

# Minutes

## Friends of West Barnes Library Committee

Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.15pm

### 1. Present

- Toby Ewin (Chair)
- Penny Price (Treasurer)
- Dan Griffiths (Secretary)
- Brenda Brevitt (Committee Member)
- Theresa Clarke (Committee Member)
- Alison Honour (Committee Member)
- Karren McCarthy (Library Manager)
- Brian Lewis-Lavender (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Anthony Hopkins (Head of Library & Heritage Services)
- Simon Kay (Volunteer)

### 2. Apologies

- Gill Lewis-Lavender (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Charles Barraball (Committee Member)
- Jeremy Brevitt (Volunteer)
- Mary-Jane Jeanes (West Barnes Ward Councillor)

### 3. Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were approved.

### 4. Matters Arising

- Electric pencil sharpener purchased by KMCC for the library.
- Quiz night on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov well attended and generated £30.56 profit.
- The Volunteers' social event on 30<sup>th</sup> November also went well.

### 5. Library Manager's Report

KMCC provided the figures for November:

- Visitor Numbers: 3,989 slightly down on previous month.
- Issues: -4% in November; improved since Sept. Target is zero decline.

- Access to services: 2,904 which is slightly down on previous month.

January already looks like being a stronger month. Spanish classes are proving popular and school visits from Blossom House, Sacred Heart and John Fisher are helping boost numbers. There is a new yoga class starting Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

This year the library is participating in Reading Ahead and there has already been lots of interest. Adults that are less confident in reading or have not read for a while can take part in the challenge. World Book Night takes place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and this year will be supported by post-16 students from Blossom House.

The cost £32 per hour cost of hiring the space is prohibitive and is costing the library bookings and revenue. TE will write formally to AH and ask if Merton will permit us to reduce the price per hour to encourage bookings (on the basis that some revenue better than no revenue).

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

AH updated the Committee on the Library re-development. There remains strong interest from developers in the site. Some delay has been caused by Crossrail 2 due to extra reviews being required but no issues have been raised.

The original proposal was a disposal of the site with a lease back to LBM. This option is being reviewed and LBM is instead considering forming an 'arms-length' development company to develop this site. These extra steps have delayed plans. Further soft market testing is underway. The plan is to have the final plan taken to Cabinet in March. AH assured the Committee that the intent is still to re-develop the library, regardless of specific approach taken.

## **7. Officers' Reports**

Treasurer (PP) reported that total funds stand at £1,543.72. The Friends will donate £50 to Scouts for the loan of tables for quiz, the games night and other events.

BB to investigate purchase of double oven for up to £350 for warming food.

Note: subsequent to the meeting this plan has proved to be unworkable, since there are no wired in sockets in the kitchen and a heat detector would also be

required. Adding these would cost an extra £250 in addition to the cost of the appliance. It was therefore decided to wait for the redevelopment to refurbish the kitchen space.

## **8. Update on Events**

SK updated the Committee. The Board Games night is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> January and 32 attendees are expected on the evening. Will start 7.30pm and wrap-up at 9.30pm. A feedback form will be provided for attendees. Post event addition: 36 turned up on the night, and it finished at about 10pm.

Licensing: KMcC clarified the advice from LBM that alcohol cannot be supplied at a ticketed event. TE to double-check with Licensing dept at Merton on other options (e.g. bring your own, free booze and ask for donations, meaning of the term 'ticketed event') and any other legal requirements.

It was agreed that quiz nights and author events are adults only. Other events may be suitable for children or all the family. Committee agreed that for future events the publicity should state if the event is open to all or is adults only. It was also agreed that a subsidised family admission rate would be appropriate if a family appropriate event was run in future.

A Junior Friends membership could be worthwhile and something for the Committee to consider. There are younger volunteers and it was felt a good idea to have some younger people involved in the Friends and the Committee.

## **9. Any Other Business**

An article was shared on the FOWBL Facebook page in November 2015 relating to a Veterans for Peace annual march at the Cenotaph. It should be remembered that the Friends is a non-political body and noted that the post was wholly unrelated to the library. DG to email CB on this matter and share his response.

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is 22<sup>nd</sup> March where the Committee look forward to an update from AH on the outcome of the redevelopment proposal due to be presented at the Cabinet meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

