

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF)

AGM

(Annual General Meeting)

www.rmnf.co.uk

Thursday 21st November 2019 at 7:30pm,
Spotland Methodist Church, Rooley Moor Road, Rochdale OL12 7ES

AGENDA

1. Introductions & Apologies
 - Code of Conduct
 - Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty
2. To read and if considered appropriate to approve the Minutes of the Annual General meeting of 2018 held on 25th October 2018
3. Review Action Log
4. To read and if considered appropriate to adopt the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2019
 - To review and agree our reserves policy, and
 - Consider appropriate expenditure of surplus funds
5. Legal & Administrative Information
6. Reports from Trustees and Officers of the Forum
7. Trustee & Officer Rotation, Resignation and Appointment
8. HLF Project
9. Neighbourhood Plan
10. Other Items
11. Future plans and opportunities
12. Open Forum
13. AOB
14. Date & Time of Next Meeting

Agenda Item 1

Introduction / Apologies / Code of Conduct / Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty

Introduction

- Welcome – come and go as you please. Ask any questions as we go along.
- Health & Safety – Fire exits, etc
- Toilets – location
- Any declarations of interest

Apologies

- TBC

Code of Conduct (in the event of any issues the decision of the chair is final)

It is established by and for the Rochdale Neighbourhood Forums that the following code of conduct will govern the behaviour of their members. The Chair of this meeting will enforce the code of conduct.

Conduct at meetings

Members will at all times observe accepted practice while taking part in discussions to:

- Be courteous to each other and support and assist other members in finding the best possible solution to problems being discussed
- Allow each other the opportunity to speak and comment
- Attempt as far as possible to stick to the agenda and assist each other to reach effective conclusions
- Operate within the agreed Terms of Reference
- Aggression, violence, threats, harassment, intimidation and other disruptive behaviour in the forum will not be tolerated
- The term 'members' applies to all those present at the meeting

Confidentiality

- Members will refrain from mentioning specific individual cases which may cause embarrassment or identification of an individual
- Any information or item shared that is of a confidential nature will not be disclosed to anyone else apart from members of the Forum in order to allow the business of the meeting to proceed.

Dignity at meetings

- All those who attend Forum meetings have the right to be treated with dignity and respect regardless of their race, colour, ethnic or national origin, nationality, gender, marital status, age, sexuality, religion or any other matter which causes people to be discriminated against
- The meeting will do all that is in its power to oppose all forms of harassment and bullying

Individual Members

- Should disclose any personal interest that they consider may affect or influence their approach to the matter being discussed
- Must show respect in all their dealings by observing reasonable standards and courtesy, and by not seeking to take unfair advantage by virtue of their position

Political Affiliation

- Even though individual members may be affiliated to/or be members of a political party, they may not represent a political party in their role as individual members of this Forum

Breach of Code of Conduct

- If anyone attending the Forum meeting does not abide by the code of conduct, the Chair will have the discretion to decide on an appropriate course of action. The Chair may either issue a warning, ask the people to withdraw from a particular agenda item or exclude that person from the meeting.
- Where a person is asked to leave a meeting, the Chair will have the discretion to decide whether or not that person is welcome to attend future meetings.
- The Chair at his/her discretion, may close the meeting if he/she deems it necessary

Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty

Forum Trustees and Members are required to declare any pecuniary, personal or personal and prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests relating to items on this agenda.

A charity trustee must:

1. Declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the CIO or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the CIO which has not previously been declared; and
2. Absent himself or herself from any discussions of the charity trustees in which it is possible that a conflict of interest will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the CIO and any personal interest (including but not limited to any financial interest). Any charity trustee absenting himself or herself from any discussions in accordance with this clause must not vote or be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the charity trustees on the matter.

Agenda Item 2

To read and if considered appropriate to approve the Minutes of the Annual General meeting of 2018 held on 25th October 2018

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF)

AGM

Thursday 25th October 2018 at 7:30pm

Spotland Methodist Church, Rooley Moor Road, Rochdale OL12 7ES

MINUTES OF MEETING

FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT: John & Janette Newcombe, Gwyn & Jack Fitton, Peter Howard, Morley Morgan, Fran Healey, Win McGhee, Stuart Davies, Phil Massey, Steve Davison, Councillor Wendy Cocks and Alan Rawsterne

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Andy & Mair Meek, Councillor Cecile Biant, Margaret Howard, Margaret & Nick Green, Jim Murphy, Jen Holt, Loraine & George Lock, Helen Moore and Sue Morgan

MINUTES: The meeting commenced at 19:00

1. Introduction

Alan Rawsterne (AR) opened the meeting, welcomed all, dealt with housekeeping (fire exit and toilets), the meeting code of conduct and apologies (detailed above)

2. Minutes of AGM 2nd November 2017

AR confirmed minutes were circulated after the AGM and no amendments were made.

- Phil Massey (PM) proposed to accept the minutes
 - John Newcombe (JN) seconded the proposal
 - The minutes were unanimously accepted on a show of hands

3. Review Action Log

AR reviewed the outstanding actions and noted the following:

1. AR is monitoring Rochdale planning applications each week and JN is monitoring applications for Rossendale. This action is on going and because of it, JN identified an application in Rossendale for 119 houses at the site of Spring Mill. At this time there are approximately 180 objections, however we know not all of the objections have not been logged due to some system issues. RMNF has given a consultee response asking for the planners to consider our neighbourhood plan as it reflects the views of our community. The main concerns with this proposal are:
 - a. Increased volume of traffic (which will also affect Rochdale)
 - b. School places (it's expected the homes will be low cost and will attract young families)
 - c. Contamination on the site (placed near water source, river, etc)
 - d. Lack of consultation (Prickshaw & Broadley Fold Conservation falls within the developers consultation area, but no one from PBFCA area was consulted)
 - e. Possible adverse affect on PBFCA
 - f. Possible adverse affect on Healey Dell Nature reserve

2. Trustee training – any member is welcome to attend a trustee training session if they wish as it may help with understanding of a trustees role and responsibilities.
3. Draft proposal for heritage signage – more of that later in the HLF project update. Quiet Lanes status to be removed. Advice from highways is enforcement would be an issue and it would be better to have road-calming measures.
4. Catley Lane Head drains – Some gully cleaning has taken place, however, a number of the drains are still blocked and water is being directed down Smallshaw road – We agreed this action should remain in place and another request be made to clear the blocked drains. It was also noted that the footpath on left as you enter the rural section of Rooley Moor Road traveling towards Catley Lane Head is in poor condition and still requires cleaning and repair.
5. Reinstatement of the gate at the top of Knacks Lane, to stop fly tipping etc. AR advised conversations have taken place with some of the commoners who use the moor and the Lord of the Manors agent, all agree and support the idea of reinstating the gate. AR advised the Rights of Way officer is seeking for a quote to cost the installation so AR can seek funding. PM and CWC advise funding might be available through the ‘Clean & Green’ committee.
6. AR advised an email has been sent to Sue Devaney asking if she would like to be a Patron of our forum. Unfortunately, no response has been received. CWC advised she would ask on our behalf and advise

ACTION: Councillor Wendy Cocks (CWC) to request a gully cleaner

ACTION: CWC to request the footpath noted above to be cleaned and repaired

ACTION: AR to seek quote and funding for gate

ACTION: CWC to ask Sue Devaney if she would like to be a Patron of our forum

- AR proposed to accept the outstanding actions
 - Morley Morgan (MM) seconded the proposal
 - The outstanding actions were unanimously accepted on a show of hands

4. Accounts for year ending 31st August 2017

FH explained the accounts and recommended we continue with our reserves policy of £400 to cover insurance and website costs for the coming year. FH advised she was stepping down as Treasurer but would remain as a trustee and continue to provide advice. Fran will also arrange an independent review and verification of our accounts

- FH proposed to accept the accounts
 - JN seconded the proposal
 - The accounts were unanimously accepted on a show of hands

5. Legal & Administrative Information

AR explained the legal and administrative information

6. Reports from Trustees and Officers

AR explained the content of the report, noting the resignation of Nick Green and the biographies provided by our three potential new trustees. Highlights from the year were identified and discussed.

ACTION: AR to post the report on RMNF web and social media sites

- AR proposed to accept the trustees reports

- PM seconded the proposal
- The trustees reports were unanimously accepted on a show of hands

7. Trustee & Officer Rotation, Resignation & Appointment

Trustees: The following people stood down from their positions:

- Councillor Cecile Biant - Trustee
- Reverend Morley Morgan - Trustee

The following people stood for election as trustees:

- Councillor Cecile Biant - Trustee
- Reverend Morley Morgan - Trustee
- Philip Massey - Trustee
- Dr. Steve Davison – Trustee
- Councillor Wendy Cocks
 - FH proposed to approve the resignations and appointments
 - Seconded by: Stuart Davies (SD)
 - Unanimously accepted on a show of hands

Forum Officers: FH stood down from the position of Treasurer

The following people volunteered for election:

- Reverend Morley Morgan – Vice Chair
- John Newcombe - Treasurer
 - CWC proposed to approve the appointments
 - Seconded by: Dr. Steve Davison (DSD)
 - Unanimously accepted on a show of hands

8. Updates – Neighbourhood Plan & HLF Project

Neighbourhood Plan: AR gave an overview of next steps and timelines. AR noted some of the issues and misunderstanding that had become apparent during the 'Pre-Submission' consultation process. AR re-iterated that the forum DOES NOT make planning decisions or create new legislation. AR is attending a meeting with RMBC strategic planning on the 5/11/18 to discuss the council formally accepting the plan. CWC advised the next Township meeting, where the neighbourhood plan might be discussed is 23/01/19.

ACTION: AR to keep everyone informed

HLF Project: AR gave an update of the project, providing examples of viewfinder and visitor interpretation display board designs. We discussed the location for the visitor interpretation board in Catley Lane Head – the preferred location is where the phone box used to be – we also discussed the fact that the plinth for the BBC plaque is deteriorating and the practicality of mounting the BBC plaque on the visitor interpretation board. Everyone present preferred to keep the BBC plaque in its current location.

ACTION: AR to establish if the site of the old phone box can be used for the Catley Lane Head visitor interpretation board

ACTION: AR to procure a new plinth for the BBC plaque

9. Open Forum & AOB

- **Open Forum:**

- Catley Carols – we agreed to hold an event again this year, 7pm Thursday 20th December 2018. MM has invited the Bishop of Middleton. We agreed to supply refreshments mince pies and mulled wine and to fund this from forum funds.

ACTION: AR to circulate details, once agreed

- Community event – We all agreed having an event in 2019 would be appropriate:

ACTION: AR to seek event group membership to discuss this point further

- Rossendale Local Plan – For information
- Proposed planning application at Spring Mill – For information

ACTION: AR to circulate updates as they become available

- Rochdale Allocations Plan – For information
- GMSF (Greater Manchester Spatial Framework) – Contains Greenbelt development proposals. An update was due in October, however, the Greater Manchester Authority is asking for clarification on population figures before publishing the GMSF for consultation. It was noted that the Rochdale Allocations Plan had no allocations affecting the Rooley Moor Area. Rochdale have produced their plan ahead of the GMSF and it's expected the GMSF will reflect the Rochdale Allocations Plan

ACTION: AR to monitor and circulate details when they become available.

- CWC mentioned Vintage Works wanted to arrange Spotland Carnival in 2019. Catley Lane Head might feature in any plans

ACTION: AR to make contact with Vintage Works and share details

- AR mentioned a contact from Wild About Rochdale who are holding an event on the 24th November 2018 at St Mary in the Baum. RMNF has been invited to have a display at this event.

ACTION: AR to post details on our social media sites

- **AOB:**

- CWC advised the Clean & Green Committee may be able to provide funding for reinstatement of the gate at the top of Knacks Lane.

ACTION: AR to obtain quote and make application for funds

- CWC advised there is now a 'Live Chat' facility on the GM Police website (see: <http://www.gmp.police.uk>) and this is a faster way of reporting non emergency incidents. Ringing 101 is still an option
- AR advised our forum is supporting other neighbourhood forums and our constitution has been adopted by Locality and being recommended for any neighbourhood forum wishing to become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
- Catley Lane Head in Bloom – Everyone agreed Helen Moore, Elaine Marsden and everyone involved did a fantastic job for the competition. AR proposed that any

income, after expenses, from the RMNF 2019 calendar should be used to support the 2019 Catley Lane Head 'In Bloom' initiative. All present agreed to this proposal

10. Next Meeting

- TBC – AR advised the next meeting would probably be in the New Year. Updates will be posted on the RMNF web and social media sites and (or) sent by email

Agenda Item 3

Review Action Log

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum - Actions				
Date of action	Description of action	Who is responsible	Comment	Date Completed
17/03/2016	Continue to monitor Rochdale and Rossendale planning applications for anything affecting our area	AR & JN		On-going
07/12/2016	Let AR know if you would like to attend a trustees training day	ALL		On-going
02/11/2017	CB to request the footpath from 607 Rooley Moor Road to opposite Harper Road Farm - request for it to be cleaned and repaired	CCB	01/11/18 CCB rang to advise this section of footpath is noted for repair	
25/10/2018	Neighbourhood Plan - Keep everyone informed - currently waiting for RMBC to formally accept the submitted plan	AR	To be discussed at the November 2019 AGM	
25/10/2018	RMNF 2019 Event - AR to establish a team in the New Year to organise an event	AR	Not done - do we want a 2020 event	
25/10/2018	GMSF - AR to circulate information as it becomes available	AR	Update at the November 2019 AGM	

- **Proposed to carry forward the outstanding actions:**
- **Seconded by:**
- **Accepted / Rejected – Show of Hands**

Agenda Item 4

Reconciliation of Accounts 2018/19 To Bank Statement			
	Paypal	Co-Op	Total
Opening Balance 01/09/18	50	11,079	11,128
Receipts Reported	0	3,779	3,779
Expenditure Reported	0	(11,920)	(11,920)
Closing Balance 31/8/19 Reported	50	2,938	2,988
Balance at Bank 31/8/19	50	2,938	2,988

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Accounts

Year End: 31-Aug-19

	2018/19 Restricted	2018/19 Restricted	2018/19 Restricted	2018/19 Restricted	2018/19 Restricted	2018/19 Restricted	2018/19 Restricted	2018/19 Unrestricted	2018/19 Total
	PCC	DQAG	Asda	Christmas 17	HLF 17	Gate	Gate	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance B/F from Summary 2017-18	320	1,382	176	40	8,304	0	0	907	11,128
INCOME									
Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donations In	0	0	0	0	2,500	1,000	0	279	3,779
Total Income	0	0	0	0	2,500	1,000	0	279	3,779
EXPENDITURE									
Consultant Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Room Hire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Website	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(140)	(140)
Donations Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Printing & Stationery	0	0	0	0	(2,588)	0	0	0	(2,588)
Projects	(289)	0	0	0	(7,848)	(1,000)	0	0	(9,136)
In Bloom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Misc Expenses	0	0	0	(40)	0	0	0	(15)	(55)
Total Expenditure	(289)	0	0	(40)	(10,436)	(1,000)	0	(155)	(11,920)
Closing Balance	32	1,382	176	(0)	368	0	0	1,031	2,988

Notes – Referring to the £2,988 above; at the date of the AGM, all costs are accounted for. It is proposed to maintain our annual reserves policy at £400 to cover insurance (estimated at £150 - due June 2020) and miscellaneous costs, e.g. printing, hire of meeting rooms, etc. There are no Gift Aid donations to be claimed.

- **Proposed to approve the accounts and reserves policy:**
- **Seconded by:**
- **Accepted / Rejected – Show of Hands**

Agenda Item 4 Cont'd

Consider appropriate expenditure of surplus funds

- PCC £32 Road Safety signs, etc.
- DQAG £1,382 Promotion and protection of the area
- Asda £176 Signage
- HLF £368 Reserved for a community event to celebrate project
- Unrestricted £631 (assumes £400 reserve policy is approved)

Suggestions:

- Catley Carols
- Community event
- Contribution towards speed awareness signage
- Contribution towards traffic calming projects
- Covered waste bins on the rural section of Rooley Moor Road
- Contribution to footpath improvements
- Other ideas welcome

Agenda Item 5

Legal & Administrative Information

Status

Our organisation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Charity Commission Registered Number 1165601

Structure

David Olusoga - Honorary President

Andy Meek – Trustee & Chair

John Newcombe – Trustee & Treasurer

Alan Rawsterne - Trustee & Secretary

Frances Healey – Trustee

Cecile Biant – Trustee (Resigned 9th April 2019)

Morley Morgan - Trustee

Councillor Wendy Cocks – Trustee (Appointed 25th October 2018)

Philip Massey – Trustee (Appointed 25th October 2018)

Steve Davison – Trustee (Appointed 25th October 2018)

Registered Office

Owd House

Fern Hill Lane

Rochdale OL12 6BW

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank

P.O. Box 250

Delf House

Southway

Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

Independent Examiner

Last year we asked the Treasurer of the Friend of Rochdale Town Hall (FoRTH) to verify and sign off our accounts.

Agenda Item 6

Reports from Trustees and Officers of the Forum

Structure, Governance and Management

Trustees manage the affairs of the CIO and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of the CIO. In exercising their powers and duties, charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission.

It is the duty of each trustee:

- a) To exercise his or her powers and to perform his or her functions as a trustee of the CIO in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO; and
- b) To exercise, in the performance of those functions, such care and skill as is reasonable in the circumstances having regard in particular to:
 - i. any special knowledge or experience that he or she has or holds himself or herself out as having; and
 - ii. if he or she acts as a charity trustee of the CIO in the course of a business or profession, to any special knowledge or experience that it is reasonable to expect of a person acting in the course of that kind of business or profession.

Members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

There are no paid employees of the CIO and the value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into financial reporting.

Including trustees and officers there are currently 40 members of the CIO with voting rights. This remains at the same level as last year.

Recruitment & Appointment of Trustees

At every subsequent annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three, or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire.

Any vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting and the members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed, or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit of 12 charity trustees is not exceeded.

This year Cecile Biant resigned as trustee, but has remained as a member of the forum.

Morley Morgan is standing down as trustees and does not wish to be considered for re-election, although he does wish to remain as a member of the forum.

Andy Meek and Alan Rawsterne are standing down as trustees but wish to be considered for re-election.

Forum Objects

The CIO is established for the public benefit without distinction of ability, sex, sexual orientation, race or political, religious or other opinions for the following purposes in the area of benefit known as Rooley Moor, which shall hereinafter be referred to as the Neighbourhood

The objects of the CIO are:

1. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.

2. To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of the area of benefit.
3. To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features or areas of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.

In furtherance of the above objects but not otherwise the trustees shall have the power to establish a neighbourhood forum for the area of benefit to promote and or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.

Accounting Policy, Income & Funds Structure

Income arises from restricted funds (grants), unrestricted donations and recovered Gift Aid.

Expenditure is recognised when an invoice is received or payment made.

There are no tangible fixed assets.

The Reserves Policy of Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum CIO is to hold reserves from unrestricted funds to cover our known annual liabilities (such as insurance, hire of meeting rooms, website costs, etc.). £400 has been proposed to cover these costs. The reserves policy will be reviewed at each AGM.

Achievements & Performance

This year has been another busy year with lots of things going on quietly in the background.

August 2018. There was a meeting with Andrew Crossley (agent for the Lord of the Manor), Commoners and members of Rochdale Council to discuss the possible re-instatement of a gate on Rooley Moor Road to reduce fly tipping and to restrict unauthorised access and illegal use of the moor. The forum was awarded a grant from Rochdale Council ward funds and the Lord of the Manor awarded the forum a £1,000 grant from a trust fund to be used towards the cost of a gate. The forum also contributed monies towards the re-instatement of the gate from an award made in previous years by Greater Manchester Police.

September 2018. Forum members made a request for RMNF to be a consultee to the Rossendale planning application ref: 2018/0318 for a proposal from a developer, Gleeson, to construct 119 dwellings on land at Spring Mill, Whitworth.

October 2018. We held our AGM and were delighted to welcome Councillor Wendy Cocks, Philip Massey and Dr Steve Davison as trustees of our forum.

November 2018. HLF project, the artwork was finalised and orders placed for signage. The lead-time and resulting bad weather delayed installation, which took place in the New Year.

Members of the forum approached Rochdale Council to replace the cattle grid on Knack's Lane, which was allowing sheep and cattle across. We are grateful to the council who responded very quickly to resolve the problem by replacing the cattle grid.

November 2018 continued. Dialogue was opened with Rochdale Council regarding appropriate heritage style street lighting for Prickshaw village. This is a complex issue that is on-going; currently we are awaiting a recommendation from the council.

Repairs to parts of the cobbled section of Station Road, leading to Prickshaw village, have been discussed with Rochdale Council. Whilst this section of road is un-adopted, the council recognise the importance of access and egress for emergency vehicles, as well as the heritage value of the area and have agreed to undertake appropriate sensitive repairs to some of the cobbled sections in October 2019.

December 2018. We produced another RMNF calendar and only just broke even with sales against cost. It's questionable if it's worthwhile doing this again if it fails to raise funds for the forum, or runs the risk of making a negative contribution.

Catley Carols was another great success. The forum funded this community get together

January 2019. HLF project, the design, verbiage and artwork for four different heritage trail leaflets was finalised, went to print and was circulated throughout the borough. Feedback from people using these leaflets has been very positive and encouraging.

February 2019. The public consultation for the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Plan was published by Rochdale Council and opened for consultation on the 8th February 2019.

The HLF project was completed in February 2019. Feedback from the HLF has been very complementary and the trustees feel another project might be possible.

A meeting was held with the Co-operative Heritage Trust (CHT) to discuss a possible link between the Cotton Famine Road and Rochdale Pioneer John Scowcroft (1785 - 1870), who would walk 8 miles over Rooley Moor to preach in Ramsbottom. The Cotton Famine was 1861 - 1865, so presumably John Scowcroft would have been aware of the very great hardship that was being endured by Rochdale cotton mill workers to support the abolition of slavery. We agreed this might be an opportunity for CHT, through their HLF project, to tell how the Pioneer Movement forged social change that was reflected in the attitudes and actions of Rochdale people during the American Civil War.

March 2019. A trustees meeting was held at the start of March to discuss the HLF project closure, Neighbourhood Plan (status update), RMR / Knacks Lane re-instatement of the gate and dates for a village clean up on the 23rd March, In Bloom (unfortunately members of the community could not commit sufficient time to this project) a community event and Catley Carols. We also discussed support for an event in November organised by Vintage Worx, a Wild About Rochdale event, Pennine Prospects South Pennines Regional Park - Walk & Ride Event and Mid Pennine Arts project - Spodden Valley Revealed, which members of RMNF have supported.

The public consultation for the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Plan closed for comment on Friday 22nd March 2019.

April 2019. Cecile Biant formally resigned as a trustee of RMNF, Cecile also stood down as a Rochdale Councillor from 2nd May 2019. We are sure it was a difficult decision to stand down as a trustee and councillor and we appreciate the time, effort and dedication that Cecile has put into the forum and the ward, for that we thank her very much indeed. As far as RMNF is concerned, we are delighted that Cecile wishes to remain as a member of the forum and we hope she won't mind us, from time to time, seeking her input and guidance as to how we should approach things regarding council protocol.

May 2019. The gate was re-instated on Rooley Moor Road

July 2019. A trustees Meeting was held at the beginning of the month to review the Neighbourhood Plan consultation responses, identify any required changes to the plan, agree a RMNF response and decide if the plan should be submitted for examination. Following the meeting we advised the council that the RMNF trustees have formed a unanimous opinion regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the trustees agreed this matter should be discussed at the RMNF AGM, so voting members of the forum are able to input into the final decision. We also advised that we expect the AGM to be sometime in November.

Health & Safety

Risk assessments were in place for all activities and there are no issues to report.

Our Health & Safety policy has been documented and adopted.

Trustee Training

There has been none since July 2018, when Andy Meek attended a trustees training session at Macc in Manchester.

Grants & Funding

February 2019 Rochdale Council - Grant for £2,500 towards our HLF Project

- March 2019 Charities Aid Foundation (Trust Fund for the Lord of the Manor) – Grant for £1,000 towards to reinstatement of the gate on Rooley Moor Road.
- March 2019 RMNF – Cheque payment for £1,220 contribution, consisting of the £1K grant from the LotM and £220 from the PCC grant, towards the cost of gate on Rooley Moor Road. Total cost of the gate £2,640 with Rochdale Council paying the balance of £1,420
- August 2019 Vandalised sign (Prickshaw & Broadley Fold) the forum arranged repair at a cost of £90

Other Issues

- Shawfield Turbine - A complaint made in 2015, regarding the position of the turbine and noise from the turbine, is considered closed
- RMNF is a member of the Friends Of The Moorland In Rochdale, Rossendale And Bury, which is a group of likeminded organisations wishing to protect and enhance the upland moors in the vicinity of Bury, Rochdale and Rossendale
- Off road motorbikes and other vehicle accessing the moor continues to cause concern for residents, Commoners who exercise their grazing rights and landowners. We continue to liaise with the Police, The West Pennine Commoners Association, landowners, business with facilities placed on the moors, Councillors and our Members of Parliament to see if effective remedies can be found to protect the moor, its wildlife and upland farming, which are all currently at risk
- We continue to support other neighbourhood forums and are active in attending local Area Forum meetings in the Spotland & Falinge and Norden wards

Agenda Item 7

Trustee & Officer Rotation, Resignation and Appointment

The following people are standing down from their positions:

- Councillor Cecile Biant – Trustee (Resigned 9th April 2019)
- Morley Morgan – Trustee & Vice Chair
- Andy Meek – Trustee & Chair
- Alan Rawsterne - Trustee & Secretary

The following people are standing for election:

- Andy Meek – Trustee & Chair
- Alan Rawsterne - Trustee & Secretary

We have a limit of 12 charity trustees, therefore 5 vacancies

- Do any other of our members wish to become a trustee?
- Does any member wish to propose a trustee for election?
- Does anyone wish to stand for the position of Vice Chair or propose a Vice Chair for election?

- **Proposed to accept:**

- **Seconded by:**

- **Accepted / Rejected – Show of Hands:**

Forum Officers:

- Andy Meek – Trustee & Chair
- John Newcombe – Trustee & Treasurer
- Alan Rawsterne – Trustee & Secretary

The role of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary to remain unchanged, unless anyone objects.

Proposals for appointment of forum officers:

- **Role – Vice Chair**
- **Who**
- **Proposed to accept:**
- **Seconded by:**
- **Accepted / Rejected – Show of Hands:**

Agenda Item 8

HLF Project

The HLF project was completed in February 2019. Feedback from the HLF has been very complementary and the trustees feel another project might be possible in the future.

David Olusoga OBE sent his congratulations to everyone involved in Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum on delivering the Sharing Heritage project, which was supported by National Lottery players via the National Lottery Heritage Fund. David is the Honorary President of Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum and has become a familiar face on British television screens. He is an expert on military history, race and slavery and members of the forum participated in one of the episodes of his BBC, "Black and British: A Forgotten History" series, which gave the inspiration for the HLF project.

David said, "I first became involved with the forum whilst filming an episode for the Black & British series, which included the Cotton Famine Road on Rooley Moor near Rochdale.

At the time it struck me that this stunningly beautiful area has a fascinating mixed and varied history including weaving wool and cotton before and after the industrial revolution, quarrying, coal mining, manufacturing munitions, the list goes on. Many reminders of this history, such as the Cotton Famine Road, have been left on the landscape and it is reflected in the buildings and architecture of the area.

It was the people who impressed me the most. Rochdale saw the birth of the Co-operative Pioneer Movement, which helped forge social change that was reflected in the attitudes and actions of Rochdale people during the American Civil War. That steadfast honesty seems to have passed down through the generations and it was clear to me that people really cared about the area and were proud of its history and heritage.

Through this National Lottery Heritage Fund supported project, members of the forum have left a lasting legacy. The forum website has become a resource that future generations can explore; there are four visitor interpretation boards in various locations and view finders on top of two of the most prominent hills. All of the signs have QR codes that take you to various History and Heritage pages of the website when they are scanned. The boards also link to four heritage trails where people can print their own copy of the route and download GPX files. The heritage trails are short walks that can be joined together to accommodate walkers of varying abilities.

Congratulations to the whole community for pulling it all together, I'm proud to have been involved!"

Agenda Item 9

Neighbourhood Plan

The public consultation for the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Plan was published by Rochdale Council and opened for consultation on the 8th February 2019, it closed for comment on Friday 22nd March 2019. The schedule of comments makes disappointing reading:

- Thirty-five (35) consultation responses were received
 - 8 N/a (Statutory bodies)
 - 6 Support
 - 21 Object

The majority of the 21 objections are similar to the pre-submission consultation comments and can be summarised into 7 categories:

- Four (4) of the 7 categories summarise as follows:
 1. Four (4) comments stated: Inadequate consultation. Failure to take into account the overwhelming objections of the area being included within the designation. Concerns about the inclusion of sites within the neighbourhood area raised at AGM but ignored. There is an issue of trust and confidence in RMNF. A detailed investigation by the Council is being sought by residents where residents should be consulted with again.
 2. Eight (8) comments stated: Objection and concerns about the inclusion of this area was raised at the Forum and recorded within the residents responses within the consultation statement.
 3. One (1) comment stated: We have had no problems in all these years as we are in the Greenbelt, which we feel is sufficient for our needs. The 89 page document was complicated and difficult to understand. We need no changes at Fernhill and certainly no added beaucrocracy.
 4. One (1) comment stated: The inclusion of this area will have a negative effect on equestrian tourism in the area due to the proposals set out in page 42 specifically on 'paddocks being at least 30 metres away from neighbourhood residential properties' and 'screening for horsebox parking. The area should be excluded from the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Three (3) of the 7 categories were new objections, which summarise as follows:
 1. Four (4) comments stated: Received no notification or consultation about the RMNF plan. The Council has failed to inform me of the plan which includes the house and garden owned by myself. I do not want my house or garden to be governed by the RMNF. I do not want my house and garden included within the RMNF plan and wish this to be taken out immediately. I wish my house and garden to be removed immediately and an investigation launched as to how my house and garden has been included without my prior consent.
 2. One (1) comments stated: Object to policy V1, visitors facilities seeks the, 'appropriate provision for car parking, toilets and shelter', the suggestion being that this provision would need to located at key positions which would be difficult to maintain and protect. With regards to car parking, there is already an adequate provisions and more would restrict reasonable access for local farm access and animals. In addition there is concern about the connotations of a visitor centre and what that would encompass.
 3. Two (2) comments stated: Little or no meaningful consultation over the proposals. Our area is part of Nordon and is in a different ward and should be removed from the neighbourhood plan.

Of the 21 objections:

- One (1), makes reference to Policy R3 - Equestrian Development (page 42). This policy concerns, "Proposals for new, or extensions or alterations to existing, private or commercial equestrian facilities" and was reviewed by representatives from RBBA. This policy might be worthy of further consideration if there are plans to expand equestrian facilities. However, we fail to see how the policy would affect any existing facilities
- One (1) objects to Policy V1 – Visitor Facilities (page 44), the respondent makes some interesting points that are worthy of further consideration
- Nineteen (19) objections fail to identify any relevant issues, a large number seem to be misinformed about the plan and it appears there have been no enquiries with the forum or Rochdale Council to talk through any concerns
- The trustees noted and support a request that is being sought by some residents for a detailed investigation by Rochdale Council.

The trustees also considered the document in the following link which was published in October 2018 - Where Next For Neighbourhood Plans:

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/2755-where-next-for-neighbourhood-planning/file>

Some of the content of the, "Where Next For Neighbourhood Plans" document and our current experience through the consultation process has caused the trustees concern. It appears Neighbourhood Planning is possibly open to manipulation by external forces with misinformation. The trustees have stopped our plan going to external examination whilst we await our AGM.

The RMNF trustees are minded to recommend forum members not to have the plan go to referendum. Unfortunately, it appears our neighbourhood plan is proving to be divisive within some areas of the community and we have rejected a suggestion from Rochdale Council to knock on doors to lobby support. We believe some members of the community see the forum as an extension of the council. The plan isn't an easy read; it uses planning language, and without further investigation could be difficult to fully understand.

The trustees believe if the plan went to referendum and was rejected it would undermine the very things the plan is trying to promote.

The trustees current thinking is that our forum's charitable objects are simpler and more powerful than a neighbourhood plan and believe dealing with individual planning applications, that conflict with our charitable objects, will be a more effective approach.

Proposal to not submit the neighbourhood plan for external examination:

- **Proposed by:**
- **Seconded by:**
- **Accepted / Rejected – Show of Hands:**

Agenda Item 10

Other Items

- Gate
- Heritage Open Day's (HOD's),
- Rossendale planning application ref: 2018/0318 for a proposal from a developer, Gleeson, to construct 119 dwellings on land at Spring Mill, Whitworth.
- Rossendale Local Plan, the Examination Hearing started on 24th September and representations concerning Matter 16 – Environment [Policies ENV1 – ENV10] have been made by RMNF members.
- Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF)
 - March 2020 – planning inspectors check the consultation process and what has been done with the feedback
 - December 2020 – publication of final plan expected
- Repairs to cobbled section of Station Road, Prickshaw
- Supporting other forums

Agenda Item 11

Future plans and opportunities

- Catley Carols – Date set for Thursday 19th December 2019 – The Bishop of Middleton has been invited
- Community event – should we have another one next year?
- Funding opportunities:
 - Road Safety Trust Offers Funding for Local Road Safety Projects – Deadline 20/12/19
 - Moorland Restoration - Advisory Panel Meets to Help Develop £100m Climate Action Fund - In preparation of the opening of the new £100 million Climate Action fund later this year, the National Lottery Community Fund is drawing on the expertise and experience of a wide range of groups and individuals.
 - Initial grants of up to £200,000 over 18 months to support communities who need more time to develop their partnership, engage more widely and test their approaches
 - Awards of up to £2.5 million over five years to support communities who might be able to start longer-term plans at an earlier stage

Agenda Item 12

Open Forum

Agenda Item 13

AOB

Agenda Item 14

Date & Time of Next Meeting

To be confirmed

- Regular updates will be issued through the website and by email