

RMNF AGM

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday 12th November 2020 at 7pm

Location: Zoom.

Attendees: Andy Meek (Chair), Cecile Biant, Nigel Morrell, Jim Murphy, Morley Morgan, Stuart Davies, Frances Healey, Philip Massey and Alan Rawsterne

Apologies: John Newcombe and Win McGhee

Agenda

- Introductions and opening comments from the Chair
- Resolution results
- Accounts sign off
- Projects
- AOB

The meeting commenced at 1900

Circumstances of the AGM

Due to Coronavirus restrictions the Government had given flexibility in the method used to conduct a Charitable Incorporated Organisation AGM. The Trustees decided to conduct the AGM by proxy, the AGM agenda and reports pack was published on our website, with additional reach being given through our social media platforms on Facebook and Twitter. Voting members of the forum were each sent an email that contained the AGM agenda and reports pack, a postal ballot form and a link to an online ballot that could be completed through SurveyMonkey. The results of the ballot were broadcast using Zoom video conferencing and each item on the agenda was commented upon. The results of the ballot were compiled the Secretary Alan Rawsterne and Andy Meek was the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

1. Introductions, apologies and opening comments

- Following the introductions and apologies Andy asked if there were any conflicts of interest, which there were none.
- Andy asked if everyone present had read the AGM - Agenda and Reports Pack and if there were any comments; everyone indicated they were happy with the content and there were no comments.
- Andy remarked on how strange the year had been and even though it felt that forum had not done very much, it was clear from the reports from the Trustees and Officers that a lot had been going on.
- Andy handed over to Alan to go through the resolution ballot results.

2. Resolution results

- 14 members (34%) participated in the ballot:
 - 6 responded online through Survey Monkey.
 - 6 responded by email, and
 - 2 responded by using the postal ballot form.
- 4 of the 14 indicated they wanted the Chair to cast their vote.

Results: The proposer and the seconder for each resolution was published in the AGM agenda and reports pack.

Resolution	Agree	Disagree	Refrain
To receive the minutes of the 2019 AGM	14	0	0
To approve the 2019/20 accounts and reserves policy	14	0	0
To approve the reports from trustees and officers of the forum	14	0	0
To appoint Fran Healey as a trustee of the forum	12	0	2
Andy Meek to continue as Chair, John Newcombe to continue as Treasurer and Alan Rawsterne to continue as Secretary	10	0	4
Invite David Olusoga to continue as our Honorary President for another three-year term	14	0	0
To seek re-designation of the neighbourhood area for a further 5 years	14	0	0

3. Accounts sign off

Alan confirmed on behalf of our Treasurer that the 2019/20 RMNF accounts have been examined and sign off by the Treasurer of the Friend of Rochdale Town Hall (FoRTH).

4. Projects

We discussed the potential for 4 projects:

1. **Virtual Reality (VR) tour of the Cotton Famine Road and other opportunities.** Mick Martin is a professional writer and theatre director, in 2017 he undertook a project in Rochdale, 'It's In The Blood' - celebrating the town's rich Rugby League heritage and affection for the Hornets. One of the young people involved in that project, Ellie Kelly, a proud Rochdalian, asked if Mick would be interested in telling the story of Cotton Famine Road. Mick has contacted the forum to see if we can help. His vision is a cross artform community project, involving music, drama, spoken word and visual arts, with some aspects of it taking place on Cotton Famine Road itself. Mick plans include a very powerful schools/ educational strand to the work. The centre of the work will be a community play drawn from on first-hand verbatim accounts, and Mick believes the historical veracity of that is absolutely paramount. Wherever possible Mick will be working with local creatives, as well as young people who would like to access the arts, having the opportunity to work and learn via the project. We are waiting for Mick to get back to us and formalise his plans.
2. **South Pennines Wildfire Heritage Group.** Pennine Prospects plan to lead a project that will assess the impact that moorland fires have had on known and previously unknown heritage assets. We are looking for volunteers to be involved in this project when it is able to go live.
3. **Heritage Open Day's (HOD's).** Having made a successful contribution to the 2019 HOD's we are looking for volunteers to explore how we can involve the area in future events.
4. **Moorland Restoration.** Given the importance of peat as a carbon store we would like to understand how our area could develop this natural asset to contribute to the boroughs carbon neutral initiatives. Councillor Wendy Cocks indicated Rochdale Council has a carbon commitment and utilising natural resources is a significant consideration. Wendy will make the Council aware RMNF is interested in supporting any appropriate projects that might take place in and around the neighbourhood area.

Alan advised a short article is due to be published in the Streetwise magazine seeking the involvement of others.

5. AOB

Morley proposed we arrange a Christmas get together using Zoom. All agreed and Morley will outline some ideas with Andy and Alan.

6. Date & Time of next Meeting

- TBA

The meeting closed at 1940