

# Minutes

## Friends of West Barnes Library Committee

Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.15pm

### 1. Present

- Toby Ewin (Chair)
- Penny Price (Treasurer)
- Dan Griffiths (Secretary)
- Karren McCarthy (Library Manager)
- Anthony Hopkins (Head of Library & Heritage Services)
- Brenda Brevitt (Committee Member)
- Theresa Clarke (Committee Member)
- Alison Honour (Committee Member)
- Theresa Clarke (Committee Member)
- Charles Barraball (Committee Member)
- Mary-Jane Jeanes (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Jeremy Brevitt (Volunteer)

### 2. Apologies

- Gill Lewis-Lavender (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Brian Lewis-Lavender (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Rachel Taylor (Vice-Chair)

### 3. Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> March were approved.

### 4. Matters Arising

- DG was to raise a formal public question on library hire charges at LBM by 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Missed the deadline but question was submitted and passed back to AH to answer. Answer was that prices are set consistently across Merton and cannot be varied by individual libraries.
- BB to make a Freedom of Information request for revenue and square footage of other council facilities.
- Thanks to Alison for agreeing to make a cake for John's birthday.

- KMcC to contact Network Rail or South West Trains about putting a board up to replace the board that previously in the waiting room at the station.

## **5. Library Manager's Report**

KMcC provided the figures. Visitor numbers are up 1% on last year. In Merton only WBL and Wimbledon's figures have increased. Committee agreed these are very encouraging figures. Special thanks are due to KMcC and Julie Willcox for all their hard work promoting the library over the last year, seconded by AH.

Issues were down 2% in March but again better than other libraries and a big improvement on -10% in the previous month. The target is zero decline.

Access to services was 2,891 in March. Visitor numbers are strong, but not active members. Rendezvous club and jigsaw puzzle tablet (for example) use the space but do not constitute active users who either take a book out or use the computers. KMcC looking for ways to promote new or popular books and other ways to encourage visitors to become active users. JB agreed to add a reminder to the newsletter.

Sacred Heart school has not visited the library recently. Allegedly the school is in a challenging position with a poor Ofstead and the new deputy head has left. KMcC proposes to arrange a Library Connect (pop-up library) to bring the books to the school rather than require them to visit the library.

This year the library is participating in Reading Ahead which completes in June. Adults and young people who are less confident in reading or have not read for a while can take part in the challenge.

Summer Reading Challenge this year has a Roald Dahl theme. Launches Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July and runs until September. This is always a popular event at WBL.

## **6. Head of Libraries & Heritage Services Report**

AH seconded the Committee's thanks to KMcC and Julie for their hard work and expressed his thanks to the Friends and all the volunteers for another successful year for the library.

## **7. Library re-development plan update**

AH updated the Committee on the re-development plans. LBM plans to proceed with re-development of the WBL site through an arms-length housing development company with the asset (including 4 other sites) being retained by the company including a new library. The proposed approach will be taken to cabinet for formal approval in July. The development company is already set-up and use of such an arrangement is expected to cut 4 - 6 months from the timeline, although it has taken extra time up-front to establish it. AH would expect work to begin in Autumn 2017.

LMB has consulted with Network Rail already and no issues regarding Crossrail 2 have been raised. Committee remains concerned but hopeful that any railway development will not jeopardise the library redevelopment plans.

## **8. Officers' Reports**

Treasurer (PP) reported that total funds stand at £1,550.89. Only expenditure since last meeting was the new PA system for £219. Four new subscriptions to the Friends were received in the period (£20) and the names added to the subscriber list. A total of 462 people are now named on the membership list.

## **9. Update on Events**

An afternoon tea event for volunteers is being organised for 6th June.

An author evening with Peter Smith (writing as James Becker) took place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Becker is author of *The First Apostle*, *The Moses Stone* and other novels. The evening attracted 25 people (although few new people) and Mr Smith kindly donated a selection of his books to the library all of which have since been borrowed. Thanks to BB and everyone else involved for organising another successful evening.

Agreed to schedule an AGM for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 4.30pm with tea and scones. DG to send an email notification to the Friends mailing list.

There appears to be little appetite for a Summer Fair which typically conflicts with dates of school summer fetes and family holidays. The Committee agreed it be replaced instead with an Autumn Fair to be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

## **10. Any Other Business**

None.

## **11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

Friends Of West Barnes Library

Income & Expenditure Report as at 23.05.16

	Income	Expenses	Net Income
	£	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	20.00		20.00
Donations			0.00
			0.00
			0.00
<b>Misc Expenses</b>			
Portable PA System		219.00	-219.00
	<u>20.00</u>	<u>219.00</u>	<u>-199.00</u>
Cash at Bank @ 23.05.16			1510.02
Cash in hand 23.05.16			40.87
			<u>1,550.89</u>
Cash reserves b/fwd at 01.04.16			1749.89
Net expenditure 2016/17			-199.00
Cash reserves c/fwd			<u>1550.89</u>