

Inspire AGM Meeting Minutes

**West Bridgford Library,
Weds 11/10/17 – 6.40pm**

Present: 71 Inspire members

Apologies: Richard Gaunt – Inspire Board Member Elected, Pauline Allan member

1. Welcome

- John Cottee welcomed members to the second Inspire AGM and briefly described how in June 2017 he became Chair of Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) Communities and Place Committee and how proud he was to be elected as Chair of the Inspire Board. He thanked John Knight for his service as the previous Chair of the Inspire Board.

2. To receive and approve the minutes from 12 Oct 2016

- John Cottee proposed that the minutes from the AGM held on 12 Oct 2016 were a true and accurate record. Seconded by John Hess (Inspire Board Member Elected).
- All members in agreement and minutes approved.

3. Matters arising

- None.

4. Presentation of the Annual Review

- Peter Gaw (Chief Executive Officer) directed members to their copy of the Inspire Annual Review (IAR) on their seats and briefly presented the official report including highlights from the last year and Inspire's strategies and priorities looking forward.
- Peter Gaw thanked all Inspire's supporters, partners, volunteers, funders and staff and Barclays Bank for their sponsorship in producing the IAR.
- 2016/17 Highlights included:
 - Nottinghamshire Archives received national accreditation and Inspire successfully achieved Matrix and Customer Service Excellence standard and four of the larger libraries were awarded the Family Arts Standard.
 - Inspire secured funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England to expand the Southwell Poetry Festival to a further three counties across the county.
 - The Able Orchestra (an ensemble featuring disabled and able young musicians) performed at the BBC Proms and BBC Music Day.
 - The Inspire Forward Plan 2017 – 22 Infographic – a visual summary of the plan for the next 5 years.
 - Board membership and development.

5. To receive and approve the Draft Annual Report and Audited Accounts

- Andrew Kordecki (Inspire Senior Finance Officer) advised that a draft version of the Annual Report was available for all members and the final accounts would be agreed at the Inspire Board Finance and Audit Sub-Committee meeting to be held on Thursday 19th Oct 2017. These would then be filed with the Financial Conduct Authority on the 31st October 2017.
- Andrew Kordecki and Julie Stringer (Audit Manager from Smith Cooper Ltd – independent auditors) gave a brief summary of Inspire's Defined Benefit Pension Scheme. The Society is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administered by NCC and under a prescribed Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102) an annual valuation of the scheme must be made. Following a valuation of the scheme made on 31st March 2017 a pension liability of £15,893,000 was included on the balance sheet as a long-term liability. This fluctuates according to the rate of interest and is a theoretical number that never actually crystallises. The Directors foresee no issues in meeting employer's pension contributions for the foreseeable future and, given the level of the Society's reserves, the Directors are confident that it can meet all the foreseeable calls on it by the pension scheme while meeting all other known financial obligations. Andrew Kordecki asked for any questions and none were raised.
- John Cottee thanked Andrew Kordecki and Julie Stringer and asked members to note that they had presented draft accounts and that the final version would be approved by the Finance and Audit Sub-Committee on 19th Oct.
- John Cottee proposed that the draft Annual Report be approved. Seconded by Russel Davies (Inspire member). All members in agreement and draft annual report and audited accounts approved.

6. Confirmation of the new Inspire Board Staff Representative (Elected)

- Peter Gaw gave a short introduction to the membership of the Inspire Board and announced that Steve Powell had been re-elected as the Inspire Board Staff elected member. Peter Gaw congratulated Steve on his re-appointment and advised members that elections for the vacant community elected position on the Board would start in late Autumn.

7. A.O.B

- None.

Close of AGM – 7.10pm

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Any Other Business at the AGM?

Yes. Return to this topic again and again

Libraries are Us, they are not Them

Libraries are root and branch and stem

A Library shines like a streetscape's gem,

So, proposal to the meeting: let's build ten

New ones for every one we've got

You can never have too many. You can only have a lot.

Any Other Business? Any AOB?

Yes. A library is a place where you come for free

And meet other people: where two or three

Are gathered that's where, it seems to me

Civilisation begins over biscuits and tea

You swim around the library like you're swimming in a sea

Of words. So proposal to the meeting: let's build more

And keep them all wide open and never close the door.

Any more to add before the meeting shuts?

Yes. Let's make this clear with no ifs or buts

Libraries are not barber's shops; they don't need cuts

Every time we trim a library, darkness puts

Its head over the parapet cos these are the guts

And lighthouses of communities. And those who tut

At that idea and want to turn them into shops

Can step up here: I'll custard pie 'em in the chops.