

Minutes

Friends of West Barnes Library

Committee Meeting

23rd March 2021 at 7.15pm

0. Present on Zoom

- Toby Ewin (Chair)
- Penny Price (Treasurer)
- Dan Griffiths (Secretary)
- Karren Whyte (Library Manager)
- Anthony Hopkins (Head of Library & Heritage Services)
- Theresa Clarke (Committee Member)
- Brenda Brevitt (Committee Member)
- Mary-Jane Jeanes (Committee Member)

- Madeleine Maguire (Committee Member)

- Sarah McAlister (Committee Member)

- Alison Honor (Committee Member)

- Hina Bokhari (West Barnes Ward Councillor)

2. Apologies

- Rachel Taylor (Vice-Chair)
- Eloise Bailey (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Carl Quilliam (West Barnes Ward Councillor)

3. Library Manager's Report

KW provided an update. Chandra is managing the WBL site. Click and collect and book bundles are available. Hoping to reopen the library 12th April for browsing. During the lockdown library staff have helped with Community Hub and people shielding. A new open library system in branch libraries is being prepared – access to library outside of normal hours via a library card and pin number. Working on this currently with a few issues to iron out. New kiosks have been installed in the library and now take mobile payments such as Apple Pay.

4. Head of Libraries & Heritage Services Report

AH provided an update. Libraries have a 4 stage recovery model and can move between stages depending on situation and restrictions. Stage 1 means all sites are closed; Stage 2 click and collect available; Stage 3 browsing with social distancing and Stage 4 is pre-COVID recovery as normal. Offer is 1/3 less than what normally offered due to restrictions – must isolate books for 72 hours. AH thanked and commended all the staff for managing that. No COVID incidents in Merton libraries. Hoping for move to Stage 3 on 12th April.

Staff has been doing lots of work to support general COVID effort beyond the library service. New online resources improved online offer. More online activities and events, lots of interest. Looking for some new staff. HB: thanks to Anthony and Karren for all your efforts - it's really appreciated.

Some letters have fallen off the signage on the front of the library. Jogen has the E and now the A too.

5. Treasurer's Report

PP provided an update. Brian Lewis-Lavender did audit account for year ending 2020/21. PP to provide DG a copy for the website. At the time of the meeting we have £2,011 in funds.

6. Update on Events

TC provided an update. The gap in Newsletters over the past couple of months was partly occasioned by TE inability to get into Mailchimp, the programme we use to format and distribute them. Thanks to DG assistance, TE have now been able to get back into Mailchimp, and a new newsletter is being prepared, to issue in the next day or two. If anyone would like points made in this newsletter, please let TE know.

Joy Kluver, with SMcA, has organised 3 excellent author talks online during the lockdowns and 7 authors. There is currently a pause in these talks (probably until the summer), I think partly because Joy has been completing novels herself. The first will be published in the next few days, and a second book in the same detective series is due to be published in July, and a third early next year. Joy has kindly said she will give West Barnes a copy of the first book once she has it to hand. Many congratulations to Joy, we look forward to Joy herself being able to do an author talk about her own books, in due course.

SMcA is organising an online author event this Friday 26th March with Joy. It will be a Facebook event and can be re-watched on YouTube.

7. Any Other Business

Online events may be hosted in the library if required. There is an expanded online offer with 50-60 online events and keen to build it up further. Talk to AH for further information. Also available is a library of IT equipment – Kindles, Alexas all sorts of other technology with help available to help get online provided via Connected Merton.

HB has 10 litter picks in her car boot. Is there a way to store and allow pickup of equipment from the library? AH supportive. Similar idea to Library of Things in Morden library, using the library as a community hub.

8. Next Meeting

No date fixed.