



Friends of Honley Library

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 10th January 2017

Present: Joe Hodgson (Chair); Caroline Page; Margaret Waterworth; Nita Steel; Cllr Charles Greaves; Linda Sharpe; Steve Duffton; Carrie Birch; Jane Mellers; Val McAvoy; Lawrence Benson; Jenny Bagworth; (Minutes)

Apologies: Pat Thompson; Anne Broadbent; Femi Sobo-Allen; Stephen Baggott; Jenny Lockwood; Neelam Randhawa; Judith Compton; Nicola Boundy.

The Chair advised that due to some members having to leave at a particular time and also a time consuming item on the agenda that the agenda could be taken in a different order and some items would be deferred.

2 Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and read by those present agreed and signed.

Matters arising

Kirklees Library Awards

Six members of FOHL had attended this event and unfortunately had not won an award but were presented with certificates due to being nominated for awards. The certificates will be displayed in the Library. Those who had attended were inspired by the work other libraries were doing. Some were opening 16 hours above the staffed opening times, were involved in school class visits and doing some very creative work especially with regard to IT.

Tubs to be deferred.

3. Volunteers and News Update Folder

CB advised that for some considerable time she has been trying to organise school class visits with Honley Junior School. These will need to take place on Thursday when the library is closed due to the number of children attending and to prevent any disruption to other users. Following a visit by CB and NB with the literacy coordinator at the school it was agreed that more volunteers would be needed and recruitment has taken place. There are new volunteers coming on board and there are six volunteers who would particularly like to work with children. The current delay is because the school would like volunteers to have enhanced DBS checks which was not known at the outset. CG advised that Brockholes and Netherton schools would very likely follow on with class visits.

VM gets weekly updates, that replace the daily emails, and has created a folder for these which will be kept by the diary so that when volunteers sign in they can read the updates. Also within this folder are training notes. These were adapted by VM

from notes compiled at Holmfirth to help volunteers with tasks. An example was shown and they looked to be very helpful.

4. Library Statistics

CP asked JM if the statistics could be made available to us. JM advised that this was work in progress and should be sent to Neelam shortly and monthly thereafter.

CP also advised that the heating varied quite a lot and didn't want money to be wasted by overheating.

JM advised that the large moveable shelves were going to be split by the firm that made the shelving as they are so heavy to move.

JM was also asked about a second computer on the front desk so that volunteers could assist VM. This was unlikely due to the running/maintenance costs of installing another computer but she would look into this.

A question was asked if there would be a charge for groups using the library out of hours. The reply was that if the organiser was making a charge then there would be a small charge made by the library. Amounts were not discussed.

5. Council Budget

CG informed the meeting that within the upcoming council budget there would be substantial cuts. Instead of getting additional money there is a cut for 2017/2018. Easy cuts have already been made and now there would be devastating cuts. A delegation from Kirklees Council has gone down to see the minister today to basically beg for the cuts not to happen. To cope with the loss of income and to continue services as they are at present he estimated Council Tax would need to increase by 15% and then by 2% every year thereafter. There has been a 45% cut off the budget since 2009. The Council's draft proposals would be put forward to a Cabinet meeting on 27th January 2017 and people would be free to attend. Details would be on the Kirklees website from 20th January.

The budget for libraries had gone from £6.3 million to £3.9 million and these would have an effect from April 2017. JM advised that the cuts that have already taken place have had a huge effect on staff both financially and emotionally. CG said that these new cuts would be in place by March 2020. The impact on the library was discussed at length and what measures could be taken to help the situation. It was suggested that we look at what Denby Dale and Skelmanthorpe libraries are doing. It was also agreed to invite Cllr Graham Turner who has responsibility for Resources which includes the libraries to a meeting after that date and to ask other Friends of groups to attend as well. CG will also attend that meeting. CB agreed to draft an email to invite the other groups and JH will draft the invitation to Graham Turner. This would be a dedicated meeting to discuss the future of the libraries. It was thought in the region of £25,000 would be needed to run the library as it would need a paid manager.

Other options to consider were approaching the Holme Valley Parish Council in due course for assistance. At present approximately £50,000 goes to HVPC from Honley residents Council Tax.

6. Library improvements

The asbestos survey was being undertaken at the moment and the results should be completed next week. The kitchen could then be done.

7. Events

AB had sent in a report which was read out and is attached to the minutes.

AB is standing down as Events Leader and Jenny Lockwood has agreed to take on this role providing no one else wants to take it on. Everyone was happy for JL to take on the role and thanks were given for the unstinting hard work AB had put in. It was felt this had been a large part of the successful position the library had achieved. Flowers and a card had been sent to AB

Future events

Readarounds These would continue to go ahead but on a smaller scale. There would be no charge or raffle but refreshments would still be provided as usual and the donation box will be put out. The next Readaround would be Spring into Poetry on 28th February and AB will spread the word. Posters would be put up but reduced in number.

Pop up cafe. These would continue to be held on the 1st Saturday of each month. A rota is needed for people to sign up.

The 1st April would be the Coffee Morning for the Mayor's Charity and the 7th October will be the Macmillan Coffee Morning. LS and JB would cover these dates. Those present were asked if they could cover a session and to email LS if they were able.

It was also proposed to hold an event in March as a thank you to all who have helped with the renovations to the library. An item would be put in the Holme Valley Review when the work was complete.

80th Anniversary feedback deferred

Trinity Xmas tree Festival feedback deferred

Treasurer's Report

The following is the summary account -

Bank - £814.85.

Petty cash - £61.10.

Earmarked for Children's activities - £242.73.

Website Group deferred

Joint Development Plan deferred

AOB

None

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on 7th February but JH will call a meeting earlier if something needs discussing.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm