

# Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF)

## MINUTES OF MEETING

17<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT:** Margaret Howard, Geoff Ogden, John Newcome, Janette Newcombe, Steve Davidson, Morley Morgan, Liz Rutherford, Bill Taylor, Fran Healey, Roy Thornley, Denise Madgin, David Ireland, Diane Ireland, Gwyn Fitton, Win McGhee, Nigel Ashworth, Nick Green, Margaret Green, Helen Moore, Mick Coats, Andy Meek and Alan Rawsterne

**OFFICERS:** TBA

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Jack Fitton and Christine McHugh

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Cecile Biant, Jen Holt, Maxine Jaeger, Nichola Marr and Irene Pope

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

### 1. Introduction

Alan Rawsterne (AR) opened the meeting, welcomed all, confirmed our area and forum official designation by the council, and passed round a copy of Wednesday's Rochdale Observer that mentioned our designation. AR also showed a map of the area then handed over to Andy Meek (AM) to chair the meeting.

AM dealt with housekeeping (fire exit and toilets), the meeting code of conduct and apologies (detailed above):

- Helen Moore advised she may be asked to represent bridleways for Irene Pope at future meetings

### 2. Minutes of last meeting

- AR confirmed minutes were circulated after the last meeting and no amendments were made.
- AR proposed to accept the minutes
  - John Newcombe (JN) seconded the proposal
  - The minutes were unanimously accepted on a show of hands
- AR suggested that for future meetings we should focus should on 'actions', rather than minutes, so we become an action based organisation that concentrates on what we said we would do.
- AR provided an update on the following:
  - Designation of our area and forum was approved at Rochdale Township Committee Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – Now we are formally designated we should be on the Council consultee list and be notified of any planning applications affecting our area.
  - Registration as Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) – despite being the recommended approach it wasn't straightforward but our registration was approved 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
    - AM proposed thanks for Alan – agreed by all members.
  - Opening a bank account – because members have voting rights the Cooperative Bank requires all members to provide additional information (Title, First Name, Middle Name, Surname Name, Date of Birth,

Nationality, Home Address, How long you have lived at the address - If less than 3 years then previous address and how long you have lived there is required). This is so the bank is able to meet its obligations regarding money laundering. If you are not a member you cannot vote. If you want to influence forum decisions you have to be a member of the forum and will need to provide the required information.

- AR will request additional information from members and register the forum for data protection.
- Hope to have bank account open in 2 weeks

### **3. Updated constitution**

- AR explained the changes had come about as result of dealings with the charities commission and explained our original objects didn't meet the criteria for charitable purpose.
- AR read out new objects and advised any Neighbourhood Plan we develop must meet our charitable objectives.
- AR proposed we accept the new objects
  - John Newcombe (JN) seconded the proposal
  - The objects were unanimously accepted on a show of hands

### **4. Action log**

- Outstanding actions:
  - Public liability insurance is needed, AR talking to NFU, Zurich, etc. – subject to funding
  - Opening a bank account – this is on going as described above
  - Gift Aid – can claim – AR to pursue
  - Photographic competition / calendar – Plan for 2017. Liz Rutherford (LR) suggested subgroup led by LR – volunteers to make themselves known to LR
- All other actions completed

### **5. Next Steps**

- Neighbourhood plan
  - AR advised:
    - That a plan might include heritage, habitats, fishing, footpaths, roads & bridleways, signage and street furniture
    - To understand what type of development people want for our area (be it - sympathetic, actively enhancing amenity and conservation areas, etc.) we would need to consider a household survey and develop an evidence base to support any conclusions
    - We will probably need to secure the services of a planning professional and contact has been made with a consultant, Paul Simpson, who is ex Rochdale Council
    - Anyone involved in the process would require some training
  - AR asked for volunteers to support the process and suggested any volunteers could reserve the right to back out if developing a plan became onerous
  - John Newcombe, Bill Taylor, Diane & David Ireland volunteered
- Fundraising

- AR advised grants are available through Locality and has started the application process:
  - Up to £9k over 3 years, must spend any monies in 6 months
  - There is a potential further £6k available for technical support
  - Create plan, apply in small chunks
  - Suggest first bid circa £4k
  - Grant money used for: - Launch event, training, developing a project plan, undertaking a household survey, developing an evidence base, procuring the services of a planning expert, venue hire, publicity, printing & other consultation costs
- There's a possibility grant money could be used to undertake an Archaeological survey
  - AR to investigate
- AR advised we can also look to secure money and resource, for things not associated to the neighbourhood plan, that could be used to enhance the area. Examples:-
  - S106 monies derived from nearby development like that on Ings Lane
  - Community benefit funds – banks, windfarms, etc.
  - Heritage Lottery
  - Pocket parks (government initiative)
- Heritage
  - AR advised a meeting with our conservation project officer, Sue Oakley, is scheduled for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Conservation status for Catley Lane Head is on agenda.
    - JN cautioned conservation status is irrevocable and the 'Pros & Cons' need to be considered
    - Everyone needs to be on board (even those that don't engage with meeting) – AR suggested that perhaps we could do that through the neighbourhood plan and took an action to discuss with Sue Oakley
    - Carl Faulkner (CF) cautioned the council may move boundaries of any proposed conservation area
    - AR requested Lanehead resident involvement to understand the process and meet with Sue Oakley and the following volunteered their involvement: Helen Moore, John Newcombe, Bill Taylor if available and Diane Ireland.
  - AR advised that part of Healey Dell Nature Reserve was in our area and that we probably had common aims and objectives. AR advised he had been unsuccessful in trying to contact Friends of Healey Dell and asked if anyone had any contacts:
    - Helen Moore to put AR in touch with Countryside Ranger - Richard Whiteley
    - Roy Thornley will provide contact email addresses
    - There was a suggestion to try local councillor – Shaun O'Neill.
- Launch event
  - Assuming we secure funding, we discussed the following:
    - Agree a date for summer - Could we coincide TV launch event with our launch event – AR to enquire (see notes at 6. Open Forum)

- Use Prickshaw village green or field behind Win McGhee's house
- Promote amenity
- Involve young people & families
- Require Indoor and outdoor facilities
- Consider exhibition / publicity indoors / Stalls
- Facilities available – riding, walking etc
- Agree 3 or 4 objectives
- Check notifying authorities, first aid etc
- Group to plan – Liz Rutherford, Win McGhee, Denise Madgin, Nick and Margaret Green, David and Diane Ireland

## 6. Open Forum

- Trustee training – AR to get details and share with Trustees
- BBC TV – AR advised contact from BBC who are considering using the Cotton Famine road as part of a history programme.
  - AR was asked to share information with forum members and request this be kept confidential.
  - AR passed copies of an information leaflet around and explained the BBC had undertaken research through UCLAN, UOM, UOL, Touchstones etc. and would like to contact descendent of mill workers etc.
    - AR to circulate the document from the BBC with forum members so people can make contact if they wish
  - David Ireland advised a couple named Sue and Ian Clayton did research on the Cotton Famine Road and Ian Clayton gave documents to David Thomas.
    - AR to make contact with DT.
  - Diane Ireland asked if we could coincide the TV launch event with RMNF launch event.
    - AR to enquire
- Fracking – AR advised Hutton Energy have a licence for a plot that includes our area
  - The council have not received any planning applications for fracking
  - AR will continue to monitor planning application
  - Denise Madgin advised a plane has been seen going over Whitworth scanning the moor land
    - AR to try and find out what it was for
- Scout Moor Extension
  - For everyone's information JN advised the Secretary of State has called in the application from Peel and he will circulate information about the procedures to anyone who would like them.
- Prickshaw Dam
  - JN advised there appears to be a fault with dam related to the private water supply.
  - Council officers M Widdup and N Barton have promised to do what can.
  - JN noted thanks to our ward councillor Cecile Biant for her support in trying to resolve this issue.
- Shawfield Turbine
  - AR advised he had made a complaint to the council regarding failures in the planning process, noise from the turbine and that documentation

supporting the planning application suggested the turbine was in the wrong location.

- On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March AR met planning enforcement officer Dian Rothwell and Daniela Ripa who is a planning development manager.
- Diane Rothwell agreed council process had failed (didn't identify heritage assets or consult properly) and apologised
- The location of the turbine has been confirmed as correct, and it is acknowledged that the documentation supporting the application is poor.
- Noise from the turbine is affecting some residents - Dian Rotherwell has provided her contact details and would like to visit when there is noise from the turbine – This is usually when the wind is from the west.
- Chris McHugh advised noise from this turbine can be heard at Keepers Cottage and at the cattle grid on Back Lane.
- AR will consider involving environmental health if the problem persists
- Rochdale Youth Council –
  - AR proposed asking if the youth council could be involved in some of the forum tasks, neighbourhood planning, launch event, etc.
  - All agreed for AR to make contact.
  - Establish if DBS checks are required
- AOB
  - Off road biking & 4x4s – damaging environment
    - Spotland & Falinge Area Forum noted as the place to raise issues
    - Can our forum develop a relationship with community police officers
  - Launch subcommittee – AR to propose dates towards end April

## **7. Next Meeting**

- TBC – We will meet before launch event