

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF)

www.rmnf.co.uk

AGM

(Annual General Meeting)

Date & Time: Thursday, 2nd February 2023 at 7pm

Venue: The Old Library, Edenfield Road, Norden, Rochdale
OL11 5XE

AGENDA

1. Introduction & Apologies
2. Code of Conduct
3. Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty
4. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General meeting of 2021
5. To adopt the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022, and
 - To agree our reserves policy
6. Legal & Administrative Information
7. To approve the Reports from Trustees and Officers of the Forum
8. Trustee & Officer Rotation, Resignations and Appointments
9. Policy Update
 - Safeguarding
10. AOB
 - Area Designation
 - Input into the Local Plan
 - Bus service to Catley Lane Head
 - Traffic calming – Catley Lane Head
 - CCTV – Catley Lane Head
 - Commoners Rights
 - Moorland restoration (peat protection policies, wind farm expansion, liaison with LPAs and other related issues)
 - Fund raising
11. Date & Time of Next Meeting

Agenda Item 1

Introduction & Apologies

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

Agenda Item 2

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

Agenda Item 3

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 4

To approve the Minutes of the Annual General meeting of 2021

RMNF AGM

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Meeting Date & Time: Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 7pm

Location: Zoom.

Attendees: Andy Meek (Chair), Nigel Morrell, Jim Murphy, Morley Morgan, Stuart Davies, Frances Healey, Wendy Cocks, Andy Whitham, Maxine Jaeger, Irene Pope, Lesley Tierney, John Newcombe, Stuart Mendelsohn and Alan Rawsterne

Apologies: Chris Peat, Nicky Marr and Elain Marsden

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
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- To adopt the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021, and
 - To agree our reserves policy
- Legal & Administrative Information
- To approve the Reports from Trustees and Officers of the Forum
- Trustee & Officer Rotation, Resignations and Appointments
- AOB
- Date & Time of Next Meeting

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 Smart Survey. 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.

The meeting commenced at 1900

Introductions, apologies and opening comments

Andy welcomed all and asked if there were any conflicts of interest. Nigel Morrell noted he had interests in other organisations and advised there was no conflict of interest

Andy asked if everyone present had read the AGM - Agenda and Reports Pack; 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 again felt that forum had not done very much, it was clear from the reports from the Trustees and Officers had a lot going on.

Andy asked Alan to explain members voting rights. Alan advised money laundering rules require members with voting rights to have some personal details recorded with our bank, this is because those members can influence how the forum spends its money. Forum members who are only registered on our website have no voting rights but can contribute to debates.

Alan went on to explained that voting for his years AGM is the same as last year with voting members invited to vote by proxy in advance of the meeting with the chair having casting vote.

Resolution results

Only 4 members cast their vote by proxy, all of whom agreed with each resolution. The chair was then able to exercise the casting vote on behalf of all the voting members and agree with each of the following resolutions

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 2020 AGM	100%	0	0
To approve the 2020/21 accounts and reserves policy	100%	0	0
To approve the reports from trustees and officers of the forum	100%	0	0
To appoint John Newcombe as a trustee of the forum	100%	0	2
Andy Meek to continue as Chair, John Newcombe to continue as Treasurer and Alan Rawsterne to continue as Secretary	100%	0	4

Accounts sign off

Morley asked are we in black or red? Alan explained there was £5k in bank at time of accounts, of which £3k is allocated to pay for the gate on Prickshaw Lane. An additional £1k has been donated by UU since the accounts were published. The overall position is good but quite a lot of money has been restricted for use. There is approx. £0.5k unrestricted.

Legal & Administrative Information

All agreed. Alan confirmed on behalf of our Treasurer that the 2020/21 RMNF accounts have been examined and signed off by the Treasurer of the Friend of Rochdale Town Hall (FoRTH). Alan advised he can now do Charities Commission returns etc.

Trustee & Officer Rotation

Wendy and Phil stepping down Andy thanked them for their contributions and help over the years.

John advised he was happy to re-stand as Treasurer, but noted the need to consider new people / roles going forward to be ready for anything onerous that might be coming

The total number of Trustees is currently 5 and we have a provision for 12

12. Morley said he was happy to stand as a Trustee if helpful for a year and will step down if anyone steps up.

13. StuartD advised he was willing to stand as a Trustee

The shortage of young people and male outweighing female Trustees was noted

14. Will consider an advert / shout out for new Trustees

All changes and retainments were proposed, seconded and approved

15. StuartD to go through official process with Alan offline (Charity Commission registration etc.)

16. StuartD welcomed and Morley welcomed back

17. Wendy advised she is happy to support remotely

AOB

18. Condolences to Cecile (currently self-isolating) – flowers to be sent (hat to go round on morning walk!) – personal not forum funds – action Alan

19. Morley offered thanks to officers and particularly to Alan for tireless work – supported by all

20. Turner Brother Asbestos – Nigel keen for people to be aware it's likely to move to something happening on site.

Stuart Mendelsohn joined the meeting at this point

Turner Brother Asbestos continued:

21. Nigel highlighting the risk associated with the site (incl airborne contamination). Encouraged people to contribute to debate. Need for transparency from all parties (unlike has been to date).

22. Jim noted repair works on Dell Road and some soil scraping pictures seen on social media.

23. Maxine supported concerns over H&S aspects (noted previous work connections with impact of TBA) – would love someone to do something with site but it has to be fully transparent – what, when, where, how, why.

24. Wendy noted Nicola Rogers, the Public Protection Officer, is the person to go to with queries and reminded all that the council does not have control, but Nicola would be good ally should help be needed later.

25. Need to watch out for planning applications / consultations.

26. RMNF not automatically consultees on TBA – could put selves forward as asking to be a consultee – ACTION

27. Nigel – Noted for Lesley and Irene that they should be aware of process – trail around edge of site and rights of way which would impact equestrian members. Interconnectivity of rights of way critical and many links being broken and existing rights of way falling into neglect.

AOB Continued

28. Tony Lloyd to visit the Munitions Factory this Friday – can something be done with it as community or historical asset. Mid Pennine Arts also interested (meeting next week with a PHD student) – leftover funding from Spodden Valley Revealed (signage etc – ecological museum ideas (links with PHD student)).

29. Morley asked Alan to ask Tony Lloyd to look at providing a bus service to the cattle grid again (he had said he would look at it). Alan noted Tony has written to Andy Burnham but will reiterate. Nigel asked Morley to send note around about bus route and Nigel may be able to help via another route – Alan to document proposal.

30. Alan and StuartD met with Andrew Underdown (contact via Wendy). Andrew is experienced in moorland restoration projects after working on Marsden Moor for 10 years. Our walk around Scout Moor and windfarm was an eye opener. Andrew identified opportunities to do some moorland restoration work. There might be a potential to link to the Moorland Restoration Fund for windfarm. StuartD and Alan felt it was encouraging there was opportunities for good work. Not yet clear how to take it forward.

31. Rooley Moor Road survey – any feedback. Currently none, waiting for Rachel Massey. ACTION follow up

32. South Pennines Park – Pennine Prospects have rebranded to that. RMNF engaged with the consultation and the Cotton Famine Road is noted in their draft strategy document as an area of importance. Watch and monitor. Nigel noted disappointment in lack of engagement from strategic planning at Rochdale Council. Noting with Wendy.

33. Wendy noted local plan due for revision this year – suggested forum gets involved in that soon.

34. Redesignation – likely to be January (townships)

Date & Time of next Meeting

To Be Advised

Andy thanked all for participation.

The meeting closed at 1940

Items for future discussion

Christmas get together using Zoom – To be discussed

Open Spaces Society – Trustees agreed not to renew membership

Actions

We agreed the following actions:

What	Who	When
Organise flowers for Cecile	AlanR	ASAP
Contact StuartD with Trustee paperwork and	AlanR	End Nov
Update Charities Commission site with accounts and trustee details	AlanR	End Dec
Advertise for new Trustees	All	TBA
RMNF / Turner Brother Asbestos consultee	AlanR / Nigel	TBA
Document Catley Lane Head bus requirement and share with Tony Lloyd	AlanR	See Appendix A below – Pending meeting with Tony Lloyd
Scout Moor Wind Farm Morland Restoration	AlanR / StuartD	Consider how best to take this forward - TBA
Rooley Moor Road traffic survey – ask for survey results	AlanR	Pending response from Cllr Rachel Massey
Rochdale Local Plan – seek forum involvement	All	TBA
Forum redesignation	All	Pending January 2022 township meeting - TBA

Appendix A

Catley Lane Head Requires a Bus Service

Catley Lane Head village used to have a bus service. A bus turning circle was installed (see photo below), which is currently only used by the school bus service.



When the Rochdale to Catley Lane Head bus service was removed we suggested the 467 bus service was extended by a less than a mile (1.2Km) to include Catley Lane Head. This would have taken in an additional 4 stops into Catley Lane Head and an additional 5 stops on the route back to the current terminus at Daniel Fold.

Adding an additional 2.4 Km and 9 existing stops to the 467 route would provide a bus service for an aging population in the Catley Lane Head, Fern Hill, Elmpark and Stonehill areas. Importantly, this would make Rochdale, Bury and Fairfield Hospital more accessible to these residents.

Rooley Moor and the Cotton Famine Road would become more accessible to other users of public transport.

Please see the details below.

Current bus: 467 - Rochdale - Spotland - Caldershaw - Bamford - Jericho – Bury



Suggested additional route to Catley Lane Head for the 467 bus service (please zoom in to see the detail)



This route would add an additional 2.4 Km and 9 existing stops to the 467 bus service route.

It would provide a bus service for an aging population in the Catley Lane Head, Fern Hill,

Elmpark and Stonehill areas. – Making
Rochdale, Bury and Fairfield Hospital more accessible.

Rooley Moor and the Cotton Famine Road would
become more accessible to other users of public
transport.

- **Resolution: To approve the 2021 AGM Minutes**
- **Proposed by:**
- **Seconded by:**
- **Agree / Disagree – Proxy Vote Count**

Agenda Item 5

Reconciliation of Accounts 2021/22 To Bank Statement

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Accounts

Year End: 31-Aug-22

	Paypal	Co-Op	Total
Opening Balance 01/09/21	£0	£5,911	£5,911
Receipts Reported	£0	£1,005	£1,005
Expenditure Reported	£0	-£3,615	-£3,615
Closing Balance 31/8/22 Reported	£0	£3,301	£3,301
Balance at Bank 31/8/22	0	3,301	3,301

	2021/22 Restricted	2021/22 Restricted	2021/22 Restricted	2021/22 Restricted	2021/22 Restricted	2021/22 Restricted	2021/22 Unrestricted	2021/22 Total
	PCC	DQAG	Asda	HLF 17	TSJNF	ORMM		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance B/F from Summary 2020-21	32	1,382	176	368	0	3,500	454	5,911
								0
INCOME								0
Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	0	0	-12	-368	0	0	381	0
Donations In	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	5	1,005
Total Income	0	0	-12	-368	0	1,000	386	1,005
EXPENDITURE								
Consultant Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Room Hire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Website	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	-314	-314
Donations Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Printing & Stationery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	0	0	0	0	0	-2,988	-71	-3,059
In Bloom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Misc Expenses	-32	0	-164	0	0	0	-47	-242
Total Expenditure	-32	0	-164	0	0	-2,988	-432	-3,615
Closing Balance	-0	1,382	0	0	0	1,512	408	3,301

Notes – It is proposed to maintain our annual reserves policy at £400 to cover insurance (estimated at £200) and miscellaneous costs, e.g. printing, hire of meeting rooms, etc. There are no Gift Aid donations to be claimed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution: To approve the 2020/21 accounts and reserves policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seconded by: Nigel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree / Disagree – Proxy Vote Count

Agenda Item 6

Legal & Administrative Information

Status

Our organisation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Charity Commission Registered Number 1165601

Structure

David Olusoga - Honorary President

Cecile Biant – Honorary Vice President

Andy Meek – Trustee & Chair

John Newcombe – Trustee & Treasurer

Alan Rawsterne - Trustee & Secretary

Frances Healey – Trustee

Nigel Morrell – Trustee

Reverend Morley Morgan - Trustee

Stuart Davies - Trustee

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.

This year we will not seek independent examination. However, our accounts are open to anyone who has a legitimate reason to review them.

Agenda Item 7

To approve the Reports from Trustees and Officers of the Forum

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 41 members of the CIO with voting rights. This is no more than last year, although it is worth noting we have seen membership of the forum Facebook page grow from 768 members last year to the current total of 968 members. We have also seen an increased number of people registering on the Forum website, which has increased from 52 and currently stands at 61, the majority of whom have no voting rights.

Recruitment & Appointment of Trustees

Following on from our last Annual General Meeting we were pleased to welcome Stuart Davies as a trustee.

At every Annual General Meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity Trustees 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 Andy Meek, Alan Rawsterne and Nigel Morrell will resign as Trustees at the 2022 Annual General Meeting, and they all wish to be considered for re-election. Following on from the recent boundary changes our neighbourhood area has been included in the Norden Ward and we welcome the interest from Councillor Peter Winkler who would like to become a forum trustee.

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 Annual General Meeting.

Achievements & Performance

Compared to other charities the impact of the pandemic on the forum has been minimal. We've not been dormant but have found different ways to deliver our charitable objectives.

We continue to make our heritage trail leaflets freely available throughout the borough so people can take exercise and enjoy the wide-open spaces of the surrounding moorland.

Social media

We usually ask organisations and the public not to advertise but given the current situation with high energy costs and the potential financial hardships that people might suffer the forum trustees are happy to allow content that will help people and local businesses.

Catley Lane Head Conservation Area

We continue to pursue the following initiatives:

- Reinstatement of a bus service to the village
- Traffic calming measures either side of the village
- CCTV to reduce antisocial behaviour

Prickshaw and Broadley Fold Conservation Area

A horse friendly step through gate has been installed on Prickshaw Lane. Unfortunately, expenditure increased significantly to rectify issues that were identified retrospectively.

Planning

The trustees resolutely support the forum's primary objective, to promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the Neighbourhood Area. We remain committed to preserving Green Belt and Common Land in and around the Neighbourhood Area, which includes the habitations and surrounding landscapes.

The forum continues to be actively engaged in specific areas of direct concern, and the trustees have carefully considered the role of local planning and how Planning Officers work with and on behalf the local communities they are tasked to serve.

We have asked to be included in the development of Rochdale Councils "Local Plan" and we are seeking guidance regarding re-designation of the area forum given our concerns regarding the relevance of neighbourhood planning to the planning process.

Spring Mill - No progress has been made with Rossendale Council or the developer regarding the concerns raised about this development. Any serious consequences of development on inadequately remediated contaminated land may not become apparent for many years and lessons must be learned from the Spring Mill experience. There is a growing body of opinion that the local and national planning function is not fit for purpose. Unfortunately, the forum trustees have found little evidence to refute this opinion and struggle to see how Neighbourhood Planning in its current form can have a positive significant impact on planning issues.

Turner Brothers Asbestos (TBA) – Currently there are no planning applications for the TBA site. In its current undisturbed state, the TBA site presents a reduced public health risk. We appreciate buildings on the site are deteriorating and there are issues with riverbank erosion releasing asbestos into the environment and we accept the TBA site needs to be made safe.

If Rochdale Council were to approve a planning application for TBA, they appear to have no responsibility for the Health and Safety of residents who are put at risk by any remediation / development work. The Council effectively rely on other agencies to respond to critical issues, which we know can result in desk-based assessments that have no positive outcomes.

The normal development process is reliant on self-regulation. However, given the complexity of the TBA site if something were to go wrong there is no going back and having the external agencies (HSE, EA, Police, Fire, Ambulance, NHS etc.) respond after the event is too late.

In a worse case scenario, any asbestos released from the TBA site could be carried across our area, the effect of which on residents might only be realised many years later.

We're seeking assurance should a planning application be approved that the appropriate agencies are on site to ensure compliance to process and to ensure everything is done to reduce risk. If something were to go wrong, we'd expect those agencies to secure an immediate response to any disaster recovery scenario.

To support a 'safety first' approach in dealing with the TBA site, we have suggested to our MP's and Councillors that:

- Land at the TBA site to be registered as contaminated (to ensure the application of appropriate legislation)
- A Health Impact Assessment to be included as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (to scale the potential risk).
- The site is made secure to protect the public (reference videos on social media site, riverbank erosion exposing asbestos, etc.)
- The remediators / developers to have a company structure that clearly defines corporate responsibility that can't disappear (to provide accountability into the future), and

- The provision of adequate Public Liability Insurance that takes account of the time taken for asbestos related diseases to manifest themselves (in the event of anyone developing an asbestos related illness at any time in the future that can be attributed to the remediation / development of TBA) .

We've also suggested a 'Working Party' chaired by an influential person (such as a local MP) that includes all the relevant people from the various agencies / organisations (Council, EA, HSE, NHS, Police, Fire, Ambulance, Residents, etc.) should be created to form a forum where issues of concern can be discussed. Effectively, and 'Inquiry' before rather than after an incident.

We await feedback from our suggestions and will let you know when we know more.

Moorland Restoration

Our commitment to preserving our upland moorlands from onerous development and aggressive misuse is constant, ongoing and worthwhile. We welcome and support the initiative announced by Government on 27th August 2021 that funding of £50M will be provided for peat protection, building on its pledge to restore 35,000 hectares of peatland to prevent some 9 million tonnes of CO2 release in a significant contribution to combatting the impacts of climate change. The forum must do what it can to promote and expand this initiative. Peat Mapping exercises on Scout Moor have disclosed significant areas of deep peat and the forum is pleased to acknowledge that Rossendale Local Planning Authority have pledged not to allow any onerous development which would disturb areas of deep peat. The forum has sought assurance from the Planning Offices at Rochdale and Rossendale that they will acknowledge and engage with the peatland protection scheme and afford the areas of Scout and Rooley Moors special protection. Such an assurance would build on the excellent work undertaken jointly by the community with the public, Police, local MP's & Councillors, landowners, businesses, Rochdale Ramblers, Rossendale & Pendle Mountain Rescue Team, Peak and Northern Footpaths Society, National Trail Officers for Natural England, community groups such as Prickshaw & Broadley Fold Neighbourhood Watch and the equestrian community, in the ongoing serious threat posed by illegal off-road bikes and quads which continue to ravage our moorlands.

Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone

We await with interest the new proposals intended to take this initiative forward.

Off road vehicles

Operation Dragster is a combined initiative between Greater Manchester Police, Lancashire Police, United Utilities, and many volunteers to reduce illegal off-road activity in and around our area. We are grateful to all involved in; however, it seems after many months of reduced activity, illegal motorised vehicles are once again targeting the moorland in and around our area.

It is also disappointing to report one of the "Off-road Mitigation Project" stakeholders has retrospectively found fault with various installations along Edenfield Road that are intended to support equestrian activities. Unfortunately, this stakeholder has positioned themselves as having no responsibility for their contribution to the project and has approached many other stakeholders to express their frustration. Due to concerns about potential reputational damage to the forum and other stakeholder organisations the RMNF trustees invited the British Horse Society (BHS) to mediate and to ensure equestrian safety is a priority ahead of any other issues. We expect to have the BHS recommendations in the new year, at which point we will collectively consider how best to proceed.

We continue to work with other organisations

Mid Pennine Arts and the West Pennine Commoners Association - The forum is actively working with these organisations to develop projects in the areas of Lancashire that border with the RMNF neighbourhood area. Together we are looking at opportunities to promote the Limers Gate Trail and Healey Dell.

South Pennines Park - We are pleased to note the following entry in the Draft Strategy Consultation document, under Heritage Assets in section 3.3.32. **Importance:**

- Of particular significance is the Cotton Famine Road on Rooley Moor above Rochdale, which has links to the American Civil War.

Lancashire and Greater Manchester Local Lists – We have nominated the Cotton Famine Road and the Royal Ordinance Factory, Healey Hall for inclusion.

Rochdale Connections Trust (RCT) – Members of our forum have joined a steering group to support the RCT “Heritage Matters” project.

Governance

Policies and Procedures – We are reviewing and updating our Safeguarding policy and procedure.

Public Liability Insurance (PLI) - Has been reinstated to allow forum meetings, activities and events to recommence.

Health & Safety - There are no issues to report.

Trustee training - There has been none this year.

Grants & funding - United Utilities contributed £1K towards the “Off Road Mitigation Project”.

Can you help

- **Heritage Open Day’s (HOD)** – The Trustees would like to explore how we can involve the area in future HOD events.
- **Want to be a RMNF Trustee?** - We are looking for new Trustees to join RMNF - Trustees are responsible for controlling the charity’s management and administration. They are responsible for ensuring our charity’s income and property is used only for the purposes set out in our governing document and for no other purpose. Trustees have a responsibility to act reasonably and prudently in all matters relating to the charity and they have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the charity.

Please contact the Forum Secretary (email: info@RMNF.org.uk) if you have any ideas you would like to share or if you would like to get more involved.

- **Resolution: To approve the reports from trustees and officers of the forum**
- **Proposed by:**
- **Seconded by:**
- **Agree / Disagree – Proxy Vote Count:**

Agenda Item 8

Trustee & Officer Rotation, Resignations and Appointments

The following people are standing down from their positions:

- Andy Meek
- Alan Rawsterne
- Nigel Morell

The following people are standing for election:

- Andy Meek
- Alan Rawsterne
- Nigel Morell
- Councillor Peter Winkler

- **Resolution: To appoint the above as a trustee's of the forum**
- **Proposed by:**
- **Seconded by:**
- **Agree / Disagree – Proxy Vote Count:**

Forum Officers:

- Andy Meek – Trustee & Chair
- John Newcombe – Trustee & Treasurer
- Alan Rawsterne – Trustee & Secretary
- **Resolution: Andy Meek to continue as Chair, John Newcombe to continue as Treasurer and Alan Rawsterne to continue as Secretary**
- **Proposed by:**
- **Seconded by:**
- **Agree / Disagree – Proxy Vote Count:**

Note: We have a limit of 12 charity trustees, therefore 5 vacancies. Please contact the Secretary if you:

- Wish to become a trustee
- Want to propose a trustee for election
- Want to stand for the position of Vice Chair, or
- Wish to propose a Vice Chair for election

Agenda Item 9

Policy Updates

Safeguarding

Agenda Item 10

AOB

Area Designation

Input into the Local Plan

Bus service to Catley Lane Head

Traffic calming – Catley Lane Head

CCTV – Catley Lane Head

Commoners Rights

Moorland restoration (peat protection policies, wind farm expansion, liaison with LPAs and other related issues)

Fund raising

Agenda Item 11

Date & Time of Next Meeting

To be confirmed

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