

Inspire AGM Meeting Minutes

Arnold Library & Online via Teams, Wednesday 30th September 2026, 2.30pm

Present:

Margot Madin	Laura Lee	Pauline Allan	Roy Allan
Shamara Sadler	Geraldine Henegan-Barr	Nicky Reed	John Hess
James Allabarton	Jackie Hewlett-Davies	Emma Pitchford	Peter Gaw
Kirsty Ellis	Margaret Anderson	Michael Reid	Ruth Hyde
Jill Barr	Peter Cribb	Joanne Burman	Helen Ackroyd
Ann Penn	Liz Guildford	Sandra Dickinson	Sharon Elliott
Chris Chadburn	Rebecca Streets	Joanne Trustcott	Pippa Guthrie
Thomas Mason	Mathilde Horsley	Katharine Say	Simon Cook
Jayne Holmes	David Anderson	Lesley Parker	Carol Hanley
Nick Allen	Adriana Fallon	John Fallon	Sarah Milburn
Ruth Telford-Brown	Helen Braddock	Clare Chung	Richard Middleton
Ilaria Salvaneschi	Hazel Sisson	Sophie Collier	Val Sawyer
Ruth Candlin	Chris Beattie		

Apologies:

Dawn Justice	Mark Dorrington	Carol Newman	Diana Meale
Saree Wilson	Aidan La Mola	Claudine White	Vicki Dunstall
Jody Stoll	Ann Penn	Ruth Imeson	Alan Ramsay
Lucy Reid			

1. Welcome

- Margot Madin (Chair of Inspire Board) welcomed members to the in-person and online Inspire AGM. She explained how members could ask questions, vote and made everyone aware that the event was being recorded for minuting purposes.
- Margot Madin asked for members to raise any items for Any Other Business and Geraldine Henegan-Barr advised she had an item to raise.

2. To receive and approve the minutes of the AGM held on 8th October 2025

- Margot Madin asked members to approve the minutes from the AGM held on 8th October 2025 and that they were a true and accurate record.
- Members voted:
 - Yes – 50
 - No – 0
 - Abstain - 3
- **Minutes approved.**

3. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes

- None.

4. Presentation of the Annual Review

- Peter Gaw (Inspire, Chief Executive Officer) welcomed everyone and noted that the AGM is shorter this year as Inspire is holding two 10th birthday showcase celebration events at Mansfield Central on 14th October and Beeston Library on 4th November. Members were invited to attend either or both. Peter Gaw explained that the vision of the Society is to inspire people to read, learn and enjoy culture and shared the latest [National Portfolio Organisation End of Year 2025-26 video](#) featuring many fantastic examples of Inspire's work with children, families and young people across the county.

5. To receive and approve the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

- 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 2026 have been prepared, audited and filed with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).
- Inspire's Statement of Financial Activities shows a surplus of £879,293 after an actuary pension adjustment of £251,000. Margaret Anderson explained to members in detail that due to the assumptions applied by the actuary, the actuarial valuation at the year-end has resulted in a surplus position for Inspire however, this has been reduced by the effects of the asset ceiling. The full surplus has therefore been removed and the pension valuation is shown as a breakeven position at the year-end.
- By stripping out the pension adjustments Inspire's activities over the year reveal a surplus of £628,293. Margaret Anderson explained how this surplus is made up of restricted, unrestricted, designated and restricted 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 online or from the library meeting.
- Members were asked to approve the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025.
- Members voted:
 - Yes – 42
 - No – 0
 - Abstain – 1
- **Report and accounts were approved.**

6. AOB

- Geraldine Henegan-Barr raised issues on behalf of herself and other users of Stapleford Library & Learning Centre regarding:
 - the removal of physical newspapers and limited choice of digital offer and the effect this has had on a specific group of library customers
 - the change in opening hours and the importance of the social aspect of the library
 - lack of information on display in the library
 - accessing information via a QR code for those using phones without a smart operating system
 - the increased difficulty in parking

Peter Gaw explained that the cost of newspapers has increased more than the budget and the newspaper provision was reviewed following a countywide consultation. He advised that customers can access online press readers from library sites but that colleagues would be happy to discuss further the provision at Stapleford. Peter Gaw also explained that Inspire would very much like to offer longer hours and have tried to increase them but as a level 2 library they are unable to provide more than the current opening times. Peter Gaw advised that Inspire does not generally display information in windows, all leaflets and posters are kept in a customer folder and on a designated board and there is always an alternative option to using a QR code. With regard to the library car park, Peter Gaw noted that some libraries do not have any onsite parking and arrangements regarding use of other parking spaces would be down to local agreements. Peter Gaw thanked Geraldine Henegan-Barr for raising the issues and said it was very helpful and added that Inspire are always looking at ways to improve and provide more to local communities.
- Jayne Holmes asked whether it would be possible to have a job vacancy board in each library so that local people can apply for local authority jobs, and other vacancies. Peter Gaw advised that all local authority vacancies are advertised online and Inspire can provide access to these sites but probably would not print and display them. He went to advise that the Society will receive some funding from Nottinghamshire County Council for supporting financial resilience which will provide some capacity to improve Inspire's information offer which could include integrating something around employment opportunities.
- No further comments or questions were raised and Margot Madin formally closed the 2026 AGM.

Close of AGM – 3.10pm