

EDENFIELD COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH MARCH 2024 AT EDENFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

ATTENDEES - Management Committee - Mervyn MacDonald (Chair), Helen McVey (Deputy Chair), Vince Brady (Treasurer), Ian Lord (Secretary), Ben Bentley, Paul Bradburn, Margaret Filkins, Richard Lester.

APOLOGIES - Management Committee – Richard Bishop, David Rawcliffe

ATTENDEES – Members – 30

APOLOGIES – Members – 5

1) Opening remarks and welcome

The meeting commenced at 7.45pm with the Chair (MM) who welcomed all attendees and introduced the Management Committee members. 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 over 350 members.

2) Apologies

The Secretary (IL) gave the names of the five members who had given their apologies for being unable to attend. There were no further apologies from the floor.

3) Disclosable pecuniary interests

MM explained the need for disclosure of pecuniary interests. He asked if anyone in attendance had any interests to declare. No disclosures were made.

4) Minutes from last AGM held 21 March 2023

MM advised that these had been distributed to all members with the Notice of 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 from attendees of the previous meeting that the minutes prepared be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 21 March 2023. This was proposed by Roger Barlow seconded by John Ayers and approved by way of a show of hands with no objections.

5) Treasurer's Report and Approval of the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Treasurer (VB) referred the meeting to the 2023 Receipts and Payments Accounts and his written report thereon which had been distributed in advance with the Notice of Meeting with further copies given out to attendees on their arrival. He then reviewed his Report and the Accounts and explained that members of the Management Committee often themselves incur incidental costs such as printing and stationery without seeking reimbursement from the Forum.

He thanked Debra Batchelor for acting as Scrutineer and residents for their continuing support.

In response to a question from the floor as to whether Committee members were out of pocket VB explained that any costs incurred were bearable. In response to a further question about the grants received from Locality VB and IL explained that these were government grants to fund the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. They are assessed and administered by Locality which is a non-profit making organisation supporting local community organisations.

MM asked for a proposer and seconder for the resolution to approve the Accounts. The proposer was Roy McDonald seconded by Michael Coyne and the Accounts were approved by way of a show of hands with no objections.

6) Neighbourhood Plan

IL explained that, following the Regulation 14 consultation in April 2023, all comments received were considered and changes made to the Neighbourhood Plan where appropriate. The revised Plan had now been submitted to the Council who would undertake a six-week Regulation 16 consultation. The Plan and all comments received would then be submitted to an independent Examiner who would prepare a report on whether the correct procedures had been followed and could make recommendations for amendments to the Plan. The final Plan would be subject to a referendum of all Edenfield residents. If the Plan is approved at the referendum the policies therein would be used by the Council's Planning Department when considering any Edenfield planning applications.

IL was unable to answer questions from the floor as to what would happen if the referendum failed to approve the Plan and whether that situation had occurred elsewhere in the country. Also, he was unable to comment on the qualifications necessary to be appointed an Examiner. He was able to respond to a question as to whether the Neighbourhood Plan could affect the timing of planning applications – he did not expect them to be affected.

7) Forum Activity Report

An Activity Report covering the period since the last AGM had been distributed to members with the Notice of Meeting with further copies given out to attendees on their arrival. MM advised that it was a requirement that Forum members be appraised of Forum activities but it was not necessary for the Activity Report to be formally approved. MM reviewed the Report and asked for questions or comments but none arose.

8) Development of ex Green Belt land (site H66)

MM updated the meeting of the latest situation making the following comments:

- Regular meetings with the Council's Planning Department (also attended by some Councillors) have continued. They have kept us updated and seem to be receptive to the Forum's comments.
- The Head of Planning has issued two letters to Taylor Wimpey's agents expressing concerns about parts of their Edenfield Masterplan. The main issues are implementation/phasing, highways, foul drainage, schools, biodiversity, Green Belt compensation and the requirement for high quality design.
- Taylor Wimpey's land stability investigations have indicated significant issues and the Council have engaged their own consultants who are advising them on the findings. Ben Bentley commented that the surveys had shown that the land stability of the Taylor Wimpey site was worse than anticipated. The problems can be engineered out but this will be costly. Some of the land (deposited when the bypass was built) was contaminated and would require removal which was likely to be an invasive and costly exercise. Water courses were a further problem and need monitoring for a year to enable full assessment.
- LCC and National Highways have concerns about potential flooding including the proposed SUDS.
- A multi-party meeting (ECNF, Taylor Wimpey, LCC, Rossendale) to discuss all the traffic issues was being arranged. The Forum are insisting on comprehensive traffic and parking surveys and assessments. The Forum has suggested that the Council appoint their own consultants to review the highways proposals but the Council consider that LCC effectively carry out this role.
- Schools. The requirement for an increase in the size of Edenfield School to cater for the increase in residents was in question due to the possibility of available places in primary schools within two miles.

Comments from the floor included:

- There is no justification for building 400 houses on H66.

- There are primary schools within two miles of the Northstone site which are not within two miles of the Taylor Wimpey site.
- The H66 allocation had been forced through the Local Plan but was not necessary.
- The existing sewers are potentially insufficient which together with the necessary pumping stations would add significant costs to the developments. The more costly construction costs are could make developers reconsider the number of houses. However, all the complications add to the Council planning costs which ends up as a cost to Council Tax payers.
- The proposed Northstone houses are more modern than those proposed by Taylor Wimpey. MM commented that it is a Council requirement for all housing to be of high quality.
- Building regulations changed in 2023 which should improve the quality of housing particularly in respect of energy efficiency.
- In response to a question about the Chatterton Hey site IL reported that the Methodist Church were now marketing the site and expected to have a preferred bidder within three months. The bidder would then be responsible for submitting a planning application. There is considerable amount of wildlife on the site including deer.

MM concluded that it was “watch this space” and the Forum would keep residents informed of progress.

HM pointed out that there would inevitably be more consultations. She thanked residents for all the objections submitted so far and it is important that they continue to submit objections in any future consultations.

9) Fund raising

MM thanked everybody who had donated to the Forum. The donations have mainly been used to fund the cost of transport consultants who have advised us on this specialist area. Further advice will continue to be needed so donations will continue to be needed. In this respect MM advised that there was a donations box by the exit door.

10) Election of Management Committee

MM advised that the procedure at the AGM is to elect Management Committee members who then meet at a later date to elect the Forum Officers. He reported that with the exception of Ben Bentley the existing eight Management Committee members had all indicated they wished to stand for re-election. Ben had indicated that he would be happy to continue to assist the Committee as a co-opted member. MM asked if any member in attendance wished to stand for election as there were still spaces available but there were no takers. He then asked for a proposer and seconder that a Management Committee be elected en bloc consisting of himself, Margaret Filkins, Richard Lester, Ian Lord, David Rawcliffe, Paul Bradburn, Richard Bishop, Helen McVey and Vince Brady. This was proposed by Barbara Marriott seconded by Kathleen Shaughnessy and approved by way of a show of hands with no objections. MM thanked the members for their support and requested that if anybody would like to assist in the future they should contact any member of the Committee.

Anne Cheetham thanked all the Committee members for their work which was applauded by the floor.

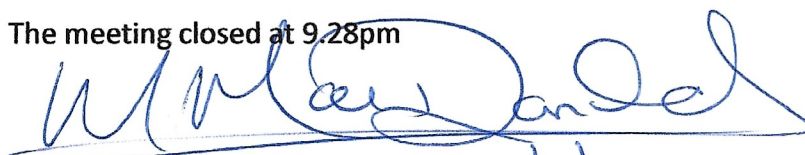
11) Date of next meeting

MM advised that the next AGM would likely take place in March 2025. If, in the meantime, a general meeting of members was needed then one would be arranged.

12) Any other business

None.

The meeting closed at 9.28pm



24/3/25