

FRIENDS OF GREENHILL LIBRARY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (held on Zoom)
5 October 2022

Present: Kirsty Atkin, Mick Black, Chris Brown, Laurence Coates (Treasurer), Michael Corbishley (Chair), Janet Crowther, Dawn Davis, Louise Dore, Vera Dyer, Ann Hartley, Lyndon Henard, Chris Morgan, Mike Stern, Linda Stevenson, Roger Stevenson, Chris Whitehouse (minutes), Diana Wood, Steve Wood.

Apologies: Wendy Crookes, Gill Coghlan, Shelley Fox.

1. Welcome

Michael Corbishley welcomed members

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 20 October 2021 and Matters Arising

The minutes were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Report

The Chair highlighted key points of the annual report.

- Opening hours are nearly back to normal (now 19) and most activities revived post-Covid, thanks to the commitment and dedication of volunteers. Ann expressed her gratitude to volunteers for their support and loyalty as we returned to normal.
- The library has ten trustees with a range of skills and a broader age range than previously.
- Productive cooperation with Greenhill Events Group.
- Lowedges Community Library has done well under Catherine Samengo-Turner, who was recruited at the start of 2022.
- Long-running discussions about modifying the building resulted in the decision to extend the children's library, modernise the toilet to accommodate wheelchair users and refurbish the kitchen. Sandersons were appointed as contractor. Work begins in December and should last 4-6 weeks. Other plans remain on the back-burner.
- Margaret Davis has stepped down as fundraising coordinator after many years excellent service.

4. Annual Accounts

- Laurence Coates presented the accounts, which were previously approved by the trustees after inspection by the Independent Examiner. Laurence expressed the library's appreciation of the work done by Mathew Howe, the Independent Examiner who acts on a voluntary basis.

- The accounts are healthy thanks to (a) low costs (b) successful fundraising, including income from events, book sales, library hire etc. (c) Sheffield City Council grants and central government business support grants during the Covid crisis. The council generously agreed to the library keeping the underspend in 2020-2021. The result is that the library is carrying forward £225,000 of mostly unrestricted funds.
- Vera Dyer and others expressed their appreciation for the clarity of the accounts and all the work put in by Laurence.
- Sanderson's tender for building works was £104,000. The library has a total of £110,000 available in the form of previously designated funds, the council grant underspend of £6625 and a council capital grant of about £5000 dating from two years ago.

5. Election of Independent Examiner for the 2022-2023 Accounts

Mathew Howe was again elected as Independent Examiner, after being proposed by Laurence Coates and seconded by Janet Crowther.

6. Election of Trustees

- Laurence Coates nominated Dawn Davis as Treasurer and she was approved unanimously by the members present. Dawn introduced herself. She lives in High Green but has family connections in Greenhill and this is where her roots are. Dawn has good administration and finance skills after a career in the NHS. She welcomed the opportunity to take on the role now she is retired and the threat of covid diminished.
- Peter Atkin and Richard Brown stepped down during the course of the year. The meeting expressed thanks for their substantial contributions.
- All other serving trustees remain on the board as their terms are not yet completed, namely Michael Corbishley (Chair), Lyndon Henard (Secretary), Kirsty Atkin, Wendy Crookes, Janet Crowther, Mick Black, Ann Hartley, Chris Brown, Laurence Coates.

7. AOB

- Vera Dyer expressed concern about rising energy costs. It was explained that the introduction of the heat pump to replace an old gas boiler plus the fixed rate on our electricity supply contract means we are in a good position.
- Roger Stevenson expressed concern about the age profile of the volunteers and called for continual work to attract young volunteers. Mick Black replied that the library was already using many publicity channels to this end. It was also noted that the women leading the Greenhill Events team, with which the library is now closely cooperating, are younger than most of our volunteers and that the two children who

helped with the Summer Reading Challenge might continue to be involved as volunteers with the library.

- Chris Whitehouse felt that the board of trustees was in good shape with a wide range of skills and experience and he thanked them for all their work. He also emphasised the important role played by the library and all its activities in promoting community development.
- Chris Brown noted that Laura White and Janet Black had stepped back from story-telling activities but had nevertheless won a Montessori Storyteller Of The Year award. Five women with pre-school children have taken over the story-telling activities.
- Chris Brown also moved a vote of thanks to Ann Hartley, who works so hard to keep the library ticking over.