

Minutes
Friends of West Barnes Library
Committee Meeting

11 June 2019 at 7.15pm

1. Present

- Toby Ewin (Chair)
- Penny Price (Treasurer)
- Dan Griffiths (Secretary)
- Madeleine Maguire (Committee Member)
- Sarah McAlister (Committee Member)
- Brenda Brevitt (Committee Member)
- Hina Bokhari (West Barnes Ward Councillor)

2. Apologies

- Rachel Taylor (Vice-Chair)
- Mary-Jane Jeanes (Committee Member)
- Theresa Clarke (Committee Member)
- Alison Honor (Committee Member)
- Anthony Hopkins (Head of Library & Heritage Services)
- Karren Whyte (Library Manager)
- Eloise Bailey (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Carl Quilliam (West Barnes Ward Councillor)

3. Head of Libraries & Heritage Services Report

AH was unable to attend but provided a positive update on Crossrail 2 which is covered below.

4. Library Manager's Report

KW was unable to attend but provided an update. Performance reports for this month are not available (due to teething problems with the new Library Management System) but income targets were met although visitor numbers, issues and renewals still need to improve.

KW expressed her thanks to the Friends and Committee for all the amazing events they have arranged: the author talks have proven particularly successful.

- Congratulations to TE for his volunteer award for "Outstanding contribution" and Suzanne Davis who was nominated for an award.
- Congratulations to MJJ who received amazing feedback from the mystery shopper audits, plus many thanks from KW for all her support on a Monday.
- The library has a new Talk English conversation class starting next week.
- Merton libraries have funding for special sensory equipment in all our libraries. West Barnes will have a circus theme and equipment will include bubble machines, art work, popcorn smells and ceiling art. Installation work is due to start in September.
- The library has a new print solution called Princh which allows customers to print via their

phones and to pay by card or PayPal. Further improvements to this solution will be made available in the coming future.

- This year's Summer Reading Challenge will launch on Saturday 6 July with a Space theme given the 50-year anniversary of the moon landing. We are currently looking for volunteers to help during the summer, so please email KW if you can help.

5. Treasurer's Report

PP reported that the Friends have roughly £2,000 in the bank. Audited accounts are being prepared for the AGM at end June.

6. Update on Events

The SMcA and MM provided an update on WBL's programme of forthcoming events:

- 15th June – Quiz Night
- 24 June – Author Talk - Murder Most Indian
- 29 June – Annual General Meeting
- 11 July – Quirky Kingston Walk
- September – Bingo with a Difference
- Early October – a further Author Talk event

The author talk events have become a regular feature of the WBL calendar and are very popular, bringing between 25-50 people into the library for each event (many of them new) which boosts footfall numbers. In addition, two book clubs are now running in the library.

The Committee agreed it would be good to run an author talk involving a children's author. HB kindly volunteered to speak to local schools and see if they have contacts or events that the library could piggy-back on – for example if the author is appearing at a school and already in the area.

A concern was raised that the current event admission price may not be covering food and drink costs. SMcA will discuss with TC. The decision was to keep prices as they are in the meantime.

7. Crossrail 2

AH was unable to attend but provided an email update for the Committee:

“A quick update on the West Barnes Library development. The current situation is that following a recent meeting with Crossrail 2 they have given the strongest indication yet that the West Barnes Library site is unlikely to be required for any Crossrail related works and have given us authority to start progressing the works to develop the site.”

As the surveys and preparation work undertaken by the Council was completed over 4 years ago we are now starting to undertake new surveys to ensure that the scheme is still viable and that there is market interest. We would expect to have more news to cascade in late summer / early autumn.”

Though we have all been frustrated by the delay Crossrail has caused, this is hugely welcome news. Given the time that has elapsed since the preparatory work was last done, this will need re-doing and will restart shortly. DG to ask AH to remind the Committee what happens next.

8. AGM

DG will draft the annual report and email to the Committee for their contributions.

9. Any Other Business

- The large map of the local area donated by Crossrail 2 is framed and ready to be hung in the library.
- HB reported that the West Barnes Business Forum is organising a Christmas street carnival or festival to uplift and promote the local area, including a tree, choir, Santa's grotto. The library and Friends would be keen to participate in some way.
- DG to ask TC about the new FOWBL member cards for 2019-20 which are usually issued this time of year.
- In previous years the cards have entitled holders to 3 free video rentals and 3 free reservations. Given there are limited video rentals available in the library now is there anything LBM could offer Friends members as a replacement? DG to ask AH.
- It was also suggested the Friends could allow members free of charge entrance to 2 Friends events as a benefit of membership.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is the AGM on Saturday 29th June 2019 at 4.00pm.

HB sent her apologies in advance.