



THE FRIENDS OF STREET LIBRARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FOR THE YEAR 6 APRIL 2023 TO 5 APRIL 2024

WEDNESDAY 30 MAY 2024

6.00PM IN STREET LIBRARY

6 Leigh Road, Street, BA16 0HA

Present: S Ivory, Chair, P J Fry (Treasurer), A C Southern (Secretary), M Fletcher, Volunteer Co-ordinator
B Fry, J Duval, J Hillman, K & S Lawton, J Sinclair

Apologies: S Bower, A Coals, S Baird, S Clothier, N Copleston, W J Hawker, A Knight, M & J Lewis, L Mackie,
L Markham, K Midgley, S Monaghan, J Adams, N Swift, P & L Wilson.

Our Chairman, Sarah welcomed those present to the 2023-24 Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Street Library.

1. Chairman's Report

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Sarah invited questions before referring to the report and stating that the year ahead was likely to be a difficult one given the financial circumstances facing Somerset Council although Street Community Library was not going to be impacted by staff reductions but objectives would be tightened. Somerset Council's new Library Management System was due to 'go live' on Monday 3 June 2024. It was hoped that initial problems would quickly be resolved. The training system is not exhaustive although it is more intuitive than the previous system

A new leaflet display stand had enhanced the library foyer and the newspaper reading area had been much improved by Peter's installation of a display unit for newspapers and donated magazines. These display units were going to be clearly marked to indicate that they had been provided by the Friends of Street Library.

The Community Library Partnership of Somerset Council, Street Parish Council and the Friends of Street Library had become a supportive group and our partners were satisfied with the achievements and progress. The close involvement of Zoe Leach, SPC Clerk and Danielle Price Assistant Clerk was particularly welcomed and appreciated.

Volunteer Co-ordinator, Marilyn had received the Citizen of the Year Award at Street Parish Council's Investiture Evening on 23 May. Sarah paid tribute to Marilyn's energy and commitment to Street Library and to the Friends of Street Library.

• Treasurer's Report and approval of the accounts

The report and the final accounts prepared by Peter Fry, Treasurer, for the year 2023-2024 had already been circulated. These represent a true and fair view of how funds have been raised and used during the period. Thanks were recorded to Julie Hillman for scrutinising the accounts. The principal expense in the year had

been the provision IN Street Community Library of the Western Daily Press and the weekly Central Somerset Gazette since Somerset Council had ceased funding of newspapers in all Somerset Libraries. This had become even more important given that the library had been designated as a 'warm space' during the winter months. The cost of providing newspapers had risen to over £55 per month. The grant received from Street Parish Council had been added to the remainder of the grant made by the Clarks Village management in the previous year. The donations box on the newspaper reading table provides approx £6 per month which means that we still have sufficient funds for the next 5 months.

Income came from sales of Liza Markham's four quizzes in the year which raised £223; Merriman Park Fun Day, Christmas Book Sale and Tombola added another £225; the Clarks bookshelf raised £80; Gift Aid, donations from individuals and organisations provided another £155. These amounts and membership subscriptions enabled FoStL to fulfil its obligations and responsibilities within the Community Library Partnership. We ended the financial year with a surplus of £694, £364 being ring-fenced for newspaper costs.

Expenditure included £50 on minor items required for the day-to-day functioning of the library. £303 was spent on resources for craft sessions and £338 towards enhancements of the library space and its efficient running. Nine volunteers who work with children were DBS checked at a cost of £162.

Peter's report concluded with thanks to supporters and members which had enabled FoStL to accomplish so much.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report which was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

4. Volunteer Co-ordinator's Report

The report had already been circulated. Marilyn paid tribute and expressed appreciation to all the volunteers for their different skills and interests. Jenny Duval's brilliant skills with stories and Rhyme Time had particular mention.

Training on the new LMS was being rolled out with a session to come on Tuesday. The training system itself would soon be replaced with 'real-time' use. The new system was judged to be more user-friendly though it would take time to become fully conversant.

The work experience IT student from Strode College had now completed and plans for a work experience GCSE level student from Millfield School were in hand who would be organised and directed by FoStL to make best use of time, with the aim of helping him gain experience of working with others and being useful in the library.

5. Election of Committee / Confirmation of Trustees

One-third of Trustees must stand down each year.

Trustee resignation - Susan Monaghan had stepped down from being a Trustee during the year.

Peter Fry nominated Sarah Ivory and Marilyn for re-election as Trustees. These are re-confirmed as Trustees.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

CHAIR

-

- Sarah Ivory

o Marilyn Fletcher proposed that Sarah Ivory continue to serve as Chair of the Friends of Street Library.

o Kevin Lawton seconded the proposal that Sarah Ivory continue as Chair of the Friends of Street Library

- Sarah Ivory continues as Chair of the Friends of Street Library

TREASURER

- Peter Fry

- o Kevin Lawton nominated Peter Fry to continue as Treasurer
- o Jenny Duval seconded the proposal that Peter Fry continue as Treasurer
- o Julie Hillman was asked to continue to scrutinise the FoStL accounts at the end of each year

SECRETARY

- Sarah Ivory proposed that Angela Southern continue as secretary of the Friends of Street Library.
- Jenny Duval seconded the proposal that Angela Southern continue as secretary Chair of the Friends of Street Library.

6. Booker Group

The group was working really well with a maximum number of 13. Good numbers were regularly attending. There was a discussion of alternative venues in the light of new fire and evacuation regulations.

It was suggested that the Millfield student might be encouraged to join the poetry group to get a flavour of things that go on in the library.

7. Any Other Business

- Author Talk – Cato Pedder – 5 June 2024 at the Grange. There was a short discussion of arrangements for the talk at the Grange. ACS would collect banner am on 5 June and take to the Grange
- Craft Session – Wednesday 29 May 2024 had been quiet although lovely things had been made and FoStL had received favourable comments on Facebook.
- Lego session on Saturday 25 May 2024 had also been quiet
- Brookside School – 6 July Event – to be attended by Sarah and Marilyn.
- There had been a suggestion of starting a What's App Group for members of Friends of Street Library as a book discussion group. To be pursued.
- Use of the upstairs Gravenchon room. New fire regulations and evacuation procedures were affecting use of the upstairs meeting room. Concerns were expressed about Booker Group's continuing use (as booked) until the end of the year.
- Trustees' Meeting - the 4 July 2024 date for the next FoStL Trustees' meeting would be changed- - by email correspondence.
- Next Members' Meeting – 5.15 pm on 8 July 2024 in Street Library.
- Summer Reading Challenge – Sarah would continue researching suitable books to suit the theme of 'Marvellous Makers'.

The meeting ended at 7 pm.

ACS

31 May 2024

