

Ore Community Library Group

Ore Library
Old London Road
Hastings
TN35 5BP



Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1188607

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 2023 Ore Community Library Group AGM held on 15th November 2023 at 7:00pm at Ore Community Library, Old London Road, Hastings

1. Present

12 attendees including the trustees, committee members and Voting Members and non-voting members.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from :
Teresa Sleet, Allyson Breeds, Di Ingerfield, Lynne Mitchell, Ann Davis,
Susannah Farley-Green, Cath Hope.

3. Welcome

Heather Bishop, Chair, welcomed the attendees to the AGM. Heather noted that the past 12 months had been a successful year for the library. We now have almost one thousand book-borrowing members, split roughly 50/50 between adults and juniors. We have continued to offer events to our members and to the public, including National Literary Trust events, Storytime sessions, table sales and more.

4. Motions

No motions have been received.

5. Annual Report to year end March 2023

Heather and Andrew Battley (Treasurer) summarised the annual report for the year ending 31st March 2023 including the accounts for the financial year also ending 31st March 2023. At that date the Trust had £1,795.19 in its bank accounts.

The Annual Report was unanimously approved by the Voting Members present with no votes against and no abstentions.

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6. Election of Trustees

Our constitution, which follows the Charity Commission's CIO model, requires that annually one-third of our trustees shall retire from office, and optionally they can stand for re-election to office. We currently have four trustees, so on this occasion one of the trustees needs to resign, and Jim Breeds, being one of the two longest-serving resigned.

No nominations for new trustees had been received by the deadline of 6pm on the day before the AGM. Jim Breeds agreed to stand for re-election and the Voting Members unanimously approved his re-election.

7. Any Other Business

The need for new committee members and volunteers was discussed.

Heather was pleased to confirm that recent negotiations with our landlord, East Sussex County Council (ESCC), had resulted in ESCC confirming that we have been offered a new 20 year lease. The paperwork is being prepared by the ESCC legal team for review. We all look forward to this new lease giving certainty over the future of the library and being a very important benefit to our future fundraising activities.

We were very grateful to Big Local North East Hastings for a grant made to us during the year that enabled the replacement of our internal and external lighting. Not only is the lighting of a much superior quality to the previous fluorescent tube lighting, but the power consumption is much lower, which will reduce our electricity bills. The same grant had enabled us to purchase a new laser printer, and install some additional power sockets. We will also be using this grant to pay for the library's name to be painted on the outside wall by a signwriter.

Now that ESCC have confirmed that we will be given a new 20 year lease, we can start to engage in serious fundraising by approaching organisations such as the National Lottery Community Fund and others.

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7. Any Other Business (continued)

New grants will allow us to reorganize the internal layout of the library to the benefit of both our volunteers and members. The large central desk, the kitchen and the need for computer desks were discussed as examples.

Thanks were expressed to Ore in Bloom for the fantastic work that they had donated to us to radically improve the rear courtyard garden. This has been a wonderful improvement and we are very grateful to them. We also discussed the opportunity to improve the front of the library including the small garden area there.

We have recently benefitted from the Co-op Community Fund whereby shoppers who are Co-op members can nominate us to receive funds from the scheme when they shop at the Co-op stores. We are very pleased that this scheme raised £2618 for our funds, although that figure will not be reflected in our accounts until the year ending March 2024.

We are now participating in the "Easyfundraising" scheme whereby over 8,000 online retailers will contribute funds to us when shoppers nominate us as their preferred charity.

Jim told the meeting that we had that day been approved for the Microsoft "Non-Profit" scheme whereby we are able to benefit from free licenses for Microsoft software, such as Microsoft Office.

We are about to have the first meetings of our newly formed Book Club, thanks to the efforts of two volunteers.

Jo Walker asked if the library could be used to hold supplies of HBC "pink recycling sacks". Heather agreed to investigate.

8. Close

The meeting closed at 8:15PM, and Heather thanked everyone for attending.

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