Rushmoor Voluntary Services
Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held at Civic Offices Farnborough
Wednesday 23rd September 2026

Trustees Present: Andrew Lloyd (Chairman), Alan Thorpe (Treasurer), Gary Ghale, Richard Hickman, Diane Bedford and Councillor Lisa Greenway (Ex Officio)

Also Present: Mayor of Rushmoor, Councillor Peter Cullum and Karen Edwards, Executive Director, Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC)

Staff Present: Donna Bone (Chief Executive Officer), Heather Chalkley (Community Development Manager), Beverley Jones (Operations Manager), Hazel Chant (Blooming Marvellous), Isobel Nicholson (CD Admin), Karen Gorham (volunteer), Janet Heimes (Finance Officer), Megan Kerry (Volunteering Hub Officer)

Members and Guests Present:

Andy	Barrett	Kerith Community Church
Dan	Brooks	Citizens Advice Rushmoor
Jessica	Clarke	Parkside (Aldershot and District Learning Disability)
Michael	Collen	Lions Club of Fleet
Chris	Cornwell	Hartley Wintney Voluntary Care Group
Laura	Ellis	Hampshire Library Service
Ken	Evans	Christians Against Poverty
Pauline	Gairns	Aldershot & District Tinnitus Support Group
Kerry	Guy	Hampshire County Council
Justin	Harris	Knight Goodhead Ltd (Auditor)
Kate	Harvey	Fleet Community Care
Jacqueline	Hocking	Aldershot & District Tinnitus Support Group
Lynette	Lawson-Tyers	Rushmoor Borough Council
Steve	Masterson	RBC Councillor
Alan	Pearson	
Colin	Slatter	
Mike	Roberts	RBC Councillor
Jan	Thompson	Farnborough & District Stroke /Aphasia Group
Jennifer	Upstill	Rushmoor Borough Council
Paul	Williams	Blooming Marvellous
Caroline	Winchurch	Hart Voluntary Action

Apologies:

Alison	Cooper	Trustee
Jules	Crossley	Trustee
Dawn	Keenan	Trustee
Martin	Wood	Trustee
Nikki	Acott	Aldershot Garrison
Ruth	Kirby	Arthritis UK Northants
Melissa	Lewis	Barnardo's (Hants Healthy Families)
Gill	Page	Farnborough Baptist Church
Abby	Roper	Vision4Youth
Jim	Storey	Fleet Pond Society
Gareth	Williams	RBC Councillor and Lead

Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman, Andrew Lloyd, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. The Chairman thanked the Mayor of Rushmoor, Councillor Peter Cullum and Councillor Lisa Greenway, the Council's nominated representative, for attending and outlined the order of business for the meeting.

Apologies: The apologies received are recorded in these minutes.

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2025: The minutes of the AGM meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 2025, were agreed, and accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. Chairman's Update – Andrew Lloyd: The Chairman presented the Annual Report, which summarises the activities, challenges and impact achieved throughout the year. He acknowledged the challenges for the voluntary and community sector, with continuing funding pressures and anticipated changes to local government structures across Hampshire and beyond. He expressed his gratitude to staff, volunteers, trustees and partners for their commitment, professionalism and resilience. Andrew acknowledged that the team have remained focused on supporting the organisations and volunteers who make such an important contribution to our Borough. The collective efforts have enabled RVS to continue providing practical advice, encouragement and opportunities for collaboration across the sector. He noted that whilst further change and uncertainty lie ahead, he was confident that, by working together, we will maintain strong partnerships which ensure that the sector's voice is heard and continuing to make a meaningful difference.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked everyone who had contributed to the work of Rushmoor Voluntary Services over the past year, including the principal funder and partner, Rushmoor Borough Council, for its continued encouragement and support.

3. Chief Executive Officer Report- Donna Bone: Donna acknowledged that the year was largely dominated by Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), and RVS worked hard to encourage engagement across the sector. The year also served as a preparatory period ahead of the transition into the Hampshire & IoW ICB.
Highlights of our core activity throughout the year included:

- Recognition of over 50 years of support to the Borough by receiving a special award from Pride of Rushmoor Community Awards.
- Welcoming 14 new member groups.
- Utilisation of Rushmoor Link community directory achieving an average of 1,200 users per month.
- Maintaining approximately 100 volunteering opportunities on Volunteer North Hants database.
- Placing more than 200 volunteers into local groups, equating to a fiscal value of over £335,000.
- Maintaining a team of 100 RVS Responders who supported numerous community events.
- Supporting the application for approximately £85,000 in funding grants.
- Hosting and managing the award of £76,500 of Frimley NHS's Innovation Fund for work with children and young people.

Donna offered thanks to everyone who volunteers in Rushmoor, making a difference to the lives of local residents. She also highlighted the forthcoming Volunteer Recognition Awards and encouraged nominations.

Highlights and examples of key work undertaken to support independence in our local community included:

- Welcoming migrant residents to the Rushmoor community.
- Transporting 8,773 passengers across Rushmoor and Hart.
- Supporting 703 outings for local groups through minibus hire.
- Providing over 8,150 hours of housework and shopping to support residents to remain independent.
- Facilitated a weekly Lunch Club for up to 15 residents per week to retain social connectivity.
- Volunteering over 600 hours to enable 1,488 walkers to enjoy our local green spaces.
- Making 543 home visits and 236 befriending phone calls to housebound residents.
- Piloting the Work Well Programme for NHS Frimley to help people with health conditions or disabilities stay in work, return from sick leave, or find a new job.

Donna acknowledged the importance of the environment and how the team recognise this in their work processes etc. Environmentally focussed achievements included:

- Celebrating 65 entrants to the Rushmoor Community in Bloom competition, demonstrating their sustainable gardening techniques which encourage wildlife, and showcasing gorgeous blooms.
- Enjoying the achievements of the Blooming Marvellous staff and volunteers being awarded a level 5 (Outstanding) award in the South & Southeast in Bloom in the It's Your Neighbourhood category as well as a Gold and a Silver Gilt in the Rushmoor Community in Bloom competition.
- Supporting 12 participants to gain optimism, confidence and a positive impact on health-related conditions through moderate exercise and socialising on our green social prescribing programme, Blooming Minds.
- Enabling the Green Community Forum to flourish through increasing membership to 31 groups and green spaces and active participation in the Great Big Green Week.

Donna recognised that the many achievements had only been possible through the commitment of the teams and stakeholders. She thanked the Trustees, past and present, and staff of RVS who have enabled the above achievements. She also offered thanks to RVS's statutory partners, primarily Rushmoor Borough Council but also to Hampshire County Council for their support in delivering the vital community transport services.

Her final thanks were to all RVS volunteers including RCiB judges, directory detectives, volunteer drivers to whom she offered gratitude and recognition.

Questions for Andrew and Donna -
Question: Cllr Mike Roberts- With the change in ICB from Frimley to Hampshire & Isle of Wight, will the links with Frimley Park Hospital still remain, including the proposed new build.
Answer: Donna Bone- RVS will reconnect with NHS Frimley in recognition that our services are still provided through them even if commissioned by Hants & IoW ICB. RVS have also shared details of the consultation process widely with its members, and have particularly responded to the question about transport.

Question: Cllr Peter Cullum- When did the change of ICB boundaries start? Did they consider Local Government Reorganisation? Housing and health planning are conflicting. How can we make this work?
Answers: Andrew Lloyd – the ICB is now co-terminus with the wider county of Hampshire.

Karen Edwards- The Government has changed the role of ICBs to commissioning and not delivering services. Local services will remain the same. RBC will advocate for those things Frimley do better. The Neighbourhood Health strategy will, in theory, improve local provision.

Donna Bone- LIOs are working together to be a voice for the VCSE. Health recognises the strategic role of the VCSE but there is no funding to support at this time. There continues to be a North/South divide in Hampshire. We need to 'bang the drum' to affect the shape of Neighbourhood Health in HIOW and to ensure that North Hants is actively recognised by the ICB. We will also re-engage with Frimley ICB as that is where our services are delivered even if they are commissioned by Hampshire.

4. Annual Report and Accounts: These were presented by the Treasurer, Alan Thorpe, who welcomed Justin Harris of Knight Goodhead Ltd.

The Treasurer reported that, as for the last couple of years, times are hard, money is scarce, and RVS are dealing with considerable uncertainty, notably around Local Government Reorganisation. RVS made an operating loss in the year ended 31 March 2026 which was significantly higher than in previous years. This was primarily due to the fact that when grants have been successful, these have typically required substantial additional expenditure rather than offsetting existing costs. Other points mentioned included:

- Although RVS are running reduced bus services in line with reductions in Hampshire County Council funding, the income is holding up well.
- Similarly, in spite of essential cost increases, demand for the Home Help service is also being sustained.

- The Board continue to have to respond to rising wage costs as a result of increases in the National Minimum Wage and National Insurance costs whilst recognising the impact of the increasing cost of living on staff.
- Although the Reserves position remains healthy, RVS face funding issues around Blooming Marvellous and Social Inclusion which we are addressing.

There were no questions for the Treasurer and the accounts were adopted unanimously.
The approved Accounts will be available on the RVS website.

5. Appointment of Auditors 2026/2027: The Treasurer proposed the appointment of Knight Goodhead as Independent Examiners for the year 2026/27. Agreed unanimously.
The approved Accounts will be available on the RVS website.

6. Retiring Trustees: The Chairman advised that he, Jules Crossley and Martin Wood were due to stand down as Trustees.

7. Re-election of Trustees: The Chairman sought approval for the re-election of Andrew Lloyd, Jules Crossley and Martin Wood who have all agreed to stand for re-election onto the RVS Board of Trustee. Agreed unanimously.

8. Closing Remarks from the Mayor of Rushmoor: The Mayor of Rushmoor, Cllr Peter Cullum was very pleased to join the AGM. In the face of strategic challenges, with health and local government going through so many changes and the outlook of volunteering changing too, the Mayor acknowledged the immense value of volunteering and the range of work RVS deliver to support the borough and residents of Rushmoor.

9. Any Other Business: Colin Slatter raised a vote of thanks to the late John Card for his dedication and commitment as an RVS Trustee and past Chair. Agreed unanimously.

10. Local Government Review Update: Karen Edwards, RBC Executive Director, gave an overview how things are now and looking to the future.

The announced withdrawal of LGR decisions has allowed focus to shift to devolution. This includes bringing forward the review of adult health and social care. The Prime Minister has asked Baroness Casey of Blackstock to chair an Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, which will recommend how to reform the adult social care system. Karen believes delivery will be aligned with the ICB footprints.
The slide deck to accompany Karen's presentation will be on the RVS website.

We know the local elections will now take place in 2027. The Mayoral elections are likely to take place in 2028. The Government is expected to give an update on the LGR judicial review in October. Karen will return to give an overview and update at a future meeting.

Karen recognised the value of RVS's partnership in support of the wider voluntary sector and committed to supporting the sector to be heard.

Question: Andrew Lloyd - Could devolution happen within the existing local government structure?
Answer: Karen Edwards- Yes, very likely. For the new Prime Minister, devolution is the prize, not LGR.

Question- Cllr Peter Cullum: Growth, health and planning are fragmented. How will we respond locally?
Answer- Karen Edwards: There will be a consultation on the Local Plan. This will set the scene for the future locally.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.