



# Inspire AGM Meeting Minutes

The Old Library, Mansfield Thursday 17/10/19, 7 to 7.30pm

**Present:** 32 Inspire members and staff

**Apologies:** Tim Eatherington, Philip Jones, Sarah King, Peter Ware – Inspire Board Members Elected

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## 1. Motion to approve the delayed date of the AGM

- Chair of the Inspire Board, John Cottee proposed a motion to approve the delayed date of the AGM 2019 to 17<sup>th</sup> October. Seconded by Glynn Gilfoyle (Inspire Board Member Elected).
- All members in agreement.

## 2. Welcome

- John Cottee (Chair of the Inspire Board) welcomed members to the fourth Inspire AGM and gave a brief overview of a successful year of operations of the Society highlighting:
  - A year of significant progress to build the effectiveness of the organisation ensuring its systems are fit for purpose and cost effective. This has included the introduction of a new financial management system, a new learning management system and a new human resources system.
  - Inspire awards for Customer Service Excellence (CSE) and MATRIX for the third time and a Design Business Association (DBA) award for the organisations work to refurbish and modernise the library services at Beeston. Also, the re-accreditation of the OHSAS occupation health and safety standard.
  - The commitment of the Board to the sustainable development of Inspire as a key provider of culture, learning and libraries.
  - The successful completion of the first year as a National Portfolio Organisation of the Arts Council England delivering and engaging with over 8,400 people and delivering 675 events.
  - Another fantastic Inspire Awards evening at Mansfield Library in June to celebrate the very best of learning, creativity, innovation, service and excellence.
  - Effective management of resources and achieving a surplus of £356k (prior to pension accounting adjustments) and gaining additional grant funding. In 2018/19 external funding amounted to £1.6m to deliver additional services and projects.
  - Inspire's new centralised customer service and information service ASK Inspire became fully operational providing a single point of contact for library enquiries, course bookings, book renewals, room bookings, tickets and payments.
  - The development and growth in use of the Inspire website ([www.inspireculture.org.uk](http://www.inspireculture.org.uk)) providing a single online presence for customers, learners and staff and is now receiving over 36,000 visits a month.

## 3. To receive and approve the minutes from 20 Sept 2018

- John Cottee proposed that the minutes from the AGM held on 20 Sept 2018 were a true and accurate record. Seconded by Glynn Gilfoyle (Inspire Board Member Elected).
- All members in agreement and minutes approved.

## 4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes

- None.

## **5. Motions to make constitutional changes**

- Following approval by the Inspire Board, John Cottee explained the constitutional changes and asked for members to give a show of hands to approve the following motions:
  - 5.1 Currently, the Employee Representative Director is appointed for a term of one year. Inspire is proposing to amend this to a term of office of 3 years. This is due to the experience of the Employee Representative Director that a year is too short a term to become sufficiently familiar with the role.

**RESOLVED BY a show of hands from 28 members (majority of 88%)**

- 5.2 Due to a timing issue, Inspire is proposing that the Annual General Meeting will be held within seven (rather than six) months of the end of the financial year.

**RESOLVED BY a show of hands from 27 members (majority of 84%)**

## **6. Presentation of the Annual Review**

- Peter Gaw (Chief Executive Officer) thanked all Inspire's supporters, partners, volunteers, funders, staff and board. Members were directed to their copy of the Inspire Annual Review 2018/19 which outlines highlights of the inspiration and impact from the last year.

## **7. To receive and approve the Draft Annual Report and Audited Accounts**

- Helen Beckett (Chief Finance Officer) advised that the final copy of the Annual Report will be available via the Inspire website and draft copies were distributed to the meeting. Once finalised these will be filed with the Financial Conduct Authority before the 31 October 2019.
- Helen Beckett gave an overview of Inspire's expenditure and funding for 2018/19 and advised members that the Society is 'a going concern' and had generated a £356k surplus before accountancy adjustments. It was outlined that a cash surplus of £2k was generated during 2018/19, against a deficit budget of - £47k.
- Two Inspire members asked for further clarification on the surplus figure and the pension liability. HB offered to arrange a meeting to discuss the report and accounts in further detail and extended the offer to any other member.
- JC thanked HB and the finance team for their hard work.

## **8. Confirmation of the new Inspire Board Members**

- JC presented retiring community board member Richard Gaunt with a small token of appreciation for his service and support over the last 3 years.
- Liz Edwards was congratulated for her re-election as Staff Board member and newly elected Community Board members, Carol Hanley and Emma Maraio were welcomed to the board and signed the Duties and Code of Practice agreement.
- JC thanked the Inspire members, staff, partners and volunteers for their hard work and support of a fantastic organisation that delivers a wonderful service.

## **7. A.O.B**

- None.

**Close of AGM – 7.33pm**

**GETTING LOST**

We come here to find ourselves  
but mostly to get lost.

In this place, this space,  
portal to the universe,  
the beginning of a journey  
into history's bookends  
and futures unexplored.

Where hobbit holes  
lead to wizard schools  
where Mills and Boon and  
monsters meet in a Dewey  
Decimal discovery  
of well-thumbed wonder.

Where we can find recipes for  
a better world, DIY our lives  
back together and dictators  
are made to behave themselves  
or be archived and put back on  
the shelf.

We come here because its free  
yet its value is priceless,  
no borders, backstops or hate speak here, just free movement  
into an education where bank accounts don't matter.

Council house or posh estate,  
church, temple, mosque or chip shop, wherever we come from  
we can all gather here  
to worship in words  
with this infinite congregation.

This community of superheroes,  
time machines and aliens,  
Shakespeare, celebrity,  
Psychology, philosophy

where religion, and science,  
might dance to the music  
of jazz, folk or poetry

We come here when words fail us  
or when there is too much to say.  
Where we can locate what we need to know  
and everything they wish we couldn't.

Because when governments form not cabinets  
but coffins for our ideas, our hopes, our art

we still have this place,  
where the books might be on loan  
but what we gain from them is kept forever.

It's ours, this place.

This palace of knowledge,  
this cathedral of classics,  
this mansion of magic,  
this shelter, this refuge,  
for the curious and stuck, the dreamers and the learners,  
the weary and the excited

and this bleeding-heart poet,  
who first came here when he was twelve to escape  
from the cold outside and his parents' divorce  
apocalypse  
and instead found  
Ray Bradbury, new worlds and rocket ships.

We still have this place.

This space, portal to the universe,  
the beginning of a journey  
into history's bookends  
and futures unexplored.

Where hobbit holes  
lead to wizard schools  
where Mills and Boon and  
monsters meet in a Dewey  
Decimal discovery  
of well-thumbed wonder.

We come here to find ourselves  
But mostly to get lost.