

FRIENDS OF GREENHILL LIBRARY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
1st October 2025

Present:

Trustees: Clive Opie (Chair), Dawn Davis (Treasurer), Lyndon Henard (Secretary), Kirsty Atkin, Michael Corbishley, Wendy Crookes, Janet Crowther, Angela Fry, Ann Hartley, Lynne Raven, Lindy Stone

Staff: Catherine Samengo-Turner,

Members: Chris Brown, Kristi Flint, Shelley Fox, Robert Goodrum, Paul Mascall, Louise Rowley, Roger Stevenson

Visitors: Chris Woodhead (Accountant), Mr Fox

Apologies: Michael Gormanley, Julia Greenwood. Lynn Munro, Linda Stevenson

1. Welcome

Clive Opie opened the meeting, and welcomed all attendees.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 2 October 2024 and Matters Arising

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Angela Fry and seconded by Michael Corbishley. There were no objections and no matters arising.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report

Clive Opie presented the annual report.

Clive Opie expressed gratitude to all volunteers, highlighting their commitment to the library and the recognition received from the public.

Clive Opie shared some highlights from the past 12 months including:

- High book loan numbers
- Completion of the office renovation
- Success of the Summer Reading Challenge
- Upgrade of the Wi-Fi system
- The high number (16) of activities completed by the library

These all show the huge success of the library.

Clive Opie acknowledged ongoing challenges with Lowedges Library, but confirmed trustees' commitment to ensuring the future of the library, including

work to secure a new location. He shared that the members of the public provided great feedback on the service it provided.

Clive Opie confirmed that the prior plans for a new community centre had been paused, due to a reduction in current demand for the facilities, but these may be revisited in the future.

Lynne Raven shared the balance in volunteer recruitment, with some roles oversubscribed and some with vacancies. She also noted positive links with Meadowhead school, with 12 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers to date.

Clive Opie reported that trustees had responded to member feedback by introducing “Link Trustees” to strengthen communication between trustees and volunteers.

Lindy Stone explained that this ensures trustees remain well informed with all aspects of library service, and it provides volunteers with clear points of contact. Chris Brown asked whether the intention behind link trustees was to inform volunteers or to provide feedback to the board as he couldn’t understand how it could share information with volunteers.

Clive Opie outlined it was both. Michael Corbishley explained that it gives volunteers a specific contact they can communicate with.

Kirsty Atkin shared some recent examples of how this had improved communication around buildings and maintenance, and how she was able to provide volunteers with more timely updates on decisions made by the board.

Clive Opie announced that two trustees, Michael Corbishley and Wendy Crookes, were stepping down for personal reasons and thanked them for their valuable contributions.

4. Presentation of the Annual Accounts

Dawn Davis (Treasurer) welcomed Chris Woodhead, the accountant, and thanked him for his hard work

For the financial year March 2024 - April 2025 she shared:

- Income was £84,686
- Expenditure was £71,589
- Surplus of £13,096.

Dawn Davis shared that income sources remain diverse and thanked the volunteers for their support in raising money. She also mentioned a large one-off donation of £20,000 that was received in two installments across March and

April and will therefore feature across two financial years. The donation was eligible for gift-aid.

Dawn Davis highlighted a few specific areas of expenditure:

- Building Development for the office refurbishment
- Utilities cost £14,507 which was £10,000 more than expected. £2,000 was due to price rises, £8,000 linked to electricity overcharge.
- Staff Costs have fallen this year due to maternity leave.

Dawn Davis shared some details about the electricity issue:

- In Feb 2025 a bill was received that was 10 times higher than expected due to a meter fault.
- The issue was escalated to Ofgem following limited response from the electric company, which ruled in the library's favour (April 2025)
- Compensation was issued as a credit note, rather than a refund.
- Due to the time taken to resolve it, the issue will spread over two financial years.

Kirsty Atkin mentioned the ombudsman had requested the electricity company refund the sum, but they have not done that to date.

Dawn Davis asked if there were any questions.

Chris Brown asked, how much the Lottery has made to date.

Dawn Davis shared that as of the end of the financial year it was just £184.50, but it is worth noting that it related to only 2 months as the lottery was relatively new. Dawn shared that monthly revenues were now approximately double what they were initially, and there were plans to ramp this up further now the operational approach had been sorted.

Chris Woodhead (the accountant) shared with members that he had examined the books for a couple of years, and for both years the books have been immaculate, due to the great work completed by Dawn Davis behind the scenes, and praised Dawn's work. Members gave Dawn a round of applause in thanks.

Dawn Davis proposed the accounts are accepted by the meeting. Lynne Raven seconded it.

A vote was held with all votes in favour, and no votes against or abstentions.

5. Election of Independent Examiner for the 2025-2026 Accounts

Dawn Davis proposed that we retain the accountants for next year. Lindy Stone seconded it.

A vote was held with all votes in favour, and no votes against or abstentions.

6. Election of Trustees

Lyndon Henard explained that Dawn Davis had come to the end of her three year term as a trustee and was willing to stand for re-election.

There had been no other trustees nominated.

A vote was held for Dawn Davis to remain as a trustee, with all votes in favour, and no votes against or abstentions.

7. AOB

There was no AOB

Clive Opie closed the meeting.