

# Inspire AGM Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar & West Bridgford Library, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020, 7pm

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## **Present:**

Ajibola Ajibabi-Ogunshakin, Margaret Anderson, Sarah Baker, Kirsty Blyth, Jayne Bowers, Sarah Breen, Sarah Brigden, Richard Burman, Caren Caunt, John Cottee, Peter Cribb, Brian Deakin, Michelle Dunstan, Sharon Elliott, Fay Evason, Patricia Everitt, Carolyn Gallagher, Lucianna Gallucci, Peter Gaw, Lisa Geary, Janet Gibson, Glynn Gilfoyle, Alan Harvey, Claire Henson, John Hess, Sheila Hicks, Derek Higton, Alison Hirst, Elisabeth Hughes, Christopher Jones, Fiona Littlewood, Andrea Lowe, Margot Madin, Elizabeth Neathey, Carol Newman, Kath Owen, Sarah Parker, Abigail Pepper, Neil Pledger, Lynda Promosso, Alan Ramsay, Mark Randle, Nicky Reed, Lucy Reid, Val Sawyer, Katharine Say, Dan Short, Jackie Smith, Paul Stafford, Ella Stephenson, Liz Stokes, Ian Taylor, Fiona Theokritoff, Clare Tobin, Ewa Van De Schootbrugge, Peter Ware

**Apologies:** Liz Guildford, Carol Hanley

## **1. Welcome**

- Peter Gaw (Inspire, Chief Executive Officer) welcomed members to the first virtual Inspire AGM. He explained how members could ask questions, vote and made everyone aware that the event was being recorded for minuting purposes.
- John Cottee (Chair of the Inspire Board) welcomed members to the fifth Inspire AGM and gave a brief overview of an eventful fourth year of operations for Inspire highlighting:
  - Great progress in Inspire's primary aim to be an effective and efficient organisation through introduction of new financial management, learning management and human resources systems.
  - Inspire has maintained high levels of customer service and will renew its Customer Service Excellence (CSE) and MATRIX awards during 2020/21 which have been delayed due to Covid19. Inspire were also nominated and shortlisted for 2 Times Education Supplement Awards for best adult learner provider and most improved GCSE results. The re-accreditation of the OHSAS occupation health and safety standard is to be welcomed to ensure Inspire cares for staff and provide safe environments for volunteers, customers and learners.
  - The commitment of the Board to the sustainable development of Inspire as a key provider of culture, learning and libraries. During 2020/21 Inspire will establish a business development committee to steer the future of the Society. Work to further engage with the Inspire membership (now over 69,000) through the launch of a new Community Makers programme scheduled for April 2020, but due to Covid19 will be launched in Spring 2021.
  - Completion of a successful second year as a National Portfolio Organisation engaging with over 11,055 people and delivering 664 events. Due to Covid, the funding programme has been extended until March 2023.
  - During lock down, Inspire teams quickly enabled the rapid development of a range of substantial virtual services and enabled many service users to still access reading, music, arts, heritage, learning and skills. Inspire continued to provide its information service, the council's records management service and facilitate the completion of accredited courses within the constraints of the lock down.
  - The Inspire Awards scheme has been postponed and will be relaunched to cover years four and five.
  - Effective management of resources, achieving a surplus of £464k (prior to pension accounting adjustments) and gaining additional funding through bidding and partnering with several organisations and funders.
  - The annual review has this year been digitally produced and can be found online - <https://www.inspireculture.org.uk/about-us/annual-review-2019-20/>

## **2. To receive and approve the minutes from 17 Oct 2019**

- Peter Gaw asked members to approve the minutes from the AGM held on 17 Oct 2019 and that they were a true and accurate record.
- Members voted:
  - Yes – 27
  - No – 0
  - Abstain - 6
- 82% of attending members in agreement and minutes approved.

## **3. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes**

- None.

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

- Peter Gaw directed members to the online annual review -<https://www.inspireculture.org.uk/about-us/annual-review-2019-20/> for a summary of the achievements and impacts made in the year. He was pleased to report that once again Inspire has made good progress in all 6 priorities outlined in the Forward Plan.
- Highlights included:
  - Inspire’s resilience and effectiveness in responding to the Worksop Library flooding and Covid19.
  - The delivery of a diverse and innovative programme of learning, arts, culture, heritage, music, reading events and courses.
- Peter Gaw added that he was privileged to lead and work with such a great creative and hardworking team of Inspire staff and volunteers and invited members to watch a short video outlining some of the highlights of our fourth year.

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

- Peter Gaw was pleased to report that Inspire continues to be ‘a going concern’ and that the financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 have been prepared, audited and will be filed with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) by 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2020.
- PG presented a financial summary of the year which revealed a surplus on the year of £465K largely made up of grant funding (from organisations such as The National Archives and Arts Council England) which has been received and recognised but not spent in the year. These funds will be carried forward as restricted funds to be spent in future years.
- PG also explained to members where Inspire’s money came from and how it was spent.
- PG asked members to approve Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.
- Members voted:
  - Yes – 31
  - No – 0
  - Abstain – 4
- 89% of attending eligible members in agreement and report and accounts approved.
- A question was raised by a member asking for clarification regarding the Statement of Financial Activities amount and the pension accounting charge. Peter Gaw confirmed that the pension scheme liability can only be called-in under special circumstances over which Inspire does have control.

## **6. A.O.B**

- None.

**Close of AGM – 7.32pm**

Inspire AGM 2020 Plenary Poem by Panya Banjoko

**LET US DREAM**

Where do we find refuge, a place of retreat  
to curb the pang of loneliness that preys,  
somewhere to be fixed in the solace we seek  
when our bones ache and memories are frayed,  
a place to release the burden of old age,  
to give us courage as we push on through  
be captivated and wholesomely engaged,  
to be the best? Only the best pursue.

And what of the children we wish to inspire?  
Where can they gather hope, learn to exhale,  
and learn not to judge, but keep their dreams on fire,  
find a cornerstone to see life's detail,  
use their grubby fingers to mould clay, and thumb  
dog-eared pages to stretch their growing voice  
to the boom-bah- boom-bah of traditions drum,  
a place to swell with pride, be spoilt for choice?

And what for the rest of us, the folk who try  
to widen who we are what we value  
in this old mottled world as onward we fly  
soaked in a culture of being read to,  
marching forward to walls of broadening smiles  
and guided through rows of make-believe tales  
which tumble from shelves that run for miles and miles  
charmed by poets and authors blazing trails?

This place to bunch with friends and to share wishes,  
treasure love and hone how we care for us,  
this place where minds escape, a chance to flourish,  
visit other worlds that feed hope and trust,  
carve in all of our hearts new routes to daydream  
and make a better world as we connect  
to lives of study, the pull of words which stream,  
drives us to learn and with new eyes reflect.