

The Friends of Colyton Library (FoCL)
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2th March 2015

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jane Dauncey welcomed the Friends, committee members introduced themselves, and JD introduced Devon Library Service guest speakers Liz Alexander (Customer Services Manager) and Mark Peasley (Area Manager). The format of proceedings was outlined.

49 members attended.

2. Apologies for absence : Members: Kathryn and Dave Baxendale, Nicky and Donald Campbell, Elizabeth Davies, Malcolm Green, David Ingham, Pauline Newman, Pam Rattray, the Remingtons, Tony and Shirley Robinson, V Skea.

From DLS: Ciara Eastell, Roger Croad.

3. Minutes of AGM meeting 17.3.14 : Unanimous acceptance

4. Matters arising from minutes :None

5. Annual Report for 2014

The report had been circulated and Jane Dauncey highlighted several items

Events :Ann Widdecombe's visit had been very successful, both as a fundraiser and as enjoyable entertainment. JD outlined librarian Marianne Harman's rationale for leaving – on a short-term contract, she had only entered the Library Service to gain experience. Mark Peasley agreed this was a reasonable summary. Marianne had helped various events to get going or to relocate to the library.

Volunteer team : JD thanked them, especially for keeping the library going in the absence of a librarian, and particularly Roger Hutton for his tireless leadership.

Becoming a community library : The direct input from DLS Ciara Eastell and Cllr Roger Croad had helped our cause. Now we aim to make savings by shifting ownership of the building and using local services. WiFi is to be installed, with funding likely via Councillor Sara Randall-Johnson, with a seat outside to extend its use.

The report was accepted.

6. Treasurer's Report and Receipts and Payments Account for the period ending 31.12.14

Accounts had been circulated. Alan Kekwick elaborated on the income and expenditure of the Ann Widdecombe event. A show of hands supported his proposal to investigate the option of paying subscriptions by standing order in future.

Accepted. Proposer Richard How, seconder Gerry Darby.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Jenny Fielding reported that membership has been stable over the last year, with 97 members. The Library News and other publicity may boost numbers, and members were urged to encourage others to join.

8. Devon Library Services – the future and progress of Colyton's pilot developments

Liz Alexander summarised the outcome of last year's consultation on the future of the Devon Library Service. The 28 smaller libraries made it clear that DLS were still required to run the libraries, so all are to be retained and staffed, while saving £1.5 million. A different operating mode is proposed, whereby DLS will separate from DCC and set up as a mutual society or trust (with charitable status). Severance from DCC will not be complete. Other areas such as Suffolk and York where this has already occurred were investigated. In October, a paper was submitted to

Cabinet outlining a plan, to be subsequently developed by working with the 12 pilot libraries. The resultant business plan is going to Cabinet on March 11th – if approved, it should be set up and in place by April 2016. DLS is a strong service with an excellent staff and the transfer will give both community and staff a greater stake in libraries.

Questions were then invited.

Alan Kekwick asked when the outcome of the proposed changes would be known, and the likely cost to the community.

LA replied “nothing will change except the name”

Peter Halsey enquired if the RNIB talking book service would continue .

LA – Yes, for current users. For new users, alternative formats such as e-audio will be investigated.

LA then outlined the staffing situation. There are currently 9 empty posts, and it is proposed to link small libraries with larger ones, so Colyton will be linked to Seaton.. Seaton's supervisor (Pene Davis) will take on overall responsibility for Colyton and will rota in staff from her pool. This arrangement will allow more hours to be offered, and staff will be part of a team rather than working in isolation.

Mark Peasley stated that, subject to confirmation, Christina and Diane from Seaton could share Colyton's hours on a week on/week off basis, and be able to cover for each other.

Katie Darby asked if the supervisor would ever visit Colyton – MP replied that she would.

JD enquired if staff would be on permanent contracts. MP -Yes.

JD prompted LA to update the computer situation. LA stated that the new management system (to replace Galaxy) is currently being put in place and should be working by late summer/early autumn. It is cloud-based, flexible, with staff and volunteer modes.

As from last week, the capital funding for installing WiFi in all libraries is available after all, and as a pilot, Colyton will be enabled early.

9. Election of Committee Members

The Committee stood down. All were willing to stand again, and there were no nominations from the floor.

Chair Jane Dauncey was re-elected (proposer Katie Darby, seconder Noelle Ingham)

Treasurer Alan Kekwick was re-elected (proposer Pam McCleneghen, seconder Jean Hutton)

The remaining committee members were re-elected en bloc (proposer Jane Dauncy, seconder Pam Mc Cleneghen)

Membership Secretary – Jenny Fielding

Minutes Secretary – Jan Uden

Committee members – Diane Dean, Roger Hutton, Mark Mann, Roger Moore, Sue Wilson.

JD extended an invitation to members to join the committee but there were no takers.

10. Plans for 2015

Literary Festival ;Jenny Fielding proposed a one-day event, to take place in July next year

Memory Cafe :Diane Dean outlined her proposal and urged members to spread the word.

JD thanked DD for taking the lead, and explained the rationale for using the library – a compact, familiar and safe environment.

11. Any Other Business: Gerry Darby proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for the last and forthcoming 12 months. JD thanked him on behalf of the committee.

The meeting concluded with poetry from David Clarke and Jackie Roberts Wake, followed by tea and cakes.