



## Friends of Honley Library

### Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Present:** Joe Hodgson (Chair); Caroline Page; Nita Steel; Linda Sharpe; Anne Broadbent; Jenny Lockwood; Steve Dufton; Carrie Birch; Val Javin; Alison Dean; Pat Thompson (Minutes)

**Apologies:**; Jenny Bagworth; Margaret Waterworth; Cllr Charles Greaves; Jane Mellers; Judith Compton; Pat Colling; Clive Naylor

#### 1. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

**Honley Women in WW1** – Caroline has received an invitation from Peter Marshall for FOHL to be involved in this project, which will take place in 2019. Caroline has started some research but there is ample opportunity for people to be involved if they wish. If you are interested, please contact Caroline. The Village Trust has a meeting regarding the project in June but the date is yet to be confirmed.

**Improvements to the library** – Jenny L. met with Robert Crosland from Kirklees some time ago but it took until yesterday for their surveyor to visit the library. Hopefully, following his report, the work will be able to go ahead. Jenny has spoken to 'Replan', who are okay to go ahead with the work, despite the threat of further Library budget cuts.

**Tubs** – Jenny L and her friend have agreed to manage the plants in the Well in the centre of Honley and, as Margaret could not attend the last meeting of the Village Trust, Jenny attended. They are wanting the Tubs to be bigger and better this year, which would cost FOHL £144.

However, when Jenny explained the situation re. Library cuts and said that our funding was really needed to support the library service, it was agreed that we could just give a donation towards the costs. A sum of £50 was agreed by FOHL

**Joint Development Plan** – Unfortunately Judith C could not attend tonight but the revised Constitution, Development Plan and the Annex to the Plan have now been completed. Carrie said that she would forward the information to Steve D. Georgina Robinson at Kirklees is going to come, with Helen Crabtree, to do a Workshop with FOHL and Volunteers. This will include a SWOT Analysis and should be coming up soon. Carrie said that there will also be Courses shortly on running organisations; constitutions and legalities and recommended that a few people attend.

The revised Constitution and Development Plan will be presented at the next meeting. Pat will send the documents out to everyone in time for consideration

before the meeting. It was suggested that the main focus should be on the Constitution so that this can be agreed at the AGM.

**Subscription for FOHL Members** - It was agreed that this should be discussed at the AGM. Steve pointed out that members might expect something in return for the subscription e.g. a Newsletter. There is now a Group named 'Friends of Honley', which could lead to confusion.

## **2. Events**

The **Spring 'Readaround'** last Tuesday went very well, having a large turnout with many people reading their own poems. A number of people asked when the next Readaround would be and, in future, it would be useful to have this information available. Some visitors brought flyers and a couple of announcements were made about events by other organisations. This networking system works very well and it was agreed to send the date for the next Readaround to 'Talking Zebras' as soon as possible.

There was a steady stream of customers at the **Pop-up-Cafe** last Saturday and over £16 was raised through donations.

**1<sup>st</sup> April – Coffee Morning and Cake Stall in aid of the Mayors Charity**, which this year is the Royal British Legion.

Any donations of cakes would be appreciated, either whole and wrapped for sale or to be sliced to sell with beverages. Cakes may be dropped off at the Library on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning from 9.30am. If you would like to help with the event, please arrive at 9.30am.

**Next Events meeting is on 15<sup>th</sup> March at the Gallery Cafe at 9.15am.** All welcome.

## **3. Website**

Steve has finished the draft revised design and has moved 'Events' to the front page of the website. Joe will meet with Steve to have a look and possibly ask Jon for a quote to make the changes.

The Library Questionnaire is available at the Library and Steve will put it on the Website. It has already been advertised in the Honley Flyer that it is on the Website.

## **4. Volunteers**

Carrie said that, of the 23 current volunteers, 15 are active. There are now 8 new volunteers who are presently shadowing experienced volunteers. Carrie has shown them how to add their names to the electronic rota. It is vitally important to keep the number of volunteers up so that we are able to cover the rota at all times.

Carrie is hoping to get the Class Visits going on Thursday afternoons before the end of term.

Some libraries are now being opened to the public by volunteers outside of normal opening times but Honley Volunteers do not wish to do this. Carrie sees that we could use the skills of volunteers to run courses or events out of hours eg. IT.

Carrie has applied for grants, from the Rural District Committee and HV Parish Council, in order to run a planned programme for the Children's Book Festival. This,

together with the money left over from last year, would provide a total budget of £2300. Caroline said that the Village Trust are willing to fund art materials etc.

**Volunteer Meeting and Social Event:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm at Honley Library. All volunteers and those who are interested in becoming volunteers are welcome.

## **5. Treasurers Report**

Joe reported that we have £854.85 in the Bank and he currently holds £66.55 in Petty Cash.

## **6. Use of Library**

Caroline explained that the criteria that Kirklees use to measure use of Libraries are Footfall, Book Issues and Computer Use. As mentioned in our Strategy Document, we need this information to support our arguments for keeping Honley Library open.

Caroline shared the figures for Footfall from February 2016 to February 2017, which were quite encouraging, taking into account the drop in opening hours. Caroline will obtain the figures for the other criteria.

## **7. Council Cuts and Future Plans**

**Bid to Parish Council** - Joe, Caroline and Charles Greaves attended the Parish Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February to discuss possible funding if a Community Asset Transfer becomes necessary. A figure of £15000 was requested per annum, of which we would need to raise £2500. The funding was agreed in principle but would be subject to costings.

**Meeting with Cllr Graham Turner and Carol Stump** – Council cutbacks will be more severe and take effect from the financial year 2018/19. It will be impossible to maintain 24 libraries. A Consultation will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> May and report to Cabinet in September. Cllr Turner said that he would be happy to meet again with FOHL. He advised us to put in an Expression of Interest re. Asset Transfer but nothing else at present. Joe has sent in an email to this effect.

**An application to the District Committee** for £15000 could be made in April. This would be transitional money in the form of a 'one-off' payment to aid the Asset Transfer.

**Contact with the Village Trust** – Joe and Caroline met with Ian Blagborough (Chair) and Steve Hemmings (Secretary) to ask if the Trust could offer support to FOHL if an Asset Transfer became necessary. Caroline said that they were very receptive to the request. When asked if it would be possible for FOHL to come under the umbrella of the Trust, the answer was positive but the issue would need to be discussed at their meeting tomorrow to confirm this. Although this response was welcome, some reservations were expressed about this development but, at this stage, nothing has been decided and obviously there will need to be ongoing discussions, within the FOHL meetings and then, if agreed, with the Village Trust.

Concerns raised about working with the Village Trust:

- What sort of structure and relationship do we need?

- Everyone needs to have a clear understanding of the process. Is it 'do-able'?
- If we have the support of the Village Trustees, would we have to act on their suggestions?
- Would there be enough communication between FOHL and V. Trust so that everyone is clear about what is happening?

What is clear is that an Asset Transfer can only be successful if we get outside help.

**Suggestions for tasks to be completed regarding the future of the Library:**

- Article on front of Flyer re. threat to Library – negotiate with Village Trust re. this.
- Leaflet handout re. threat of closure and Open Evening/Public Meeting
- Written document to Council to support keeping the Library open. Joe and Caroline will speak to Steve Hemmings about this. If you would like to contribute to the document, please speak to Caroline.
- Recruit more volunteers
- Identify people with specific skills to support Asset Transfer
- Speak to Councillors
- Encourage completion of questionnaire in Library or on the website.

**Promotion, Community Support -**

**Open Evening/ Recruitment Drive on 2<sup>nd</sup> May** – This event has been advertised in the Honley Flyer as a Public Meeting. The focus and agenda for the evening will be discussed at the Events meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 6.00pm

The arrangements for the Open Event on 2<sup>nd</sup> May will be finalised.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm