

# Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF)

[www.rmnf.co.uk](http://www.rmnf.co.uk)

## AGM

(Annual General Meeting)

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 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 2022 and review the actions from this meeting.
5. To adopt the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, 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
10. AOB
  - Cotton Famine Road Project – Mick Martin
  - Traffic calming – Catley Lane Head
  - CCTV – Catley Lane Head (ASB and vandalism)
  - Repairs required at Broadley Pond (JN)
  - Change of address (to the Old Library?)
  - Future activities and aims.
  - 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 2022  
and review the actions from this meeting.**

## **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 or 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

- **Resolution: To approve the Minutes of the Annual General meeting of 2022.**
- **Proposed by:**
- **Seconded by:**
- **Agree / Disagree – Show of Hands:**

# Agenda Item 5

## To adopt the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022, and to agree our reserves policy.

### Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Accounts

Year End: 31-Aug-23

	2022/23 Restricted	2022/23 Restricted	2022/23 Restricted	2022/23 Unrestricted	2022/23 Total
	Adj	DQAG	ORMM		
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance B/F from Summary 2021-22	-1	1382	1512	408	3301
					0
<b>INCOME</b>					0
Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Donations In	0	0	0	18	18
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Consultant Costs	0	0	0	0	0
Training	0	0	0	0	0
Room Hire	0	0	0	0	0
Website	0	-114	0	0	-114
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0
Donations Out	0	0	0	0	0
Printing & Stationery	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	0	0	0	0	0
In Bloom	0	0	0	0	0
Misc Expenses	0	0	0	-44	-44
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-114</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-44</b>	<b>-158</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>3,161</b>

Reconciliation of Accounts 2022/23 To Bank Statement			
	Paypal	Co-Op	Total
Opening Balance 01/09/22	£0	£3,301	£3,301
Receipts Reported	£0	£18	£18
Expenditure Reported	£0	-£158	-£158
<b>Closing Balance 31/8/23 Reported</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£3,161</b>	<b>£3,161</b>
Balance at Bank 31/8/23	0	3,161	3,161

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.

Note: There are no Gift Aid donations to be claimed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Resolution: To approve the 2022/23 accounts and reserves policy</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proposed by:</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seconded by:</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agree / Disagree – Show of Hands</b></li> </ul>

# 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

Councillor Peter Winkler

### 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

This year we will not seek independent examination due to the low number of transactions. Please note, 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 42 members of the CIO with voting rights. This is one more than last year, and it is worth noting we have seen membership of the forum Facebook page grow to 1,100 members. We have also seen an increased number of people registering on the Forum website, which currently stands at 63, the majority of whom have no voting rights.

#### Recruitment & Appointment of Trustees

Following on from our last Annual General Meeting and the boundary changes that moved our neighbourhood area in to the Norden Ward, we were pleased to welcome Councillor Peter Winkler 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. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment.

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 Frances Healey and Morley Morgan will resign as Trustees at the 2023 Annual General Meeting, and they both 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 Annual General Meeting.

## Achievements & Performance

This year's financial transactions are not significant, but we've not been dormant, we've been exploring several opportunities to help us deliver our charitable objectives.

**Off road vehicles** - Operation Dragster continues as a combined initiative between Greater Manchester Police, Lancashire Police, United Utilities, and many local volunteers. We are grateful to all involved; although it's disappointing to note increasing numbers of illegal motorised vehicles are targeting the moorland in and around our area. The objective of Operation Dragster is to reduce the growing volume of illegal off-road activity in and around our area that is so badly damaging the moorland, attracting fly tipping and other types of antisocial behaviour, and on some occasions putting legitimate users of the moorland at risk through reckless behaviour and / or threats of violence.

Various stakeholders with an interest in protecting the moorland formed an "Off-road Mitigation Group" to identify opportunities that might support Operation Dragster and law enforcement. It is disappointing to report one of the former stakeholders continues to retrospectively find fault with various installations along Edenfield Road that are intended to support law enforcement activities without hindering equestrian activities. A new equestrian group, the "Norden, Bamford and Heywood Bridleways Association" (NBHBA) engaged with the British Horse Society (BHS) to evaluate and agree equestrian safety requirements and retrospectively submit a Section 38 application to the Secretary of State to seek permission for the Endenfield Road fence to remain in place. We await the outcome of the S38 application, which if approved will require the implementation of BHS recommendations. If the application fails, the fence will have to be removed.



**Moorland Restoration** - Our commitment to preserving our upland moorlands from onerous development and aggressive misuse is constant, ongoing, and worthwhile. The forum trustees have 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. Throughout this year several of the forum trustees met with members of the Lancashire Peat Partnership (LPP) to evaluate the possibility of restoring an area of Rooley Moor known as “Red Pits”. This involved researching the rights of common for common land unit number CL163, which has approximately 29 properties registered with rights of common that can be exercised. The summary of all these rights include:

<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Head of cattle</b>	<b>Horses</b>	<b>Geese</b>
6,977	365	33	25

We determined CL163 has an area of 368 hectares of which Red Pits is a 47-hectare area (12%) located at the northern tip of CL163, north of Ding Quarry and adjacent to the northern border with Lancashire. This area is also designated, “Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (Surface Water)”.

We then had to review the Peatland Code and Wilder Carbon incentives to estimate the potential financial yield for the sequestration of Carbon through peat.

After discussions with members of the **West Pennine Commoners Association** we concluded rewetting moorland could possibly have a detrimental effect on sheep grazing. The Wilder Carbon incentive is likely to provide the best financial outcome. However, it seems the financial yield of the Red Pits area from the sale of carbon credits is likely to be too small to satisfy the landowner and those commoners who might trade their “Rights of Common” for financial recompense. We have decided to hold any further investigation into this matter in abeyance to see how carbon funding develops.

**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 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. The forum continues to be actively engaged in specific areas of direct concern and monitor weekly planning applications that are lodged with the Council.

We have asked for our forum to be included as a consultee in the development of Rochdale Councils “Local Plan” and we have decided NOT to seek Rochdale Councils re-designation of the neighbourhood area and forum given our concerns regarding the relevance of neighbourhood planning to the planning process.

**Prickshaw and Broadley Fold Conservation Area.** The **Spring Mill** development has become a lost cause with no progress being made with Rossendale Council or the developer regarding the concerns raised about the potential adverse effects of this development. Unfortunately, the impact of this development on the neighbouring nature reserve and conservation area will soon be realised and any serious consequences of development on inadequately remediated contaminated land may not become apparent for many years. Our lessons learned from the Spring Mill experience are that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) seemingly have no responsibility for the Health and Safety of residents who are put at risk by the developments they approve. LPAs rely on self-regulation and other inadequately resourced agencies (HSE, EA, Police, Fire, Ambulance, NHS etc.) to deal with these matters. It is also disappointing to note that residents bordering new developments are

expected to put up with any inconvenience caused (dust, noise, site traffic, out of hours operations, etc.), whilst still being required to pay Council tax. We respectfully suggest the local and national planning function is not fit for purpose, the forum trustees have found little evidence to refute this opinion and struggle to see how Neighbourhood Planning in its current form can have any positive impact on planning issues.

**Turner Brothers Asbestos (TBA)** – The TBA site needs to be made safe. Currently there are no planning applications for the TBA site. In its current undisturbed state, the TBA site presents a reduced public health risk. However, buildings on the site are deteriorating and there are issues with riverbank erosion releasing asbestos into the environment. In a worst-case scenario, any asbestos released from the TBA site could be carried as air bourn particles 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 continue to 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 still await feedback from our suggestions and will let you know when we know more.

**Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone** - We await with interest the new proposals intended to take this initiative forward.

**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 and
- CCTV to reduce antisocial behaviour.

**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.

**We continue to work with other organisations** – Unfortunately, **South Pennines Park** have announced they will be closing at the beginning of 2024. After reviewing the organisation's position and the shifting landscape they operate in their Board felt they could not continue.

Our forum continues to work with **Mid Pennine Arts** to deliver the closing stages of the Spodden Vally Revealed (SVR) project for those elements that are within the RMNF neighbourhood area. Together with the **West Pennine Commoners Association** we looked at opportunities to promote the Limers Gate Trail and Healey Dell, which we have not been able to take this forward.

We are pleased to be members of **Macc**, a charity whose purpose is quite simply the city of Manchester. They encourage, support, and help to develop voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to allow local people to have a real influence over the places and communities in which they live. We also continue with our membership of the **Lancashire Local History Federation**, the official co-ordinating body for local history in the County Palatine of Lancaster.

**Lancashire and Greater Manchester Local Lists** – Our nominations for the Cotton Famine Road and the Royal Ordinance Factory, Healey Hall have still not been processed for inclusion.

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.

**Cotton Famine Road Project** - We are working with **History in Action CIC** and Mick Martin, writer for stage, television and radio, to commission a community arts project that will meet our education object. The aim is to help create and undertake a community arts project for Rochdale honouring the men and women who sacrificed everything for principle on The Cotton Famine Road during the Lancashire Cotton Famine (1861–65).

## **Governance**

**Policies and Procedures** – We have reviewed and maintained our Safeguarding policy and procedure.

**Public Liability Insurance (PLI)** - Has been renewed to allow forum meetings, activities, and events to continue.

**Health & Safety** - There are no issues to report.

**Trustee training** – Alan Rawsterne has attended a trustee training session with Macc.

**Grants & funding** – A small donation has been received due to the closure of Amazon Smile.

## 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](mailto: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 – Show of Hands:**

# Agenda Item 8

## Trustee & Officer Rotation, Resignations and Appointments

The following people are standing down from their positions:

- Frances Healey
- Morley Morgan

The following people are standing for election:

- Frances Healey
- Morley Morgan
- **Resolution: To appoint the above as a trustees of the forum**
- **Proposed by:**
- **Seconded by:**
- **Agree / Disagree – Show of Hands:**

### 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 – Show of Hands:**

### Honorary President

David Olusoga has come to the end of his three-year term. The trustees have invited, and David has agreed to continue as our honorary president for another three-year term.

- **Resolution: David Olusoga to continue as our Honorary President for another three-year term**
- **Proposed by:**
- **Seconded by:**

### Agree / Disagree – Show of Hands

**Note:** We have a limit of 12 charity trustees, therefore 4 vacancies. Please contact the Secretary if you:

- Wish to become a trustee, or
- Want to propose a trustee for election.

## **Agenda Item 9**

### **Policy Updates**

#### **Safeguarding**

We have reviewed and maintained our safeguarding policy.

#### **Other policies**

Our other policy documents have been reviewed and remain unchanged.

# **Agenda Item 10**

## **AOB**

- Cotton Famine Road Project – Mick Martin
- Traffic calming – Catley Lane Head
- CCTV – Catley Lane Head (ASB and vandalism)
- Repairs required at Broadley Pond (JN)
- Change of address (to the Old Library?)
- Future activities and aims.
- Fund raising.

# **Agenda Item 11**

## **Date & Time of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed

- Regular updates will be issued through the website, social media and by email.