction” diversion. The status of the Neighbourhood Plan and associated Design Codes was also raised and IL explained they would have to be followed once adopted and should at least be considered in the period prior to formal adoption, which might help with some of the points raised. IL concluded that there were a number of useful points raised for the Forum to look into which would be considered at the next Management Committee meeting.

- 8) Neighbourhood Plan** – IL explained that the Neighbourhood Plan was currently subject to a Regulation 14 consultation with residents. It had been necessary to change the Plan to reflect the new Local Plan (2019 – 2036) as adopted by the Council in December 2021 which had delayed progress and also meant the Plan’s potential impact had been reduced. Nevertheless it was still important that the Plan be finalised. The consultation had been delayed because of the two Taylor Wimpey consultations undertaken late 2022/early 2023. However it was now ongoing and anybody who had not already done so was encouraged to participate. A full set of documents was available at the back of the room as were paper versions of the feedback form. Alternatively the documents were available on line, or at Rawtenstall library or for inspection at the Community Centre late afternoon on Tuesday 28 March. If anybody needed further help then IL should be at the Community Centre on the 28th or could be contacted via the Forum website.
- 9) Fund Raising** – IL advised that whilst the Forum had undertaken various fund-raising events over the years to 2019 nothing had been done over the last couple of years mainly due to Covid restrictions. He thought the most likely area of future expenditure would be with transport consultants. Over the period December/January/February about £3,000 had been raised in donations and IL thanked those who had contributed. About £1,450 had been spent on transport consultants with further expenditure on publicity distributed throughout the village. There was a small amount of funds in hand but, as ever, any further donations would be much appreciated.
- 10) Election of Management Committee** – IL advised, that as notified to members by email, he intended to stand down as Chairperson. However in that the procedure at the AGM was to just elect Management Committee members who then at a later date elected the Forum Officers he would remain in position until the next Management Committee meeting. IL then reported that the existing nine Management Committee members had all indicated they wished to stand for reelection. In addition Ben Bentley (currently a co-opted member to the Management Committee) had indicated he wished to stand for election to the Management Committee. IL asked if any member in attendance wished to stand for election as there were still spaces available but there were no takers. IL then asked for a proposer and seconder that a Management Committee be elected en bloc consisting of himself, Margaret Filkins, Richard Lester, David Rawcliffe, Mervyn MacDonald, Paul Bradburn, Richard Bishop, Helen McVey, Vince Brady and Ben Bentley. This was proposed by Moyra Franklin seconded by Quintin Crossley and approved by way of a show of hands with no objections. IL thanked the members for their support.
- 11) Date of next meeting** – IL advised that the next AGM would likely take place in March 2024. If, in the meantime, a general meeting of members was needed then one would be arranged.
- 12) Any other business** – From the floor a vote of thanks was made in respect of IL’s service as Chairperson and his considerable amount of work undertaken on behalf of the Forum since it commenced. A vote of thanks was also made in respect of Richard Lester’s efforts on behalf of the Forum in producing comprehensive submissions in respect of the four consultations that had been undertaken over the last year.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm