**FRIENDS OF GREENHILL LIBRARY**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (held on Zoom)**

**21 October 2020**

**Present**: Kirsty Atkin, Peter Atkin, Lucy Booth, David Billington, Mary Bishop, Mick Black, Chris Brown (Chair), Laurence Coates, Liz Coates, Gill Coghlan, David Cooke, Wendy Crookes, Janet Crowther, Margaret Davis, Ann Hartley, Siobhan Marray, Cynthia Russell, Gill Stern, Mike Stern, Linda Stevenson, Roger Stevenson, Chris Whitehouse, David Wildgoose, Diana Wood, Steve Wood.

**Apologies**: Lesley Fox, Lynn Munro, Phil Petty.

1. **Welcome, introduction and apologies**

Chris Brown welcomed members; the trustees and Lucy Booth, Lowedges Development Worker, introduced themselves. Apologies were noted.

1. **Minutes of the last AGM on 23 October 2019** were approved.

No matters arising were identified.

1. **Trustees’ Annual Report.**

Chris said it had been a year of two halves since the last AGM. Until mid-March we had been doing very well; there was even a small increase over the previous year in book issues. He highlighted two events:

* A Music Day in Sept. for children organised by Margaret Davis had been very well received.
* The wonderful Christmas in the Library day organised by Cynthia Russell.

The most significant development had been the appointment of Lucy Booth who, with lots of help from others, had opened a sub-library in the Lowedges Community Centre on 12th Feb. It contained about 1,200 books and Lucy had trained or was training 6 volunteers.

Because of the Covid-19 lockdown the library closed on 21st March after a week in which huge numbers of books were borrowed. In the next two months a minimal presence was maintained on social media and two volunteers died. Chris did not propose to repeat his tribute to Patrick Coghlan but said we very much missed his vision and wisdom. We were to have a commemorative seat on the library grass; as many would probably want to contribute, JustGiving funding was being arranged. John Jeffcock’s work for the library, including newsletter distribution, had been much appreciated. The family gift of £850 in his memory was providing two new bookcases with books. Chris was pleased that Jean Jeffcock had resumed volunteering in the library.

In recent months a number of activities had been arranged:

* A virtual Open Gardens tour, which attracted 450 YouTube viewings.
* A school holidays Story Walk around Greenhill Village and Lowedges, arranged by Lucy.
* Story-telling sessions on the grass by Janet Black, for which Kirsty and Peter Atkin mowed the grass.
* A Scarecrow Competition with 34 entries and 250 voters; to be repeated.
* Vera Dyer arranged for two of the planned evening talks to be given on-line; there was reasonable attendance.
* Mike Davis organised for 16 Open Gardens on 5th and 6th Sept, which raised £1,100.

As the lockdown eased Ann Hartley and Chris met other library reps. and used national guidance on safe opening to do detailed risk assessments. There were three Book Drops in July for borrowed books to be returned and donations made. Click and Collect has run twice a week since 16th July with modest take-up. Limited browsing started on 7th Sept. Chris thanked all involved in these library services, particularly Ann, Janet Crowther and the cleaning team.

In respect of our plans to improve the buildings Chris said that Planning Permission had been given and an application made for Building Regulations approval. Laurence Coates said our fundraisers were actively searching for £250,000 for the first phase.

As regards the future, the imminent move into Tier 3 might require us to stop limited browsing. It was difficult to see the Lowedges room re-opening during the pandemic.

Laurence expressed his thanks to all involved in re-opening library services and commended Chris on his excellent leadership in difficult times.

**4. Presentation of the Annual Accounts.** David Wildgoose spoke to the accounts for the year to 31st March 2020 and thanked all involved in fundraising. Its success and the Council grant meant a surplus after running costs had been met, which would be invaluable for our share of the building development costs. The effect of the lockdown on fundraising was not yet clear but a Business Support Grant of £25,000 had been received.

David added his tribute to Patrick Coghlan, who had roped him in to the campaign to have the Council continue running the library and then to become treasurer. A Greek Proverb reminded him of Patrick-“A society becomes great, when old men plant trees, whose shade they will never sit under.”

Chris Brown thanked David for the great job he had done for 6 years despite his busy employment and said a gift token was on its way to show our appreciation. We were financially stable and had been promised a further £10,000 capital grant from the Council.

Laurence said that the accounts had been duly independently examined and approved by the trustees. David thanked the independent examiner, David Ludlam for his thorough job. The accounts were received.

**5. Election of Trustees.**

Chris Brown said that Laurence Coates had been nominated for re-election as trustee and Secretary. After Laurence had said a few words he was re-elected for the standard term of 3 years, nem. con.

Laurence Coates said that four members had been duly nominated for election as trustees for the standard term:

* Chris Brown had also been nominated as Chair. Chris had envisaged stepping down now as Chair but was willing to continue in that role for another year, given the difficult circumstances. He was re-elected for the standard term of 3 years, nem. con.
* David Billington had also been nominated as Treasurer. David spoke of his engineering company experience, which included finance and company secretary roles, and of his lifelong interest in libraries. He was elected for the standard term of 3 years, nem. con.
* Kirsty Atkin said they had come to Sheffield 3 years ago and would be pleased to extend her library involvement beyond grass-cutting, deliveries and the Book Club. She was elected for the standard term of 3 years, nem. con.
* Peter Atkin said he would be proud to help such an amazingly well-run library. He was elected for the standard term of 3 years, nem. con

Laurence said we now had a strong Board of 10 members.

**6. A.O.B.**

* Chris Whitehouse asked who the other trustees were. Laurence said they were Mick Black, Richard Brown, Wendy Crookes, Janet Crowther and Ann Hartley.
* Chris Brown thanked all for attending.

LNC/AGM 2020 minutes