

FRIERN BARNET COMMUNITY LIBRARY

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 1ST NOVEMBER 2017

Hugh Weldon- chair

Samar Barakat- minutes

Attending:

Dave Cope

James Dawson

Sophie Dawson-Matthesius

Ulrike Matthesius

Sheri Darby

Harry Gluck

Penny Marlton

Keith Martin

Frances Briers

Anne Storey

Susie Caird

Apologies for absences- Joanna and Kate

Look at previous minutes (from March 2016 – June minutes not available)

More regular meetings hasn't been able to happen

Volunteer morale good- further needed for manning on

Saturdays- still the case- quite a few new volunteers

Saturday is still an issue- closing at 5 rather than 7 due to lack of volunteers, but footfall is low 5-7. Looking for volunteers for 5-7

Harvey was treasurer but he has since resigned as treasurer-

Managing at the moment but are looking for a new treasurer .

Computerised membership records- this has been discussed by trustees recently but decision needs to be made on difference between library members and charity (paid) members
Anne Storey and the Library Working Group have been working to make the library system online.

Discussion that computer users need membership to use computer.

Discussions going with trustees as to whether membership to support us should be different to library users

Keith

could help bring others in- e.g. From Princess Park Manor

Increase revenue

Cost effective

Publicity could help once this membership is brought in

Hugh

Visit to Chaville- Hugh went to do work experience exchange visit- Some ideas from there but it's very different

Redecorating the interior- unsure what's happening at the moment but it links to lease that's discussed later

Recent activities in Library in past year

Continuing to offer variety of events that attract a lot of people-
Computer classes run by Hugh (Thursdays and Fridays)- full house for Thursday classes but vacancies on Friday- 9-10 week course

English classes on Mondays and Wednesdays- very popular (20+ people sometimes) but in suspension at the moment due to funding- discussion with Friern Barnet Educational Trust. They are usually free, but due to funding, it may cost around £1

Book group- 8-10 members once a month with Joanna

Childrens groups run by Helen Oliver- Wednesday and Thursday morning- 20+ children.

Schools summer reading challenge – another successful year.

Helen Oliver is also doing the volunteer rota now

Sandra creative writing- 6 members

Knitter Knatter group on Wednesdays

NHS will train 3 of our volunteers for a reading scheme for those with dementia

Teacher from St Paul's school has expressed interest to bring children's reading group here

Yoga Tuesdays 7pm

Pilates Tuesday morning and Saturday Morning

Financial matters or legal matters of the lease- those who are most closely involved with those (Joanna and Kate) are absent
Financially we are ok- we are applying for grants, including the Co-Op, Friern Barnet Educational Trust both of which we will know more about in the next few weeks

Lease negotiation has been going on- one issue is Barnet council are saying for a 25yr lease, but trustees feel a 10 year lease would be better. Issue also around what grant they'll offer us

Richard Cornelius has been to visit, to try to get him to support the library

More information on the situation of the lease will be given at the AGM which will be in February 2018

Fundraising- quizzes by Simon has been successful, hopefully another one will come soon but date TBC

Looking for suggestions for fundraisers or grants

£157.77 raised from the McMillan coffee morning

James arranged Friern Barnet Cubs group to visit the Library- good comments from them about how well the event was organised- Brownies group have expressed interest Activities like 'find the Harry Potter book'- one hour visits (90 minutes including walking) 6-7:30 is when their activities run

Keith

Council leaders question time- first 2 have happened- 3 more to happen

Save Barnet Libraries group made complaint to DCMS that Barnet Council aren't providing a good enough service- with the Minister at the moment- stops disabled people getting in as well due to the key pad, toilets closed

Barnet libraries are being left empty- childrens area has been halved

Overall message from meeting is that the services isn't good enough

Degradation of libraries been going on for years but Silip isn't doing much

Hugh

As a library- our key focus is to survive and keep going- We as a library are unable to support the movements to save libraries as it isn't appropriate

Anne Storey

Feels library is looking a huge amount better- thanks to LWG including Suzy and Dave and others

Opening catalogue soon but many things needed:

Training manuals, training trustees, training volunteers- trying to make things as simple as possible

Aiming for early next year for this to start

Data protection issues- what do we keep, how do we keep it

Membership- £5 membership is membership of charity and how the library works- voting at AGMs

Library borrower membership- to borrow a book you'll need to get a membership to get books out

Need to agree these first before we launch it

Finished cataloguing almost all the books- foreign language books is difficult

Childrens area- now has movable shelving

Non fiction area to be made smaller

Fact books will hopefully have a new shelf

Fiction needs weeding

Some books on dementia have been bought but more needs to be bought

Electronic system will help to keep track of books, can send out overdue books- but we won't be charging

Hampstead Garden Suburb library have provided a lot of support to know how the systems work there. Their setting up was different because their library wasn't closed down, library is much smaller and not open as many hours.

ID will be needed to prove who the person is to join to borrow books

Hampstead Garden Suburb has explained by how the library cards can be made

Library costs for library card will be under £1 per card- May charge £1 for lost cards but free for first card

Hampstead Garden Suburb- they use the Barnet library card but it's a different system. We won't do that because it will result in people bringing books from other libraries to here, which we can't return

Suggestion- "supporter" for the £5 membership and "borrower" for the use of the library

Suggestion of computerised membership for yearly reminders

Catalogue will be put on the internet- discussions with Colin about this- the catalogue will be on one area that's online and the membership will be separate- DOB won't be asked

Library system is the same used by schools and many organisations

System costs- £1300 annually including VAT- very cheap for library systems

Penny - Notices on windows are faded or out dated- also too many on the window – Hugh promised to attend to these.

Newsletter- things are out of date or not proof read. Hugh would notify Martin.

Suggestion- put the minutes in the newsletter

Issue with membership- no reminder that membership is running out, issue of when should the year run to and from

Next open meeting - provisionally on the 9th of May (TBC)