

FRIENDS OF GREENHILL LIBRARY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
11 October 2023

Present: Kirsty Atkin, Chris Brown (Vice Chair), Laurence Coates, David Cooke, Michael Corbishley (Chair), Wendy Crookes, Janet Crowther, Dawn Davis (Treasurer), Louise Dore, Vera Dyer, Shelley Fox, Tony Fox, Michael Gormanly, Julia Greenwood, Ann Hartley, Lyndon Henard (Secretary), Dot Lockyer, Lynne Raven, Linda Stevenson, Roger Stevenson, Lindy Stone, David Wildgoose, Mandy Wildgoose, Diana Wood.

Apologies: Joy Arnott, Jean Coulson, Kerry Moon, Lynn Munro,

1. Welcome

Michael Corbishley welcomed members

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 5 October 2022 and Matters Arising

The minutes were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Resolution to change constitution

Lyndon Henard explained the proposed change to the constitution which would update the maximum length of service for a trustee from nine years to ten years to enable a balance between continuity and also in ensuring regular turnover of library trustees. Lyndon explained that following Michael Corbishley's earlier than originally anticipated decision to step down as Chair following this AGM, the Board considers it wise to have an experienced interim Chair in place, to enable an orderly transition to the next Chair. Chris Brown is willing to take this role, however his maximum service would be reached in early 2024, which would not allow for sufficient handover.

The proposed new wording was read to the meeting:

“A trustee may serve for ten consecutive years, i.e. the equivalent of three standard terms plus one year; after that they may not be re-elected or reappointed until at least two years have elapsed. Normally no trustee may hold the same officer post (i.e. as Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer) for more than 6 years consecutively. Where no suitable replacement can be found for an officer post, one additional year may be allowed.”

Dot Lockyer asked whether there was a requirement to change board members every year.

It was confirmed that trustees serve a three year term, and that they can be re-elected.

Dot asked whether all board members could therefore be up for re-election at the same time if they all started at the same time.

David Wildgoose confirmed that the appointment of trustees was staggered initially which means that this is unlikely to happen in practice.

Lyndon Proposed the resolution and Michael seconded it

The vote was held with Yes= 21, No = 0, Abstain = 0

The resolution was passed.

4. Annual Report

Michael Corbishley highlighted key points of the annual report.

- The building works had been completed
- The 60th birthday party had been celebrated
- The large number and range of activities held at the library including many new ones in the past 12 months
- Many positive compliments and comments in the user survey
- The yellow sticker stock now makes up the majority of books issued
- That the trustees had made a change to the reserves policy in case the council grant was reduced in the future, to hold sufficient reserves to manage through that

Michael thanked all volunteers, including cleaning and maintenance staff.

Vera Dyer asked for a clarification to be made to the report as it mentioned there was one paid member of staff, but it didn't say how it was funded.

Michael acknowledged this was an oversight, and confirmed the report would be updated before the final version was submitted to the charities commission. Michael explained the staff role was funded with a National Lottery Grant.

ACTION: UPDATE THE FINAL VERSION OF THE REPORT TO EXPLAIN HOW THE PAID STAFF MEMBER ROLE WAS FUNDED

Laurence Coates asked if the proportion of yellow sticker issues was so high because of a deterioration in the council book stock and was the latter likely to change. Ann Hartley explained that the council grant for buying new council books had reduced, meaning less new books being available for each library. Greenhill Library continue to buy lots of new books. This could be a cause.

Chris Brown noted that the proportion of yellow sticker books at Greenhill Library was similar to other local libraries.

David Wildgoose made a suggestion to the board that it could be sensible to consider a “Buy your favourite book” as a donation, to help increase library stock. It was acknowledged this was a good idea, and it was suggested to be considered by the fundraising team.

Roger Stephenson asked for clarification on the section of the report that says there are 30 Friends contributing at least £20 p.a. It was confirmed that this means £20 for each Friend, rather than in total.

David Cooke commented that there were still struggles with printing from the Council computers. Ann Hartley confirmed she would ask about this again.

5. Annual Accounts

Dawn Davis presented the accounts, which were inspected by the Independent Examiner and confirmed to be accurate. Dawn expressed the library’s appreciation of the work done by Mathew Howe, the Independent Examiner, who acts on a voluntary basis.

Dawn drew attention to the following key points

- The accounts were healthy
- The Building works came in under budget
- The library had won a £2000 prize for the Volunteer Storyteller Award
- The direct debit for Energy was currently higher than expected due to issues on the energy supplier’s side, and is reporting an overspend. This will mean there is money to get back in the future

Dawn gave her thanks to Laurence for all his help over the past 12 months since she took over the role.

The accounts were proposed by Dawn Davis and Seconded by Lynne Raven.

6. Election of Independent Examiner for the 2023-2024 Accounts

Dawn explained that Matthew Howe had said he won’t be able to do the accounts next year, and so she was going to look at alternative options.

Dawn requested that the meeting delegate the decision of the election of the Independent Examiner to the Board.

The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

7. Election of Trustees

- Lynne Raven, Kirsty Atkin and Chris Brown were all re-elected as Trustees unanimously.
- Chris Brown nominated Lindy Stone as a trustee. Lindy introduced herself. The meeting voted unanimously in inviting her to join the trustees
- Michael stepped down as Chair, and Chris Brown took over in this role.

Chris Brown formally took over as chair of the AGM.

As new Chair, Chris Brown thanked Michael for the successes he had had during his tenure as chair, in particular on the building project and the introduction of new activities.

Chris Brown also thanked Laurence Coates, who was stepping down as a trustee, for his dedicated service over many years, carrying out multiple different roles to an extremely high standard. Chris praised Laurence's calm wisdom and good common sense.

8. AOB

- Nobody had any other business

Chris Brown closed the meeting.