

# Minutes

## Friends of West Barnes Library

### Committee Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.15pm

#### 1. Present

- Toby Ewin (Chair)
- Penny Price (Treasurer)
- Dan Griffiths (Secretary)
- Karren Whyte (Library Manager)
- Theresa Clarke (Committee Member)
- Brenda Brevitt (Committee Member)
- Mary-Jane Jeanes (Committee Member)
- Madeleine Maguire (Committee Member)
- Sarah McAlister (Committee Member)

#### 2. Apologies

- Rachel Taylor (Vice-Chair)
- Anthony Hopkins (Head of Library & Heritage Services)
- Alison Honor (Committee Member)
- Eloise Bailey (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Hina Bokhari (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Carl Quilliam (West Barnes Ward Councillor)

#### 3. Head of Libraries & Heritage Services Report

DG forgot to invite AH but he reported by email that the library re-development process has now restarted following the confirmation that Crossrail 2 would not impact the library site.

#### 4. Library Manager's Report

KH updated the Committee. A new partnership has started called Fulham Football Club Memories with sports-related social activities such as quizzes. The initiative is aimed at the over 50s and aims to create community and social connections.

Reading Friends is a new poetry-led book club. There has been no take-up so far – perhaps due to the title which implies it's intended for children. A Saturday yoga Club started on 14<sup>th</sup> February and will recur monthly. There is a Homework Club every Friday; Bad Book club sessions have now started and should encourage Blossom House school to visit the library.

A series of Special Educational Needs (SEN) activities are also taking place, at least two at every library in Merton. Karate lessons will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month; Talk English conversations and Spanish language lessons also continue.

The usage figures are encouraging. January visitor figures are at 0% (which is positive - indicating no decline) and there were 3,340 visitors in January versus 2,834 in December. Borrowing figures

increased to 2,795, which is the highest figure since 2,211 in August last year. Income is up 3% and the Issues number is up 23% with these figures now including e-books.

Finally, a new aircon and heating system has been installed in the library. Only two libraries in Merton have air conditioning. The units can be removed and reinstalled in the new redeveloped library when it is built.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

PP provided an up-to-date copy of our Accounts which is included overleaf. At the time of the meeting we have £2,011 in funds and are broadly breaking even on our events.

## **6. Update on Events**

TC provided an update on our programme of forthcoming events. Around 40 people attended the quiz and there was a good atmosphere; the next quiz will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> June. The author event scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> March has been postponed. There is flower arranging scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> March; a potential Board Games evening on 17<sup>th</sup> April and the Spring Fair will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May. A Photography talk from Mitcham Camera Club will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> May with another photography competition being planned for October this year.

A member of the Scrabble Club had asked if the Friends would consider organising a quiz night or other event with proceeds going to charity. The Committee supports charitable events being held in the library; but it would be for the Scrabble Club to organise and brand it.

TE suggested the Friends might apply to have the Poet Laureate visit the library in 2025, as part of his ten-year programme of library visiting, to coincide with the centenary of Motspur Park (the station was opened on 12 July 1925). The Committee agreed this was a good idea. There is plenty of time to present a proposal so TE will start by talking to AH and KW.

## **7. Any Other Business**

MM has started the work building a new Friends website. The current site is looking increasingly old-fashioned and is proving difficult to update. MM will work on the new website. DG has offered to help if needed.

TE has drafted a pamphlet about the 1930s photo of an airship flying over Motspur Park station and what would one day be the library site. It was proposed that the Friends could 'publish' this pamphlet with TE meeting all the costs. This was agreed by the Committee.

## **8. Next Meeting**

- The Next meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7.15pm.
- The AGM will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 4pm.

## Friends of West Barnes Library

### Income & Expenditure Report at 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020

	Income	Expenses	Net Income
	£	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	15.00	0.00	15.00
3 Folding Tables	0.00	107.85	-107.85
18 bottles of wine	0.00	79.37	-79.37
Domain renewal 18/06/19-17/06/21	0.00	14.38	-14.38
Author Event 14/05/19	38.00	29.25	8.75
Event 03/05/19 Marsden Charityevent?	0.00	21.45	-21.45
Author Event (A Murder Most Indian)	24.00	35.00	-11.00
Quiz 15/06/19	125.00	107.86	17.14
Bingo	94.00	78.53	15.47
Author Event 01/10/19	24.00	31.90	-7.90
Quiz Night 21/11/19	140.00	106.56	33.44
Xmas Decorations		16.00	-16.00
Author event 18/11/19	40.00	20.00	20.00
Author Event 27/01/20	53.00	38.50	14.50
Quiz Night 27/02/20	148.00	81.07	66.93
	<u>701.00</u>	<u>767.72</u>	<u>-66.72</u>
Cash at Bank @ 14.03.20			1942.75
Cash in hand @ 14.03.20			83.06
			<u>2,025.81</u>
Cash reserves b/fwd at 01.04.19			2092.53
Net expenditure 2019/20			-66.72
Cash reserves @ 14.03.20			<u>2025.81</u>