

Agenda: Friends of Honley Library: Annual General Meeting

Monday 13th September 2021, 7.00pm

Honley Library, West Avenue, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6HF



Present:

Carrie Birch, Ann Brooks (Minutes), Pat Colling, Sean East, Charles Greaves, Lesley Hawthorn, Nick Helm, Janet Irving, Jenny Lockwood (Chair), Angela Marshall, Caroline Page, Carolynne Roberts, Ash Ragsdale, Tom Ragsdale, Neelam Randhawa, Pat Thompson, Joan Ververs, Margaret Waterworth.

Minutes:

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by Jenny Lockwood, Chair of Trustees, who extended a warm welcome.

2. Apologies

Kathryn Aspinall, Jenny Bagworth, Bridget Crabtree, Elaine Edwards, Malcolm Ellis, Jan Gilligan, Rosie Hinchliffe, David Hutchinson, Terry Lyons.

The resignation of Val Javin, to include her resignation from FoHL Trustees and Management Committee, was received with regret and grateful appreciation of her long-standing support of FoHL.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting: Thursday 24th September 2020

Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Kirklees Library Service Update

Neelam Randhawa, KLS Manager, summarised the current issues relating to KLS/Holmfirth hub.

- Kirklees libraries are now reopened and the Holmfirth hub is working normally.
- New volunteers can now start.
- Returning activities are Knit and Natter and Storytime, dependent on available volunteers for story time.
- Refreshments are re-instated and restrictions relaxed; the emphasis is to bring people back into libraries.
- Funds are available for new items for the library.

5. Appointment of Trustees

Trustees Sean East and Nick Helm were welcomed and introduced by the Chair.

The Trustees and Management Committee proposed that, due to the impact of the pandemic and the on-going work towards the Asset Transfer, current Trustees be re-elected en bloc to serve for a further year. The Trustees are Ann Brooks (previously re-elected Chair of Management Committee), Sean East, Nick Helm, David Hutchinson, Val Javin, Malcolm Ellis and Jenny Lockwood. However, a trustee to replace Val Javin will need to be sought.

Proposed Carrie Birch; seconded Pat Colling – unanimous agreement.

6. Reports

Discussion in relation to reports circulated with the agenda and tabled:

- Chair of Trustees – no further points
- Management Committee – this report emphasises the wide range of work undertaken by a small group; additional support would be welcomed.
- Finance Report - Jenny Lockwood explained the reasons for holding two bank accounts in relation to the management of HVPC funding.
- Volunteers Report – Carolynne Roberts emphasised that FoHL is all about volunteering; discussion covered the benefits of volunteering for individuals and the community.
- Children's Events – much of the hard work for the Children's Book Festival had been undertaken by Bridget Crabtree, Emily Smith, Jan Gilligan and Helen Harrison, whilst Angela Marshall was thanked for her creative IT work behind the scenes. Online events had been particularly successful. Carrie Birch thanks Pat Colling and HVPC for funding to support children's events.
- Asset Transfer – Nick Hall summarised the current position, the leases at the current time and gave a expectation of approximately two months to completion. He explained his own position when acting as FoHL solicitor and that of his firm with all work on behalf of FoHL being without fees. Jenny Lockwood recorded appreciation of the support given by HVPC.

Caroline Page questioned whether the requirement that, the building must be kept as a library, is within the transfer arrangements. Charles Greaves referred to the requirement for community use within the transfer, but also considered the potential risks in future years, emphasising the dependency that would exist for in future years.

Jenny Lockwood commented that Asset Transfer protects the building, and the same library service will continue for as long as it can be provided by KLS. It may be that, in future years, FoHL would have to consider the provision.

- Angela Marshall suggested that the Newsletter could be restarted. This had been a valuable communication before and during lockdown. It was agreed that following Asset Transfer would be a good time to restart the Newsletter.

7 Any other Business

Volunteer Opportunities – covered in previous items

Trustee Positions and Management Committee Members – covered in previous items

Membership Fee: The Management Committee view currently is not to charge a membership fee but to trial a donation box for 12 months, once the asset transfer is complete.

Discussion considered a wide range of issue including the ethos that library services should be free, the need to enhance accessibility and encourage more members, the possibility of linking the new website to fund-raising sources, the possibility of grant applications including HVPC, and the potential to raise funds specifically as and when needed.

A donation box was agreed to start after Asset Transfer, reviewed annually at the AGM.

Meeting closed at 20.10