

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF)

AGM

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT: John & Janette Newcombe, Gwyn & Jack Fitton, Margaret Howard, Morley Morgan, Fran Healey, Win McGhee, Stuart Davies, Phil Massey, Steve Davison, Councillor Wendy Cocks, Andy & Mair Meek, Jim Murphy, Geoff & Jackie Ogden, Maxine Jager, Nigel Morrell, Denise Madgin, Nick & Margaret Green and Alan Rawsterne

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Janet Emsley, Cecile Biant, Ruth Shedwick, Nicky Marr, Elaine Marsden and Norden Councillors James Gartside, Michael Holly & Peter Winkler

MINUTES: The meeting commenced at 19:30

1. Introduction

The forum Chair, Andy Meek (AM), 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 25th October 2018

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

- Fran Healey (FH) proposed to accept the minutes
 - Councillor Wendy Cocks (CWC) seconded the proposal
 - The minutes were unanimously accepted on a show of hands

3. Review Action Log

Alan Rawsterne (AR) reviewed the outstanding actions and noted the following:

1. AR is monitoring Rochdale planning applications each week and John Newcombe (JN) is monitoring applications for Rossendale.
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. CWC agreed to pick up the action regarding the footpath on the 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.
4. Neighbourhood Plan, to be discussed later
5. RMNF event, to be discussed later
6. GMSF, to be discussed later

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

- JN proposed to accept the outstanding actions
 - Steve Davison (SD) seconded the proposal
 - The outstanding actions were unanimously accepted on a show of hands

4. Accounts for year ending 31st August 2019

JN explained we finished the year with just short of £3k and explained the reserved and unreserved allocations. JN recommended we continue with our reserves policy of £400 to cover insurance and website costs for the coming year. We considered appropriate

expenditure for surplus funds and agreed to fund refreshments for Catley Carols and to fund a community get together in the summer of 2020. Phil Massey (PM) provided an update on the request for waste bins and advised these will be supplied, so no contribution from the forum required, but will not be the bird proof variety.

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

5. Legal & Administrative Information

AM explained the legal and administrative information

6. Reports from Trustees and Officers

AR explained the content of the report, noting the resignation of Cecile Biant and Morley Morgan. Highlights from the year were identified and discussed.

- a) The gate at the bottom of RMR is working well. Alan highlighted with thanks the £1,000 contribution of the Lord of the Manor towards the cost of the gate.
- b) The Spring Mill Development proposing 119 houses was approved despite 100 objections and 1 letter of support. Nigel Morrell (NM) explained that due to input from Rochdale and Bury Bridleways Association the development now includes a new bridleway. Someone asked whether there could be gates at either end. Julie Simpson at Rochdale Borough Council (RBC) to be asked. **ACTION: Andy Meek**
- c) JN explained that the lighting in Prickshaw village needs replacing but this will require the affected residents to request this from the council themselves.
- d) AR explain that RMNF has been supporting the Cooperative Heritage Trust with their HLF project
- e) AR mentioned that Cecile Biant has stepped down as a councillor and trustee of the forum and proposed that in recognition of her support she be made Honorary Vice President of the forum. Morley Morgan (MM) seconded this and the motion was approved unanimously. Notify Cecile. **ACTION: Alan Rawsterne**
- f) AR explained that the neighbourhood plan had been submitted for consultation and feedback received (see item 9 later).
- g) AR explained that the Shawfield Dairy Turbine complaint had been closed.
- h) AR explained that along with the Friends of the Moorland in Rochdale, Rossendale and Bury the forum had made successful representations at the public enquiry into the Rossendale local plan. Key points:
 - I. Decommissioning requires further investigation
 - II. Recognised the historic landscape including Waugh's Well and the Cotton Famine Road, which includes the Mary Townley Loop
 - III. Accepted that the clustering of many turbines in a concentrated area reduced their efficiency and will investigate further
 - IV. Appropriate native trees should be planted as part of restoration
 - V. Accepted that the council's peat survey was inadequate – did not know where the peat depth was greater than 40cm.
- i) Off road vehicles are becoming a bigger issue with riders coming from far afield. NM explained about the large number of riders who went on the moors last weekend, with the event organised on Facebook. AR explained that the impact of this behaviour was much worse than he had realised since it can separate lambs from their mothers and destroy the feed that is put down for them. PM recommended that we report all incidents to GMP and recommended their online chat app at gmp.police.uk rather than ringing 101. Past feedback has had an effect with the result that two more police officers have been assigned in the area.

- j) AR explained that RMNF is still supporting other forums, with recent contact for advice from as far away as Birmingham.

ACTION: AM to ask Julie Simpson about gates at either end of Prickshaw.

- 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 (resigned 9th April 2019)
- Reverend Morley Morgan – Trustee & Vice Chair
- Andy Meek – Trustee and Chair
- Alan Rawsterne – Trustee & Secretary

The following people stood for election as trustees and officers:

- Andy Meek – Trustee and Chair
- Alan Rawsterne – Trustee & Secretary
- Nigel Morrell - Trustee
 - JN proposed to approve the resignations and appointments
 - Seconded by: PM
 - Unanimously accepted on a show of hands

8. HLF Project

- a. FH summarised how the project had been completed with signage completed and nature trail leaflets distributed.
- b. Several people commented on how well these leaflets had been received with people coming from outside the area to visit after finding out about the trails.
- c. Thanks were noted to Ruth Shedwick for her help and support with design work
- d. Alan emphasised that the HLF had viewed the project extremely positively.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

- a. AR went through the objections raised, many of which displayed a misunderstanding of the purpose of the plan and 19 of which did not identify relevant objections. Some good points were raised and it was recognised that the plan was (necessarily) a long and complicated document.
- b. AM explained that the recent local government report into neighbourhood plans had highlighted several areas where they were failing, including councils not taking plans into account.
- c. AR recommended that if put to a referendum it would be rejected and would therefore undermine the whole purpose
- d. The council had recommended that we lobby the community and PM supported this suggestion
- e. SD asked whether anyone attended had objected and if so why and Nick Green explained he was formerly a trustee of the forum and objected to the plan for reasons that were personal.
- f. SD commented that it was disappointing that no one had discussed their concerns before submitting their objections since the forum and the council had done a tremendous amount of work to publicise the development of the plan. SD disagreed

with the suggestion to lobby neighbours given all the work that had already been undertaken and their difficulties in getting positive engagement.

- MM proposed that we do not put the plan forward to a referendum
- Seconded by: JN
- Unanimously accepted on a show of hands

10. Other Items

- Heritage Open Day's (HOD's) – Significant that the RMNF area was accepted – perhaps we should consider doing this again next year.
- Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF)
 - a. March 2020 – planning inspectors check the consultation process and what has been done with the feedback
 - b. December 2020 – publication of final plan expected

11. Future Plans

- a. It was agreed that we would hold Catley Lane Carols on the Thursday 19th December at 6:30. Morley and Sue will lead the service with AR to organise the refreshments.
SD suggested everyone contributes to the food bank again and FH volunteered SD to collect and deliver. **ACTION: All, SD**
It was agreed that some of the remaining funds from the HLF project would be used to support refreshments.

ACTION: AR to communicate date and time and organise refreshment

ACTION: SD to organise delivery food bank collection

- b. Community event for next year – agreed using the balance of HLF funding
- c. Road safety trust – PM explained that a traffic speed survey is being funded at the top of RMR but cautioned that even if speed bumps were recommended this would not be actioned quickly. There was some debate about the speed limit, which was confirmed to be 30mph. PM also explained that it is not possible to have repeater signs in a 30mph zone. Nick Green suggested that speed markings on the road might be allowed. All agreed to wait for recommendations from the speed survey on the rural section of Rooley Moor Road.
- d. Climate action fund – AR discussed support available under climate action plans, and we could support but not lead a moorland peat restoration scheme for the purposes of carbon sequestration – CWC offered to see how this might be integrated with work the council is already doing on the “Climate Emergency”.
- e. NM advised he is liaising with Moors for the Future and will keep the group updated on developments.

ACTION: CWC to ask if RBC have any moorland restoration / carbon offset plans that RMNF could participate in

12. Open Forum & AOB

- **Open Forum:**

- a. Win McGhee mentioned that she had attended Andy Burnham's enquiry into the proposed franchising of local bus services. CWC and PM recommended that

everyone contribute to the consultation as more individual submissions work better than group petitions. **ACTION: All**

- b. Maxine Jager mentioned for people to be aware of issues on RMR with Himalayan Balsam, which has been reported to RBC
- c. PM asked about the council readiness plans for fires in the moors. CWC volunteered to check. AR advised Oldham Council have issued a Public Protection Order on Saddleworth Moor with a £100 on the spot fine for anyone lighting a fire, BBQ, etc.

ACTION: CWC to ask if RBC about plans for tackling moorland fires

13. AOB:

- Denise Madgin mentioned there had been a report of a dead cat on the moor that had been tortured and shot and that there are concerns with antisocial behaviour on the moor. AR suggested reports should be to the police using 101 and GMP web chat, as mentioned previously. AR also suggested people should attend the Area Forum and police surgeries to advise concerns. The area forum is a more frequent meeting than the neighbourhood forum and the Police usually are in attendance.
- We agreed that the forum would use some of its surplus funds for the planting of flowers in the area.

14. Next Meeting

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