

Minutes

Friends of West Barnes Library Committee

Meeting 13th October 2016 at 7.15pm

1. Present

- Toby Ewin (Chair)
- Rachel Taylor (Vice-Chair)
- Dan Griffiths (Secretary)
- Theresa Clarke (Committee Member)
- Mary-Jane Jeanes (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Gilli Lewis-Lavender (West Barnes Ward Councillor)

2. Apologies

- Penny Price (Treasurer)
- Karren McCarthy (Library Manager)
- Anthony Hopkins (Head of Library & Heritage Services)
- Brian Lewis-Lavender (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Brenda Brevitt (Committee Member)
- Alison Honour (Committee Member)
- Charles Barraball (Committee Member)

3. Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of meeting of 24th May were approved.

4. Matters Arising

- 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

July 2016 saw the highest ever visitor figure of 4,519! September visitor figures were 4,094. This is due to class visits towards the start of July, Blossom House pupils in and out and the start of the Summer Reading Challenge. The library is advertising more widely, so we have seen more new faces attending events.

Issues are currently at -1%, which is the highest in Merton Borough—an exceptional achievement! Well done to KMCC and Julie for their huge efforts. We will aim to push on from here and try to get into positive numbers.

The Summer Reading Challenge this year had a Roald Dahl theme. It launched Saturday 9th July and ran until early September. Number of completers was down slightly on last year at 140 (versus 164 in 2015) but this was a trend across the other Merton libraries.

Sacred Heart school has signed up all classes for visits this term and St John Fisher have signed up some classes with more to be scheduled. Blossom House school also attend once or twice a week for class visits.

Special thanks from KMcC to TE and TC for providing extra library cover on Mondays and other week days when required. This is very much appreciated.

Reminder that the volunteer celebration evening is on Thursday 10 November, 7pm at the Civic Centre. Please confirm attendance to KMcC.

Two paid bookings received for the library on Tuesday 29th November and Thursday 8th December, from 10am to 9pm each day, for the Crossrail 2 consultation exhibition. Will generate extra revenue and footfall for the library.

6. Head of Libraries & Heritage Services Report

AH sent his apologies.

7. Library re-development plan update

AH sent his apologies for the meeting but sent an email update to DG. Progress had been made since his last update but due to confidentiality he's unable to provide more information at this stage. More information will be provided early in the new year. Committee frustrated that the process is proving so slow and information in short supply.

8. Officers' Reports

Treasurer (PP) sent apologies but reported that total funds stand at £1,647.84. Expenditure since last update was £20 of plastic table covers. Five new subscriptions to the Friends were received in the period (£25) and the names added to the subscriber list. A total of 467 people are now named on the membership list.

9. Update on Events

KMcC sent apologies but reported a number of new events are now being held in the library:

- ESOL classes for those with English as a second language – Mondays
- Scrabble group also meeting regularly on Monday afternoons
- Falun Dafa – meditation class – Thursdays
- Memory Café
- Coffee & Chat – topical discussion session

AGM was held on Saturday 25th June at 4.30pm. Tea and scones were served.

Autumn Fair was held on Saturday 24th September. Thanks to Knit & Natter for pushing for the event and TC and Madeleine for their efforts organising it. Bake off really good fun and worked well. Short 2 hour event and managed to raise £120 (check). Viable to do a small event in future without the overheads associated with organising and longer event.

KMcC is arranging the Christmas Party lunch for the volunteers. KMcC to confirm a date in December.

TE spoke to SK about organising other games evening. SK will get in touch when he has some time to organise, hopefully early in the new year. Committee happy to help support organising it. DG to copy SK on the minutes.

TE and Madeleine working to organise a quiz night before Christmas. Previous quiz nights have proved very popular. Looking at a Friday evening: probably 2nd December, or failing that 25th November or 9 December. TE and Madeleine to agree date.

Rendezvous Club Christmas Fair will take place 3rd December. Note if the Quiz Night is the evening before, this might simplify things; the Rendez-vous Club has already arranged to borrow tables from the Scouts on the 2nd.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 17th January 2017. DG to confirm with Committee.

