

## **Minutes of The Friends of Colyton Library AGM held on 20.3.17**

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Jane Dauncey (Chair) welcomed the 35 attendees and introduced singer David Fouracre and pianist Michele Banting, who entertained us with a selection of songs. JD then introduced Steve Turner from Libraries Unlimited, and the committee, reminding us of Jackie Moncrieff's death.

**2. Apologies for absence:** received from Nicky Campbell, John Hopkins, Roger Moore, V Skea, Annette Stilwell and Bob Whitell.

**3. Minutes of meeting of 7.3.16:** One error was detected – the misspelling of Jackie Moncrieff's name. Apologies were tendered to Jackie's family. Subject to this amendment, the minutes were signed as correct.

**4. Matters arising from minutes:** Patronage scheme – JD read out item 5. It hasn't been followed up yet as we still await ownership of the building.

**5. Annual Report for 2016:** JD highlighted certain points.

Membership – cleaning up of records is ongoing.

Events – FoCL is pleased that Sylvia Benton has taken on events. The recent Graham Hurley event was a great success, and made a profit of about £100. Seaton Friends were invited, to be repeated in future. Transport can be arranged. SB has some ideas – a summer outing to Greenway; an autumn quiz.

After a resume, JD requested feedback – there was none.

### **6. Treasurer's Report and Receipts and Payments Account for the period ending 31.12.16**

Roger Hutton – Copies of the accounts had been circulated. Money is accumulating in anticipation of spending on maintenance etc and the PV cells. The balance was boosted by a large donation, and we should continue to make an effort to raise funds. It was suggested there should be a sign in the library encouraging donations.

The apparent drop in membership is due to the committee not chasing up non-payers.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Gerry Darby, seconded by Sheila Head, and unanimously agreed.

**7. Membership Secretary's Report:** Christine Gregson-Watkins - more members are needed.

Word of mouth is a powerful tool. It was suggested a notice be put in Coly Times. FoCL is to be relaunched when the building is in our ownership. JD and Sue Whitell are updating the handouts for prospective members.

**8. Libraries Unlimited representative:** Steve Turner introduced himself and outlined his responsibilities as Head of Commercial Innovation. The challenges faced in LU becoming freestanding from DCC have included achieving charitable status. Transfer of all 50 library buildings is proceeding slower than anticipated. Items of note so far include:

**Adopt-a-book initiative** - to enable the collection of 6000 16<sup>th</sup> century books and manuscripts about Devon to be conserved and enjoyed by more people. To date donations of £2700 have enabled adoption of 7 items.

**Business and Intellectual Property Service** - to help set up a business. Based in Exeter Museum, an offshoot of the British Library, it can be accessed by library card.

**Fabrication Laboratory (FABLAB)** - 3D printers and laser cutters are taken to demonstrations / workshops e.g. in February half-term, FABLAB visited Seaton library. Friends' groups have subsidised this.

**Active Life Active Mind** - in November, 174 events engaged 3000 people.

**Investment in building stock** - Ottery St Mary library is now open in its new location.

(In contrast, some other counties are closing buildings.)

**Friends' Groups** – 45 are now established. Along with professional staff, they are appreciated, and were thanked.

**Service Development Manager** - this new post is to be filled in the near future by Frances Tout

Re statistics for decreasing issues and footfall - the current technology is not robust; ICT are aware of the shortcomings e.g. out-of-hours activities are not included. The decreases are balanced by more people coming in for other uses – magazines, e-books.

Questions were then invited.

- To a query re maintenance and repair, JD responded that Colyton will act independently.
- Brian Boyt sought clarification re footfall data. ST said in future clubs will be included. Pene Davies – a form has to be filled in each month re out-of-hours.
- Frankie Hopkins asked how does coordination between us, LU and DCC happen. ST- LU will be separate from DCC, but like the buildings, ICT is complex and is taking a long time.  
Diane Dean – LU is establishing partnerships – FABLAB with Exeter University, Adopt-a-book with the British Library.

JD thanked ST.

#### **9. Election of Committee members:**

**a) Chairman** - JD stood down from the chair, DD took over. Sheila Head proposed JD be re-elected, seconded by Sheila Derwent, unanimously approved. JD resumed the chair.

**b) Treasurer** - JD thanked RH, and nominated him, seconded by Katie Darby, unanimously approved.

**c) Committee members** – JD proposed re-election enbloc, seconded by David Clarke, unanimously approved. JD invited applications to fill the vacancy left by Jenny Fielding standing down.

**10. Plans for 2017:** JD went through the plans (from the Annual report) - there will be improved use of social media, continued use of Devon Libraries Friends' Groups. Thanks were extended to the many volunteers.

**11. AOB:** none

David Clarke read a selection of his poetry and promoted his book, sold in aid of Devon Air Ambulance. JD thanked him.

The meeting closed with refreshment at 8.30pm.