



Friends of Honley Library

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 7th February 2017

Present: Joe Hodgson (Chair); Caroline Page; Margaret Waterworth; Nita Steel; Linda Sharpe; Val McAvoy; Jenny Lockwood; Neelam Randhawa; Nicola Boundy; Judith Compton; Stephen Baggott; Peter Marshall; Cllr Charles Greaves; Jenny Bagworth (Minutes)

Apologies: Pat Thompson; Anne Broadbent; Jane Mellers; Jason McCartney MP
Liz Colquhoun

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 may be deferred. He then invited Peter Marshall to address the meeting.

Peter advised that the First World War ended on 20th July 1919 when the peace treaty was signed. This date was celebrated throughout the country and there were celebrations planned for Honley during the weekend of 20th July 2019.

Part of these activities would be the rededication of the war memorial and he would be publishing a book.

The Village Trust were hoping to install two benches in the old people's park and two noticeboards. A lot of work had been put into trying to apply for a Heritage Lottery Grant only to be told that there was no chance of getting it. The Village Trust were therefore hoping to find funds to provide the benches etc. SB advised that the Parish Council has sponsored a bench for Holmfirth from a special budget and he could see no reason why they couldn't do the same for Honley.

Peter said that they had a lot of information about the hospital [except nurses names] and the men in the war but there was little known about what the women did. Did they take on the 400-500 jobs that the men who went to war had previously done? He wondered if the FOHL could take on the research for this to go on the new noticeboards for the centenary. A number of people showed an interest and CP agreed to coordinate the team and liaise with Peter Marshall.

Improvements to the library

JL reported that there were some problems as a result of a negative response from a surveyor from Kirklees. There would be a meeting with him and a few others tomorrow and JL was hopeful this could be sorted out. The asbestos survey had come back clear. Hopefully work would start on the kitchen at the beginning of March.

There is to be an event on 2nd May to thank those who had worked and /or provided materials for the improvements.

Tubs

These were going well and MW was liaising with the Village Trust. JL was going to see June at Zebra and then meeting Sylvie and Lyn Croft at the well at 9.30 on 13/2/17. MW will also attend.

Events.

Pop up cafe on 4.2.17. SB mentioned that at a meeting last night it was noted that only two councillors had come last week so probably more would come on 4th March. It was agreed the best way to invite them was an individual email direct from FOHL.

JL reported that she was confident the Events team had a plan for the future and knew what they were doing. Everything was on track for the readaround on 28th February, children's events and pop up cafe on 4th March. It was hoped more councillors would attend.

Feedback on 80th Anniversary

CP reported that this had been a great success and attended by 55-60 people as well as the Mayor, Carol Stump and representatives of local businesses and village groups. A thank you card has been received from Kath Dyson for her flowers.

Thanks to LS for the good publicity, the events team and their involvement, JH & SD for their work on the display. PT for emailing invitations and Alison Dean for helping on the day moving things and welcoming people. It was a very happy event which reflected the celebratory occasion.

The resources for the display are now in a box file in the local history section of the library.

Feedback on the Christmas Tree festival

CP reported that for the second year we provided a beautifully decorated tree.

Thanks to the Knit and Natter group for the lovely decorations. They have said they are willing to be involved again. Thanks also to the team [NS, JH, LS, MP, MW] that helped with moving the tree and decorating it.

Volunteers

Good recruitment was going on with six new volunteers starting to shadow existing ones. VM asked NR to let her have their contact details. JC asked if any had IT skills that might be useful with helping visitors use the computers. There were two who could help with this. One lady needed help with her ipad and FSA helped her regularly. NR was also asked if there was any training on offer to all volunteers involving IT as some would be interested.

CP and others had visited Skelmanthorpe library who offer 31 hours of opening [16 hours staffed by volunteers alone] and have 28 volunteers. The paid staff work in the mornings and the volunteers cover the afternoons. This is made very clear to the public so that they know if they need specific help to visit in the morning. They do class visits but not on a regular basis. Volunteers cover more tasks than we do. It was noted that we cover less tasks now than we did as there is now only one computer.

Treasurers Report

There is £814.85 in the bank and £77.30 in Petty Cash The amount reserved for children's activities is unchanged at £242.73. The accounts have been audited by Leslie Chadwick up to April 2016 and this is sufficient for applying for grants etc. CP said that she would be meeting with a new member of FOHL, Clive Naylor, who has financial expertise and potentially may be willing to help FOHL with his knowledge.

Website

SD has mentioned to JH that he is considering a new design for the website.

GAP Status

This was renewed in December thanks to a reminder from CB and this allows us to apply for grants and money from Kirklees. It lasts for five years.

Joint Development Plan

Work has been ongoing on the Strategy and the Constitution and the latter will need approval before the AGM. JC is keen to pursue an effective Action Plan for 2017-2018.

We also need a good safeguarding policy. JL has asked for a copy of the Mrs Sunderland policy which is a very good one.

SB advised that Locality have templates of documents on their website. CP said that we would be inviting Locality to come to a meeting.

Future Plans

JH said that it looks as though we will need to take over the library. CG advised that we should be ready for Asset Transfer but not too far ahead with it. The process can take about 12 months. There will be a library review and the results of this will not be known until early summer. He attended a meeting and there was a vote to increase the Parish Precept and this would bring in £100,000 to Holme Valley. £20,000 of this would be allocated to the toilets in Holmfirth leaving £80,000. Honley residents will be contributing £30,000 of the total money. JH and CP are to attend a Parish Council Community Asset meeting with a proposal to keep a library in Honley and they will be giving a 3 minute presentation to this effect. It is hoped we can obtain a regular payment from the Parish council of £12,500 towards the costs of keeping the library open but this would only pay for running costs. Library services we expect would still supply the library but money would still be needed to pay a member of staff. As a group it was agreed that we needed to look at the service we offer and how to blend this with what is required.

Asset Transfer is not a simple process but it would be easier if we had Parish backing. There will need to be a separate group of people dealing with the library building after any Asset Transfer. These people will have to have considerable expertise and authority. We will be sounding out some people but action will not necessarily be immediate.

Unfortunately all the events etc. that we put on will not affect the budget but may have some influence with decision makers or when applying for grants and funding. JL said that we wanted to make it very clear to library staff that we would only take on the library if all else failed and we would fight hard to help retain their jobs.

A discussion took place regarding the other facilities in the village such as the Village Hall and Community Centre. Village Hall plans for redevelopment were on hold until the outcome for Magdale was known. JC felt it was a good opportunity for residents to consider what they required in the village and how this could best be resourced. SB advised that we could apply to the Land Charity who are looking to fund long term projects but as pointed out by CG it was not clear at present how much would be needed by Magdale.

Looking to the future it was agreed we need to contact service users, publicise the problem for the library and seek support. JL suggested having a discussion with John Murray to enquire about the cost of putting a flyer in with the next Honley Flyer [June issue]. It is proposed to have a questionnaire linked to the website using ' Survey Monkey'. The questionnaire is ready and Alison Dean will be asked to put it on the website. JC will provide information to go out in the March Honley Flyer.

Kirklees will carry out a consultation with the public.

The library need to make sure they have the support of the village before embarking on time consuming and costly activities.

It was agreed that we should now request a subscription of £5 per annum to be part of FOHL. At present there are about 80 members but it is mainly the same few who attend these meetings.

Meeting with Graham Turner

This will be held on Tuesday 21st February at 6.00 in the library. Carol Stump will also be attending. CP said that invitations had gone out to Friends of groups in South Kirklees asking them if they would like to send two representatives. There were six people coming to date. CP produced a plan for the evening. We will provide tea and biscuits. JC and LS said they would be unable to attend. It was stressed that this meeting should be purely to find out the best way of dealing with these cuts and saving our libraries and not about making a protest.

There is a Register of Community Assets and CG has put JH's name down for the library. JH will therefore be given six months notice of any change likely to be made for the library.

The meeting closed at 20:00

The next monthly meeting is on 7th March 2017 6.00-7.15

Special meeting with Graham Turner 21st February 2017 at 6.00