

# Inspire AGM Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar & Beeston Library, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022, 7pm

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## **Present:**

Alison Hirst, Andrea Lowe, Andrea Lucy-Hirst, Andrew Day, Andy Dawson, Ann Penn, Barbara Warr, Carol Hanley, Carol Newman, Carolyn Gallagher, Carolyn Smith, Claire Saribi, Clare Tobin, David Anderson, David Hunter, David Thomas, Diana Meale, Edwina Crowder, Eileen Errington, Elizabeth Neathey, Heather Briley, Helen Fox, Helen Ackroyd, Ian Bond, Jackie Hewlett-Davies, Joanne Adams, Joel Jackson, John Cottee, John Hess, Katey Logan, Katharine Say, Kirsty Blyth, Leanne Moden, Leigh Kirsopp, Leon Dale, Lesley Parker, Lucianna Gallucci, Lucie Davis, Lucy Reid, Margaret Anderson, Margot Madin, Mark Dorrington, Mary Dansie, Michelle Dunstan, Nicky Reed, Paul Henshaw, Peter Cribb, Peter Gaw, Peter Ware, Petrina Buckley, Phil Langran, Philip Jones, Richard Warr, Rose Harvey, Rupert Aikman, S Jo-Bradford, Sara Matharu, Sarah Baker, Sarah Willcox, Simon Cook, Sonia Burns, Sophie Collier, Sue McFarlane, Tracey Hughes, Tracey Yeomans, Val Sawyer, Sue Allen; Sonia Burns; Sarah Dale; John Read

**Apologies:** Liz Howell, Saree Wilson

## **1. Welcome**

- John Cottee (Nottinghamshire County Councillor and chair of Inspire Board) welcomed members to the second in-person and online 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 asked for members to raise any items for Any Other Business. No questions or comments received either online or from the library meeting.

## **2. To receive and approve the minutes from 15 Oct 2020**

- John Cottee asked members to approve the minutes from the AGM held on 13 Oct 2021 and that they were a true and accurate record.
- Members voted:
  - Yes – 36
  - No – 0
  - Abstain - 5
- Minutes approved.

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

- None.

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

- Peter Gaw (Inspire, Chief Executive Officer) thanked staff, members, and partners for their fantastic work and highlighted some of the achievements in the year including the [Inspire Learning Annual Prospectus](#), the libraries and culture [What's On Brochure](#), [Inspire Youth Arts 25 Years](#) celebration brochure and the [Community Makers](#) volunteer programme.
- Presentation of the [2021 – 22 Annual Review video](#)

## **5. To receive and approve the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022**

- Margaret Anderson (Inspire, Chief Finance Officer) 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 2022 have been prepared, audited and filed with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

- Inspire’s Statement of Financial Activities shows a deficit of £1,581,992 after an actuary pension adjustment of £2,047,000. The Chief Finance Officer explained to members how Inspire is required to report on the liabilities of the Local Government Pension Scheme and reassured them that as long as Inspire continues to operate and has contributing members then the pension liability cannot be called in.
- By stripping out the pension adjustments Inspire’s activities over the year reveal a surplus of £465,078. Margaret Anderson explained how this surplus is made up of restricted, unrestricted and fixed asset funds and how and when these are used along with summaries of where the Society’s money came from and how it was spent.
- No comments or questions were received either online or from the library meeting.
- Members were asked to approve the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- Members voted:
  - Yes – 49
  - No – 0
  - Abstain – 1
- Report and accounts were approved.

#### **6. Confirmation of the newly elected board members**

- John Cottee thanked retiring board members – Liz Guildford, Carol Hanley, John Hess and Peter Ware for their valuable support and contribution over the years.
- Following elections held in July 2022, John Cottee proposed the confirmation of the following into the role as a director of Inspire as outlined in the Society’s rules:
  - Leon Dale – Community Elected Director
  - Mark Dorrington – Community Elected Director
  - Diana Meale – Community Elected Director
  - Ann Penn – Staff Elected Director
- Members voted:
  - Yes – 48
  - No – 0
  - Abstain – 0
- Appointment of the newly elected members to the Inspire board was approved.

#### **7. AOB**

- None.
- John Cottee thanked Inspire staff for their work through Covid and during the last 12 months of recovery and members for attending and formally closed the 2022 AGM.

**Close of AGM – 7.29pm**

## Inspire AGM 2022 Plenary Poem by The Paper Crane Poets Collective

### Beyond the library door

Some come taking shelter from the rain  
and find a treasure-trove of innovation,  
association, relaxation. Solid spines to grip  
when their own feel like they're crumbling.

We all find portals to new worlds here.  
Whatever shape we're in – imagination breaks  
the rules, and we wrap ourselves in capes  
of curated stories and warm conversations.

This wardrobe has an outfit for any occasion;  
patchwork shirts stitched by many hands.  
A reading shirt, an art shirt, a study shirt,  
a brew-us-another-cup-of-tea shirt.

In this place, we are best dressed,  
best kept, best in show because we know  
this is a public private world, a space to breathe  
deeply. The outside kerfuffle expertly muffled,

while our spirits are amplified, fortified, satisfied  
by each new adventure we find between these  
pages, and within these walls, grateful to  
compassionate staff who give it their all.

In the beginning, there was the word, and the word was  
Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

Now, collaborative noise buzzes on every floor.  
Think trombones on a Tuesday morning, toddlers  
story time on a Friday afternoon. Think puppets  
and paragraphs, narratives, and cushions to sit on

while we laugh. We could go to the North Pole today.  
We could go to Egypt – 2000 years ago. We could go  
anywhere, meet anyone, communicate in whatever  
language feels right. We could find fossil shell spirals

pressed between pages, and be unfurled, unwound,  
never lost, only found. This space expands to fit us all.  
It is ethereal magic. We have travelled and it shows in  
the warmth of our eyes. We are acting out old stories,

telling new tales. Tales of things forgotten and things  
half-remembered, capturing memories in movement,  
music, and song. We gather in circles, point our toes  
alongside strangers; we are oak trees, or elephants,

dragonflies or friends. We share sounds, make music,  
create joy, dancing past our limitations, singing away  
our troubles. We are never alone with empty hearts  
or fogged up minds. We never lost the courage to try

something new, never lost the wonder of pop-up tales and  
scribbled escapes. Never lost the library card, always kept that  
key. And now, we're dancing, singing, playing, reading, being.  
Feeling all together better: better all together.

*This poem includes contributions from nineteen poets from the Paper Cranes Collective: Sue Allen; Sonia Burns; Edwina Crowder; Sarah Dale; Laura Grevel; Rose Harvey; David Hunter; William Kummer; Phil Langran; Katey Logan; Andrea Lucy-Hirst; Sue McFarlane; Sara M; Leanne Moden; Jade Moore; Rachel Jackson; Gail Webb; and Dave Woods, with additional editing support from Ann Parker.*