

Inspire AGM Meeting Minutes

Beeston Library & Online via Zoom, Wednesday 11th Oct 2023, 7pm

Present:

Helen Ackroyd, Gillian Aldridge, Margaret Anderson, Sarah Baker, Kirsty Blyth, Ian Bond, Ellie Booth, Sarah Breen, Petrina Buckley, John Cottee, Andrew Day, Mark Dorrington, Victoria Dunstall, Michelle Dunstan, Adriana Fallon, Carolyn Gallagher, Lucianna Gallucci, Peter Gaw, Jennifer Gray, Liz Guildford, Paul Henshaw, John Hess, Jackie Hewlett Davies, Liz Howell, Anita Jackson, Clare Janes, Margot Madin, Diana Meale, Sarah Milburn, Helen Mitchem, Carol Newman, Lesley Parker, Ann Penn, Achara Pongpaibul, Jamie Quinn, Nicky Reed, Lucy Reid, Val Sawyer, Katharine Say, Paul Stafford, Rebecca Streets, Sarah-Jane Taylor, Gillian Taylor, Clare Tobin, Lytisha Tunbridge, Timothy Warner, Richard Warr, Barbara Warr, Gail Webb, Angela Yates

Apologies: Leon Dale

1. Welcome

- John Cottee (Chair of Inspire Board) welcomed members to the 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. Angela Yates stated that West Bridgford library seems to be under represented with creative writing events. Kirsty Blyth (Inspire, Assistant Chief Executive Officer) will pass on as feedback to the programming team.

2. To receive and approve the minutes of the AGM held on 12 October 2022

- John Cottee asked members to approve the minutes from the AGM held on 12th Oct 2022 and that they were a true and accurate record.
- Members voted:
 - Yes – 29
 - No – 0
 - Abstain - 2
- Minutes approved.

3. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes

- None.

4. Presentation of the Annual Review

- Peter Gaw (Inspire, Chief Executive Officer) noted a positive recovery from the impacts of the pandemic and that once again Inspire staff and volunteers have been at the heart of the organisation along with several fantastic partners working to deliver great services, cultural and learning outcomes. Peter Gaw highlighted some of the achievements in the year including the Nottinghamshire Archives, Inspire Youth Arts and Imperial War Museum collaboration [The Mother of Tension](#), [Green Libraries Partnership](#) and [Village Hubs Project](#) and Inspire's successful retention of its status as an [Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation](#).
- Presentation of the [Inspire Annual Review 2022 – 23](#) video.

5. To receive and approve the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

- 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 31st March 2023 have been prepared, audited and filed with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

- Inspire’s Statement of Financial Activities shows a deficit of £1,852,576 after an actuary pension adjustment of £1,993,000. The Chief Finance Officer explained to members how Inspire is required to report on the liabilities of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) 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 £140,422. 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 31st March 2023.
- Members voted:
 - Yes – 41
 - No – 0
 - Abstain – 1
- Report and accounts were approved.

6. AOB

- John Cottee thanked retiring board member Liz Howell for her contribution and support to the organisation.
- John Cottee thanked Inspire staff for their work during the last 12 months and members for attending and formally closed the 2023 AGM.

Close of AGM – 7.35pm

Inspire AGM 2023 Poems

Readings by Poetry Place poets, inspired by archive photography from Inspire Picture Archive, featuring the people, places and landscapes of the Sherwood Forest area - [Poetry Place: The Virtual Exhibition | Inspire - Culture, Learning, Libraries \(inspireculture.org.uk\)](#)

- Lytisha Tunbridge – *Mrs Robinson’s off again, Heartsore, My Dearest*
- Helen Mitchem – *Rufford, rough-ord, tough, hard, colliery yard, Words from the Major,*
- Gail Webb – *Rich Pickings, The Pageant, Edwinstowe Coal Sprites, 1953*
- Sue Dymoke – *Wakes Outings, Questions for Postcard Photographers*