



Friends of Honley Library

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 9th May 2017

Present: Joe Hodgson (Chair); Caroline Page; Linda Sharpe; Margaret Waterworth; Carrie Birch; Val Javin; Charles Greaves; Pat Thompson (Minutes)

Apologies: Nita Steel; Neelam Randhawa; Jenny Bagworth; Jenny Lockwood; Judith Compton; Alison Dean; Terry Savage; Stephen Baggott

1. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Boiler and Electrics - Caroline has received an email from Kirklees saying that there are no proposals to renew the boiler or the electrical distribution board at the present time. This work is not seen as a priority, given the huge cutbacks which the Council are being forced to make.

The kitchen and office facilities are greatly improved after the refurbishment work but, due to vandalism of the outside lights, the plastering in the kitchen has had to be delayed as the electrical work will need to be completed first by Kirklees. Joe has arranged with the plasterer to wait until it is done.

Visits to other 'Friends' Groups – It has been recommended that we visit other 'Friends' Groups, and in particular Meltham, to learn more about the mechanics and documentation around the Asset Transfer process. After some discussion about forthcoming meetings and training events, it was agreed to arrange this in July onwards. Val Javin said that all the documentation for the Asset Transfer for Holmfirth Civic Hall is on the Holme Valley Parish Council website

Use of Library – Pat gave some feedback from Terry, who is in hospital at present, about his research on other Kirklees library statistics. He has found that all requests for consolidated information have to go through Carol Stump, which he is reluctant to do at present. He has spoken to a friend, who was Senior Librarian for Birmingham, and asked for guidance about which factors are likely to be most relevant in our situation. She replied that there was only one – politics. Charles agreed with this but added that it was still important to have the statistical information and also to focus on other information about quality of service, eg. events, class visits. Pat agreed to compile a rolling record of events, going back to January 2016.

2. Events

The Doris Corti event went very well, despite Doris being unable to attend the event. Around 30 people attended.

The **Open Evening** was attended by a wide selection of 'Friends', Volunteers, the general public and Local Councillors. Joe made some notes, from which Val J has written an article intended for the Honley Flyer. After further discussions later in the meeting, it was agreed that she would send it to the Holme Valley Review instead, as they would have more space to publish the complete article.

Linda and Margaret facilitated the Pop-up Cafe on 6th May, which went well.

Future Events

23rd May - Readaround

27th June - Two Tykes on t' Loose. Tickets £3

29th June – The Future of Honley Library – Your chance to put questions to Charles Greaves and other Local Councillors.

Children's Activities

Carrie has an exciting draft schedule for the Children's Summer Book Festival, which will be presented at the Social Event for Friends and Volunteers on Friday 10th May. Linda and Emily will put the events on social media. Carrie would also like to have a 'flyer' to deliver to local households. If you would like to help with the design of the flyer or distribution, please contact Carrie or the Library.

There are also two activities planned for the half term holiday. The first is a 'Bear Hunt', which will probably take place on Tuesday 30th May and the other is 'Sensory Story Telling' on Friday 9th June. Bridget has arranged the event and has also sent out an invitation to children who attend Special Schools. Further details can be found at the library or on social media.

Carrie has received a cheque for £500 from Holme Valley Parish Council towards the costs of the Summer Book Festival.

3. Constitution and Strategic Plan

The questionnaire is now on the FOHL website and will be kept open until further notice. If you haven't already completed one, please do as we need to know what the community want from the library. The questionnaire has recently been revised and Joe said that he would ask Steve if he could alter the one on the website.

The Development Group have had another meeting and three strands of work were identified to give Volunteers and 'Friends' the opportunity to work on areas that interest them. The results of this will then enable a working plan to be completed with targets and timescales.

Strand 1 – Developing and agreeing a sustainable future for Honley Library, it's Council and Information Services (including strategy, business plan, options around the building – asset transfer, charitable status, constitution and finances.

Strand 2 – Continuing to develop and extend events and activities, using and building on the skills of friends/volunteers, but also with a clear focus of what the community wants and needs (based on research and evaluation) and building on significant achievements to date.

Strand 3 – Effective and strengthened communications and partnership working, including improvements to the website, effective use of the media and social media and enhanced partnerships and joint working arrangements with key local organisations, again building on achievements to date.

If you would like to contribute to discussions on any of the strands, please contact Judith Compton or Pat Thompson and/or attend the Workshop (details below)

It is very important that everyone owns the strategy and a Consultation Workshop has been arranged at the Gallery Cafe on Friday 9th June from 10.00am to 1.00pm. All

'Friends' and Volunteers are welcome to attend.

The Constitution and Strategic Plan will be discussed and agreed at the AGM

4. Forward Planning

Joe and Caroline met with Emma Griffiths (Senior Facilities Manager, Asset Transfer) and have now submitted an 'Expression of Interest'. This does not mean that we have to take this option; it means we will be informed as to whether the Library is available for Community Asset Transfer. If we do have to go down this route then some preparatory work will be done.

Consultation is needed about options for 'The Future of Honley Library'.

A question and answer session with Charles Greaves and other Local Councillors will be held in the library on Thursday 29th June at 6.30pm. The meeting will be open to all 'Friends', Volunteers and the general public.

Invitations will be sent to local organisations, including the Village Trust, Business Association, Civic Society and other groups, such as Friends of Honley Junior School.

Charles will talk to John Murray about putting a piece about the meeting in the Honley Flyer (instead of a report on the Open Meeting). Val J will send an advert for the meeting to the Holme Valley Review.

Carrie has put together a time line for key dates in the next few months (see attachment)

5. Volunteers

Class Visits – started last Wednesday and went very well. Two classes visited in separate sessions, a total of 57 children. It was agreed that all books would be taken out on the class card at present. For health and safety reasons, it would be appropriate to have 2 high visibility jackets for volunteers to wear when walking the children between school and library due to the need to cross the busy road. Fiona is looking into costs and it was agreed that FOHL would pay for the jackets.

Training for Volunteers and 'Friends'

The Library service is putting on 6 training sessions, covering a range of subjects, led by Helen Crabtree for 'Friends of' Groups and Volunteers. A list, giving details and dates of the sessions is attached. For planning purposes, please get back to me if you wish to attend any or all of the sessions.

6. Treasurers Report

Joe reported that we have £1857.29 in the Bank, which includes the £1000 grant from the Rural District Council towards the Children's Summer Book Festival. Joe currently holds £57 50 in Petty Cash.

Alison has now taken over the bookkeeping and has completed a mini audit. A small discrepancy was found but this will be rectified. Joe and Alison will meet regularly to ensure that the accounts are kept up date. Thank you to Alison for taking on this task.

7. Promotion, Community Support

Design of Advert in the programme for Honley Feast – after a short discussion about the content, Pat said that she would amend the one from last year and will send the draft to Linda, Joe, Caroline and Carrie to confirm the design.

Website – The contract for support of the website from Jon Burdon will expire on 1st June. It was agreed that we will pay £10 per month for this to continue and Joe will check whether this covers the renewal of the host site and domain name. Jon has recently made amendments to the site as both Pat and Linda had experienced problems. Pat is still unable to put agendas and minutes on to the site using her own computer but will try using a computer at the library. Meantime, Jon has put all outstanding minutes etc. on to the site

9. AOB

Linda passed around a letter from the Mayor and Mayoress, thanking FOHL for the donation of £170 towards the Mayor's Charity. The money was raised at the Coffee Morning and Cake Stall.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Date of next meeting:

As there are a number of meetings and workshops in June, it was agreed that the next FOHL meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 19th July 2017 at 6.00pm