

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF)

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 Trustee (Appointed 21st November 2019)

Andy Meek – Trustee & Chair

John Newcombe – Trustee & Treasurer

Alan Rawsterne - Trustee & Secretary

Frances Healey – Trustee

Morley Morgan - Trustee

Councillor Wendy Cocks – Trustee

Philip Massey – Trustee

Steve Davison – Trustee (Resigned 15th July 2020)

Nigel Morrell – Trustee (Appointed 21st November 2019)

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.

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 40 members of the CIO with voting rights. This remains at the same level as last year.

Recruitment & Appointment of Trustees

At every subsequent annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall 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 Cecile Biant, who resigned as trustee in 2019, accepted an invitation from the Trustees, which had the unanimous approval of forum members at the 2019 AGM, to be the Honorary Vice President of the forum.

Steve Davison resigned his position as trustees in July this year, although he does remain as a member of the forum.

Frances Healy is standing down as trustees and wishes 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 AGM.

Achievements & Performance

Covid-19 has had an effect on 2019/20 but compared to other charities the impact of the pandemic on RMNF has been minimal. Since March 2020 we've not been dormant, but we have had to find different ways to deliver our charitable objectives. The trustees took the decision to allow advertising on our social media sites. We usually ask organisations and the public not to advertise, but given the situation brought about by the Covid-19 crisis the forum trustees are happy to allow content that helps people stay safe. We have also made our heritage trail leaflets freely available throughout the borough so people can take exercise and enjoy the wide open spaces of the surrounding moorland.

September 2019. Rossendale Local Plan, the Examination Hearing started on 24th September and representations concerning Matter 16 – Environment [Policies ENV1 – ENV10] were made by members of RMNF and the following items were noted by the inspector for further consideration:

- Identification and inclusion of historic landscape
- De-commissioning of wind turbines
- Visual effect and efficiency of wind turbine clusters
- Introduction and use of native trees, plants and shrubs

November 2019. We held our AGM and were delighted to welcome Nigel Morrell as trustees of our forum. The forum trustees recommended, and all present agreed not to submit our Neighbourhood Plan for external examination. The report produced in October 2018 by The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) was an influencing factor as was the response from some residents who had clearly not understood the function of the forum or the plan. It appears purposeful misinformation about the forum and the plan has been given, unfortunately no one approached the forum directly to address their concerns. Recent events with the Rossendale development at Spring Mill seem to re-enforce the issues raised by the NALC.

December 2019. The trustees had an informal get together at Healey Dell Tea Rooms, where we wished Cecil Biant well in her retirement and thanked her for her contribution to the forum and accepting the position of Honorary Vice President. We decided not to produce another RMNF calendar, previous years only just broke even with sales against cost and another calendar ran the risk of making a negative contribution to forum funds. Catley Carols was cancelled due to adverse weather.

March 2020. The Covid-19 crisis had us go into lockdown.

Other Issues

Spring Mill development. Rossendale planning application ref: 2018/0318 from developer, Gleeson, to construct 119 dwellings on land at Spring Mill, Whitworth has been approved despite many objections. The RMNF request to be a consultee to this development has largely been ignored, as was the request for the planning authority and the developer to consider our draft neighbourhood plan. The forum and members of the Prickshaw & Broadly Fold Conservation Area are now liaising directly

with the developer in an attempt to ensure this development isn't a blight on the conservation area or Healey Dell Nature Reserve. The headline topics under discussion are as stated below:

1. Consultation - initial and ongoing
2. Site:
 - a. Perimeter, access and ASB issues
 - b. Security, immediate and ongoing
3. Clearance and Contamination - remedial work, disposal of material
4. New bridleway and protection of MTL
5. Visual impact - property facing materials and screening
6. Green compensation for loss of wildlife habitat, and
7. S106 monies

Prickshaw village streetlights. Dialogue continues with Rochdale Council. However, this is a complex issue and we are awaiting a recommendation from the council.

Off road motorbikes and other vehicle accessing the moor continues to cause concern for residents, Commoners who exercise their grazing rights and landowners. We continue to liaise with the Police, The West Pennine Commoners Association, landowners, business with facilities placed on the moors, Councillors and our Members of Parliament to see if effective remedies can be found to protect the moor, its wildlife and upland farming, which are all currently at risk. Our forum is currently seeking grants to help with the implementation of mitigation measures.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF). The proposed timetable would see all 10 councils review the plan before it goes out for eight weeks of public scrutiny from early November 2020.

Fly tipping. Our thanks go to Rochdale Borough Council and the Environmental Services team for their prompt response to the many reports they receive about fly tipping in the area. IT's pleasing to report that the number of incidents has gone down since the re-introduction of the gate on Rooley Moor Road near the junction with Knacks Lane.

Catley Lane Head - Footpath from Fair View to 780 Rooley Moor Road. The Council approved a scheme of works for the footway and advised they were unable to reuse the existing damaged stone kerbs; however special conservation kerbs were used. Unfortunately, the footway surface remained a like- for- like bituminous replacement.

We continue to support other neighbourhood forums

- Knowle Dorridge Bentley Heath Forum asked for help with their application to achieve charitable status.
- Thornham St John's Neighbourhood Forum has been awarded a grant to pursue their neighbourhood plan. Currently their forum does not have a bank account and they have asked our forum to act as banker. We have a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) in place to deal with financial transactions on their behalf and we currently hold £8,670 for them in a restricted fund.

Public liability insurance (PLI). The trustees decided to protect forum funds during the pandemic by taking an insurance holiday whilst no activities are allowed due to Covid-19 restrictions. This is under review and PLI will be reinstated as soon as forum activities commence.

Health & Safety. Risk assessments were in place for all activities and there are no issues to report.

Trustee Training. There has been none this year.

Grants & Funding. The trustees have agreed to fund the repair of the Prickshaw & Broadley Fold sign that has been vandalised for a second time. The anticipated cost is approximately £100.

Thornham St John's Neighbourhood Forum - we currently hold £8,670 for them in a restricted fund.

Co-Operative Heritage Trust paid £200 in acknowledgment of project support provided by our forum.

Would you like to get involved

Please contact the forum secretary (email: info@RMNF.org.uk) if you'd like to get involved in any of the following.

Virtual Reality. We'd like to explore the possibility of creating two virtual tours - one for the munition's factory and the other for the Cotton Famine Road. Thinking about the munition's factory, the basic idea would be to have an application that would run on a mobile phone to give a high level view of the activity that took place on site and in each building - people, working conditions, transport, process, etc. The virtual tour should also be able to be used in an exhibition, using headsets and audio.

The same principles would apply for the virtual reality tour of the Cotton Famine Road – potentially allowing a virtual walk up the moor to explore the history of the road, to see its construction, the people, the working conditions, etc.

South Pennines Wildfire Heritage Group. We've established contact with Pennine Prospects and have indicated our interest in getting involved in a project that will assess the impact that moorland fires have had on known and previously unknown heritage assets.

Heritage Open Day's (HOD's). Having made a successful contribution to the 2019 HOD's we would like to explore how we can involve the area in future events.

Moorland Restoration. Given the importance of peat as a carbon store we would like to understand how our area could develop this natural asset to contribute to the boroughs carbon neutral initiatives.

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Accounts

Year End: 31-Aug-20

	2019/20 Restricted	2019/20 Restricted	2019/20 Restricted	2019/20 Restricted	2019/20 Restricted	2019/20 Unrestricted	2019/20 Total
	PCC	DQAG	Asda	HLF 17	TSJNF		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance B/F from Summary 2018-19	32	1,382	176	368	0	1,031	2,988
							0
<u>INCOME</u>							0
Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	8,670	0	8,670
Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donations In	0	0	0	0	0	200	200
Total Income	0	0	0	0	8,670	200	8,870
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>							
Consultant Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Room Hire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Website	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donations Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Printing & Stationery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In Bloom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Misc Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	(154)	(154)
Total Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	(154)	(154)
Closing Balance	32	1,382	176	368	8,670	1,077	11,704

Reconciliation of Accounts 2019/20 To Bank Statement

	Paypal	Co-Op	Total
Opening Balance 01/09/19	£50	£2,938	£2,988
Receipts Reported	£0	£8,870	£8,870
Expenditure Reported	£0	(£154)	(£154)
Closing Balance 31/8/20 Reported	£50	£11,654	£11,704
Balance at Bank 31/8/20	£50	£11,654	£11,704
Check	0	0	0

No.	Date	Description	Bank Reference	Customer Reference	Credit	Debit	Additional Running Information	Balance
1	21/11/2019	Standing Order	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	OPEN SPACES SOCIET		£45.00	20395300100021	£2,893
2	09/12/2019	Standing Order	MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRI	LANCASHIRE LOCAL H		£8.00	01053132603983	£2,885
3	10/12/2019	Cheque	0010769632870000	500020		£28.95	090128	£2,856
4	30/12/2019	Standing Order	RMNF EXPENSES	ALAN RAWSTERNE		£41.97	40642012974100	£2,814
5	15/01/2020	Cheque	0011905250870000	500019		£30.00	050573	£2,784
6	04/03/2020	Faster Payment	RMNF0001	THE CO-OPERATIVE H	£200.00		08929965861572	£2,984
7	24/07/2020	BACS Credit	GWUK	GROUNDWORK UK	£8,670.00		08900165400124	£11,654
Totals					£8,870	£154		

Independent examination of accounts 19-10-20
 I consider that the Rosley Moor Neighbourhood accounts
 have been properly prepared and give a true and fair
 view of the group's finances for the year ended 31-8-20

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PAMELA HAIGH
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