

# Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF)

## AGM

Thursday, 2nd February 2023 at 7pm  
The Old Library, Edenfield Road, Norden, Rochdale OL11 5XE

### MINUTES OF MEETING

**FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cecile Biant, John & Janette Newcombe, Gwyn Fitton, Win McGhee, Fran Healey, Stuart Davies, Stuart Mendelsohn, Andy Meek, Geoff & Jackie Ogden, Nigel Morrell, Councillor Peter Winkler, Councillor James Gartside and Alan Rawsterne

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Morley Morgan, Jim Murphy, Denise Madgin, Ruth Shedwick and Councillor Michael Holly

#### Meeting 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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

**MEETING MINUTES:** The meeting commenced at 19:00

## **1. Introduction**

The forum Chair, Andy Meek, opened the meeting, welcomed all, dealt with housekeeping (fire exit and toilets), and apologies (detailed above)

## **2. Meeting code of conduct**

Andy asked people to note the code of conduct.

## **3. Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty**

- Andy asked those present to declare any conflicts of interest or loyalty. Cecile Biant advised that as honorary Vice President of the forum she does not have voting rights.
- Councillor Peter Winkler advised he is a member of the Council Planning Committee.

## **4. Minutes of AGM held Wednesday 17th November 2021**

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

- Nigel Morrell proposed to accept the minutes.
  - John Newcombe seconded the proposal.
  - Unanimously accepted by everyone present at the meeting.

Alan Rawsterne asked that we review the Action Log from those minutes and the following actions were noted as ongoing:

- Advert for new trustees – Ongoing
- Lane Head bus – included in AOB
- Moorland restoration – included in AOB
- Traffic survey – awaiting update from council (action Peter/Cecile).

### **Notes:**

- Some monitoring work is being done on lower half of RMR.
- Rural section of RMR - monitoring identified the need for a solution.
- Residents present at the meeting confirmed they are comfortable with traffic calming being pursued.
- Local plan – included in AOB.
- Redesignation – included in AOB.

## **5. Accounts for year ending 31st August 2022**

John Newcombe advised the accounts are quite simple, there have only been 10 transactions this year and it wasn't felt necessary to seek independent examination. Fran Healey noted there has been no fund raising this year, the forum needs funds to continue, and the forum is registered for gift aid. Cecile Biant informed the meeting she had been using the Amazon Smile facility, Alan Rawsterne advised we had received a small amount of money through this medium, although Amazon have declared they will no longer be continuing with this initiative. We agreed to discuss fundraising further in AOB. We agreed to leave the reserve policy unchanged at £400 as this covered insurance, website and other costs. Alan Rawsterne noted the website was getting a lot of traffic and whilst the forum has 40 voting members, our Facebook page has nearly 1K members.

- Fran Healey proposed to accept the accounts and leave our reserve policy unchanged.
  - Nigel Morrell seconded the proposal.
  - Unanimously accepted by everyone present at the meeting.

## 6. Legal & Administrative Information

Andy Meek explained the legal and administrative information. Alan Rawsterne reiterated we are not seeking an independent examiner for the accounts because there were only 10 transactions in the year and the detail of the accounts is available for anyone who might wish to see it. Alan Rawsterne informed the meeting that the legal and administrative information and the trustees report will be posted with the Charities Commission.

- Alan Rawsterne proposed to accept the legal & administrative Information.
  - Nigel Morrell seconded the proposal.
  - Unanimously accepted by everyone present at the meeting.

## 7. Reports from Trustees and Officers

Andy Meek explained the content of the report and gave additional time for those present to review its content.

- Nigel Morrell proposed to accept the trustee and officer reports.
  - John Newcombe seconded the proposal.
  - Unanimously accepted by everyone present at the meeting.

Cecile Biant asked a question about neighbourhood forum area boundaries, which Alan Rawsterne confirmed are currently unchanged, although because of ward boundary changes the neighbourhood area is now entirely in the Norden Ward. Alan mentioned the complexities of neighbourhood planning and having done a lot of work the trustees decided not to promote the plan due to the risk and implications of it being rejected.

Cecile advised she will recommend and support re-designation of the area when it's discussed in AOB.

## 8. Trustee & Officer Rotation, Resignation & Appointment

**Trustees:** 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

**Forum Officers:** The following people are standing for appointment to the following positions:

- Andy Meek – Trustee & Chair
- John Newcombe – Trustee & Treasurer
- Alan Rawsterne – Trustee & Secretary
- Win McGhee proposed to approve the resignation and appointment of trustees and officers.
  - Seconded by: Stuart Davis
  - Unanimously accepted by everyone present at the meeting.

We discussed the difficulty of and need to involve younger people as trustees. Currently there are 4 trustee vacancies and it's hoped initiatives with The South Pennines Park and Mid Pennines Arts will help the forum engage with younger people who want to be involved. Stuart Mendelson mentioned interest from heritage publicity and that he's doing some early history research that is expected to be revolutionary, providing "pre doomsday" evidence that is surprisingly well documented. Stuart advised he will share history documents.

## 9. Policy Update

Alan Rawsterne advised the RMNF Safeguarding Policy and procedure has been updated and reviewed by Fran Healey and Nigel Morrell. The trustees have accepted the update, which has been made available on our website.

## 10. AOB:

- **Area Designation:** Cecile Biant recommended pursuing re-designation (5-year expiry) to maintain a relationship with council. Alan Rawsterne noted the forum is a charity, which reduces the dependency on designation, Alan also noted having a neighbourhood plan isn't as influential as one might suppose. Cecile thought a neighbourhood plan could have been pursued with officer support and that designation creates a need for consultation with planning and would help links with tourism publicity. All present agreed the forum should pursue re-designation of the area with the council.
- **Local Plan:** Rochdale Council are drafting a new local plan and redesignation of the neighbourhood area would allow more input as consultee. All voting members at this meeting indicated they are in favour of re-designation and consulting on the local plan.
- **Bus service to Catley Lane Head:** Nigel Morrell told the meeting he has a GMPTE senior contact who has advised that current franchise bidding is for "as is" services. There will be tendering for a second phase to include additional routes, but that has not yet started. Advice is to lobby Andy Burnham but there must be strong demand and a focused business case otherwise the default position is to use ring and ride. There is a new R11 service running, it is a very infrequent weekday service that doesn't adequately service Stonehill, Elmpark or Lane Head residents. Another reason for promoting a bus service to Catley Lane Head is to encourage walkers to the area (e.g.; families coming from town). Cecile Biant suggested providing full evidence through a door-to-door survey of the area either side of the main road along the proposed route. The RMNF trustees took an action to investigate the potential of a survey including the creation of a committee to form a proposal and ask for volunteer help to undertake the survey..
- **Traffic Calming – rural section of Rooley Moor Road, through Catley Lane Head village:** The residents present at this meeting said "yes" to pursuing this action as there is a need for it. Any proposed remedy should factor in buses, using road cushions and not ramps. Peter Winkler advised chicanes are not popular or effective. Currently the forum is waiting for highways to make a proposal for consultation. Peter Winkler agreed to follow this up with highways, to seek clarity about timescales, what is proposed, and where, etc. John Newcombe noted Google Maps & satnavs need updating, the rural section of Rooley Moor Road shows as a 60mph speed limit of on some satnavs, restricted byways are not properly identified on Google maps. Nigel Morrell said he had raised a query about whether the cobbled section of the road above the Catley Lane Head cattle grid is adopted or not. He's still awaiting clarification and Peter Winkler agreed to investigate. Nigel advised his query is relevant because of drainage at the old bus terminus, drains are blocked, surface water contributes to flooding and is a hazard when frozen. Peter thought the council may be able to influence if it's impacting lower down road where it is more clearly adopted. Jim Gartside advised the Council has made an unsuccessful attempt to clear the drains in this location. The cobbled section of the road is included in the Catley

Lane Head conservation area, and all agreed we should lobby to have the cobbled section adopted if it's not.

- John Newcombe advised that he's been advised Station Road is unadopted and there are issues with maintaining the road. John explained there are issues for Prickshaw & Broadley Fold residents due to an increase in visitor numbers. Station Road leads to a public car park and the state of the road is an issue. Can anything be done? Jurisdiction is unclear as it spans two borough boundaries. It seems a highways engineer has said the road is not adopted or maintained by highways. Nigel Morrell suggested bringing this issue up at Norden Area Forum meeting. John agreed to send resident questions to Nigel for inclusion at the next Norden Area Forum. Peter Winkler agreed to review the status of Station Road and if possible, to seek maintenance of the road.
- **CCTV – Catley Lane Head:** Community Safety – Nigel Morrell advised there is a possibility of redeploying an existing camera to a lampstand at the Lane Head bus terminus. There's a need to demonstrate it could make a significant contribution to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in the area. Nigel will request councillor support and ask our community PCs and Sergeants to talk to the Council. Residents present at meeting who are closest to the issues indicated they support the installation of a camera. Data protection has to be considered, which should give residents confidence as it would be better than using personal CCTV. The cost of monitoring will need to be included. This initiative has forum support. Nigel agreed to follow this up with Peter Winkler and to ask the Police to look at including ANPR capability. – It was noted that regular reports are being made to the Police and are being logged to help gather evidence. The Norden Area forum will be given summary of these reports to help scale the problems.
- **Commoners Rights:** Mid Pennine Arts are extending the Spodden Valley Reveal project into Healey Dell, they are thinking about a project with the Commoners and the Friends of Syke and Cronkyshaw to raise the profile of "rights of common", which need to be better understood. An example was given of Lancashire County Council (LCC) facilitating motorcycle events at Lee Quarry, part of which is on common land, where the Commoners have demonstrated LCC needs the agreement of commoners. Currently these events at Lee Quarry have stopped awaiting LCC to discuss this issue with the Commoners Association.
- **Smallshaw** – Start Mendelson suggested Smallshaw should be "Scheduled". Alan Rawsterne agreed to keep Stuart in the loop with conversations concerning Mid Pennine Arts and the South Pennines Park. Stuart advised he will share the information he already has (with the right people!), including his blogs about recent archaeological discoveries in southeast Lancashire (see earlier action – also, you can find Stuart's blogs if you search on the internet for Smallshaw).
- **Moorland Restoration:** Mid Pennine Arts and South Pennines Park are considering projects that will include an element of moorland restoration – it's early days, so we will keep people informed as these projects develop. Rossendale Council are aware deep peat protection is needed and have included guidance in their development policy. Nigel Morrell and Alan Rawsterne are trying to engage with the bigger stakeholders (e.g. Rochdale manor, Windfarm operators and UU) to regenerate natural moorland and are taking learnings from other initiatives, for example, Moors For The Future. There was general agreement from meeting participants about the importance of peat and to protect the area from damaging development. The need to engage with MPs and others to protect our open spaces was noted. We agreed lobbying and engagement on this matter is to continue.
- **Fundraising:** The local WI have requested a talk about the forum which has been accepted and might invite donations. It's possible the Council might consider funding to give presentations to other organisations about the history, heritage a health benefits of the

area. Other ideas included registering with our local Co-Op. The trustees agreed to convene and discuss.

- **Off-Roading:** A lot of off-roader activity is being reported in the area. There seems to be repeated activity on Tuesday evenings for couple of hours and Friday evening until early hours. Volunteers are working with GMP and Lancashire Police over off-roading. RMNF tried to source a 4x4 for our GMP community officers, but GMP are now going to supply their own 4X4s. PC Giblin is taking information from reliable sources and sending retrospective S59s in the post. Use of a drone has been considered, GMP and Lancashire Police have potential access to a drone but struggle to have an operator available when required. There's an offer from an Edenfield resident to supply a drone and this is in discussion for future Operation Dragsters. Stuart Mendelsohn advised he has a drone that he can control at over 1 mile away, it gives high quality pictures, but you need to be aware of what you fly over (schools and safeguarding is a consideration). Lancashire Police and GMP are coordinating with UU and cross boundary community groups on WhatsApp. Lots of work has been done with signage and Rossendale now has a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and are issuing fixed penalty notices, including the vans that carry the bikes. Rochdale Council are looking at drafting a similar PSPO. Where motorised vehicles get on and off moor is documented. GMP community officers confirmed at the Spotland & Falinge Area Forum that they are getting 4WD vehicles. Lancashire Fire and Rescue are working with the Police regarding Op Dragster, including antisocial behaviours and moorland fires, which they can respond to a fire risk (e.g. BBQs on dry moorland, hot vehicle exhausts, etc.)
- We noted a donation through Amazon Smile – circa £10 received and that Amazon will soon be stopping these donations.
- Events – Alan Rawsterne asked if anyone is doing anything for the Coronation. Peter Winkler advised he is trying to organise something to support an event in Norden.

#### **11. Next Meeting**

- TBC

**The meeting closed at 21:00**

## Actions from this meeting

Ref	What	Who	When
A 1	Traffic survey outcomes from the traffic monitoring on the rural section of RMR –update required from the council.	Cecile Biant & Peter Winkler	ASAP
A 2	Share history documents for the area.	Stuart Mendelsohn	ASAP
A 3	Pursue re-designation of the area.	RMNF Trustees	TBC
A 4	Consult on the RMBC local plan.	RMNF Trustees	TBC
A 5	Bus Service to Catley Lane Head - Investigate the potential of a survey including the creation of a committee to form a proposal and ask for volunteer help to undertake the survey.	RMNF Trustees	ASAP
A 6	Traffic Calming – rural section of Rooley Moor Road, through Catley Lane Head village: Follow up with highways to seek clarity about timescales, what is proposed, and where, etc.	Cllr Peter Winkler	ASAP
A 7	Cobbled section of Rooley Moor Road identified in the Catley Lane Head conservation area – establish if this section of the road is adopted by the Council and lobby for adoption if it is not.	Cllr Peter Winkler	ASAP
A 8	Catley Lane Head bus terminus drains blocked– Surface water contributes to flooding and is a hazard when frozen - Ask for drains to be cleared.	Cllr Peter Winkler	ASAP
A 9	Station Road - Send resident questions to Nigel for inclusion at the next Norden Area Forum.	John Newcombe	Before 28/02/2023
A 10	Review the status of Station Road and if possible, seek maintenance of the road.	Cllr Peter Winkler	ASAP
A 11	CCTV at Catley Lane Head bus terminus. Request councillor support and ask community PCs and Sergeants to talk to the Council. Also ask the Police to look at including ANPR functionality.	Nigel Morrell	ASAP
A 12	Heritage: Keep Stuart Mendelson in the loop with conversations concerning Mid Pennine Arts and the South Pennines Park.	Alan Rawsterne	Ongoing
A 13	Moorland restoration – continue to explore possibilities for our area and keep forum members informed.	RMNF trustees	Ongoing
A 14	Fundraising – trustees to meet and discuss	RMNF trustees	ASAP