

**FRIENDS OF GREENHILL LIBRARY**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (held on Zoom)**  
**20 October 2021**

**Present:** Kirsty Atkin, Peter Atkin, Carol Barnett, Mick Black, Chris Brown (Chair), Richard Brown, Laurence Coates, Liz Coates, Michael Corbishley, Wendy Crookes, Janet Crowther, Shelley Fox, Ann Hartley, Matthew Howe, Dot Lockyer, Cynthia Russell, Lyndon Sheppard, Gill Stern, Mike Stern, Linda Stevenson, Chris Whitehouse (minutes), Diana Wood, Steve Wood.

**Apologies:** Lynn Munro, Kerry Moon, Vera Dyer, Jennie Hinton, John Hinton, Margaret Davis.

**1. Welcome, introduction and apologies**

Chris Brown welcomed members; the trustees introduced themselves. Apologies were noted.

**2. Minutes of the last AGM on 21 October 2020** were approved.

**Matters arising:**

- A Just Giving fund intended to raise £500 for a bench in memory of Patrick Coghlan actually raised about £1,200. This was used to install a bench outside the library – thanks to Peter Atkin for dealing with this – and buy new books, notably a selection on the environment.
- The family of John Jeffcock, former library volunteer, made a gift of £850 to the library in memory of John. This was used to buy a new bookcase and books for the crime & thriller section, as this was his favourite literature.
- The Building Regulations application referenced in the minutes was successful.

**3. Trustees' Annual Report.**

A written report was circulated to members. The Chair mentioned the main points for the period under review, notably:

- The Covid pandemic caused library services to vary – closed under lockdown; click and collect only; limited browsing. The library is open 18 hours per week compared to 26 pre-Covid. The library bought 1060 new “yellow sticker” books (up to 30/09/21). Special thanks to Operations Manager, Ann Hartley and all the volunteers that made this possible.
- 12 April was a turning point. We have not had to take any backward steps since that date.
- Some activities restarted e.g. Coffee Mornings, initially on Zoom, then outside, then on Thursdays, a non-library day – special thanks to Wendy Crookes; Other one-off activities included storytelling on the lawn led by Janet Black; a scarecrow competition with 35 entries; Open Gardens 10-11 July; Farmers' Market 26 September. Thanks to Mike Davis for his work on Open Gardens. Sales at the bookshop were very good. Special thanks to Diana and Steve Wood. All these events were important in furthering community development and maintaining community spirit at a difficult time. Some activities remain suspended e.g. Fun Time, Story Time, Craft Club, Chatterbooks, Knit & Natter.
- The library entered a partnership agreement with Terminus Initiative to share the use of a room for a satellite library at the Meeting Place, Lowedges Bus Terminus. Initially sited at Lowedges Community Centre, it was decided to move during lockdown and the library reopened on 19 May.
- Sheffield Library Services organised a Summer Reading Challenge, managed for us by Clive Opie. 114 children entered and 51 completed the challenge.

- The library has a new air-source heat pump heating system, installed by Greenhill Air Conditioning and paid for by Viridor Credits. This means the library is no longer dependent on gas.
- One key personnel change. David Wildgoose vacated post as Treasurer at the last AGM. He was succeeded briefly by David Billington and then by Laurence Coates. Special thanks to Laurence for shouldering so much responsibility as Secretary and Treasurer.
- Sheffield Council technical support has deteriorated: big problem with computer network connectivity at one point; failure to order books in a timely manner etc.
- Remaining challenges include restoration of suspended activities and recruiting / retraining volunteers, especially session leaders.

#### **4. Presentation of the Annual Accounts**

Laurence Coates spoke to the accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and thanked all involved in fundraising. The accounts were approved by the Board in August.

- The organisation is in good financial shape with a surplus of £73,507. Council tax was suspended, donations are up, we've received a series of grants, including two government covid business support grants totalling £51,143 (£12,000 after the year end).
- Reserves have been put into funds designated for particular purposes: £21,600 for building repairs; £20,000 for free community events; £50,000 for phase 1 of new build plans (which will require £250,000).
- New-build plans (accessible toilet, bigger kitchen etc.) are on hold. Landlord's permission, requested in April, still not forthcoming. No funding available anyway. Capital grants difficult at this time.
- Sheffield Council is due to receive a report to cabinet on the voluntary libraries and there is a danger of financial support ending. However, we think the grant for 2022-23 could well be the same as for 2021-2022.
- Laurence thanked the fundraising team – Phil Petty, Siobhan Marray, Margaret Davis for all their work.

#### **5. Election of Independent Examiner for the 2021-2022 accounts**

David Ludlam was independent examiner for two years and thanks were expressed for his work. Matthew Howe of Wilson Howe on Westwick Cres was elected as the new independent examiner – proposed by Laurence Coates and seconded by Wendy Crookes.

#### **6. Election of Trustees.**

- Mick Black (Volunteer Coordinator), Wendy Crookes (Lowedges Library, Coffee Morning etc.), Ann Hartley (Library Operations) and Janet Crowther (Bookings and Operations Support) were re-elected unanimously as trustees.
- Michael Corbishley was elected unanimously as Vice-Chair. Michael has fundraising and business experience in the third (voluntary) sector and has previously acted as a trustee elsewhere.
- Lyndon Sheppard was elected unanimously as Secretary. He works in the financial services industry and has experience as a trustee in the third sector.
- All these elections were for the standard term of three years.

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

- Ann Hartley thanked Chris Brown for all his work and support.

