

# Inspire AGM Meeting Minutes

**Beeston Library, Thursday 20/09/18, 7 to 7.30pm**

**Present:** 87 Inspire members and staff

**Apologies:** Richard Gaunt, Philip Jones – Inspire Board Members Elected

---

## **1. Welcome**

- John Cottee (Chair of the Inspire Board) welcomed members to the third Inspire AGM and gave a brief overview of a successful year of operations for Inspire highlighting:
  - Plans for building future sustainability, ensuring the organisation is fit for purpose and cost effective.
  - Inspire awards for Customer Service Excellence (CSE), MATRIX and ‘Fantastic for Families’ for best family welcome. Inspire Learning were rated ‘Good’ following an Ofsted inspection.
  - The commitment of the Board to the sustainable development of Inspire as a key provider of culture, learning and libraries.
  - Another fantastic Inspire Awards evening at Beeston Library in June to celebrate the very best of learning, creativity, innovation, service and excellence.
  - Effective management of resources and achieving a small surplus (prior to pension accounting adjustments) and gaining additional grant funding including Arts Council England National Portfolio Status 2018 – 2022 which provides £1 million of funding aimed at children and young people across Nottinghamshire.
  - The development and growth in use of the Inspire website ([www.inspireculture.org.uk](http://www.inspireculture.org.uk)) providing a single online presence for customers, learners and staff.

## **2. To receive and approve the minutes from 11 Sept 2017**

- John Cottee proposed that the minutes from the AGM held on 11 Sept 2017 were a true and accurate record. Seconded by John Hess (Inspire Board Member Elected) and Peter Ware (Inspire Board Member Appointed).
- All members in agreement and minutes approved.

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

- None.

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

- Peter Gaw (Chief Executive Officer) thanked all Inspire’s supporters, partners, volunteers, funders, staff and board. Members were directed to their copy of the Inspire Annual Review 2017/18 and highlights from the last year.

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

- Andrew Kordecki (Senior Finance Officer) advised that a copy of the Annual Report was available via the Inspire website and copies were also distributed throughout the audience. Once approved these will be filed with the Financial Conduct Authority before the 31 October 2018.

- Andrew Kordecki gave an overview of Inspire's expenditure and funding for 2017/18 and advised members that Inspire is 'a going concern' and had generated a small surplus before pension accounting adjustments. Members were made aware that Sarah Flear, Partner from Inspire's auditors Smith Cooper was present at the meeting should they have any further questions.
- John Cottee proposed that the Annual Report be approved. Seconded by Glynn Gilfoyle (Inspire Board County Council Nominated) and Peter Ware (Inspire Board Appointed). All members in agreement and Members' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2018 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 Liz Edwards (Principal Librarian, Community Partnerships) had been elected as the Inspire Board Staff member.

#### **7. A.O.B**

- None.

**Close of AGM – 7.30pm**

## Inspire AGM 2018 Plenary Poem by Ben Norris

### **BOOKS ARE MOVING**

Libraries are the church of Kairos,  
god of the infinite moment,  
where time stops beating cruelly on  
and instead stands still and sober,  
they spot a tired layby dweller and says,  
here, Phil, pull over.  
Let's beat the tapestry of life  
that's been forever woven,  
the one that's laced with questions,  
stitched with seeds, from Jackie Kay to Homer, we've  
had stories since we've had words spoken, language  
was born to make use closer  
*- do you understand me?*  
And in a world of closing doors it's  
nice to leave a couple open.  
You never know who'll flag you down, and need to step inside, the  
fourth emergency service, the secret 999.  
You never know who's feeling empty-lunged, and flat, and uninspired. Last  
year we welcomed 2.7 million pairs of hungry eyes,  
so it's clear we threw them pretty wide. You  
never know who'll need that peace, or that  
push, or provocation,  
a book's what stops a healthy quiet  
metastasizing toward stagnation.  
Because books will take you places.  
Books are moving.

A library is a town's settee, it's a deep communal space,  
where the classroom and the playground meet  
in a tangled heap of wild dreamscapes, it's a  
place to run to and from.  
With the staff as intrepid explorer guides, of  
which one  
is my mum.  
A proper hearty crew,  
leading the charge with homework clubs,  
and story hullabaloo.  
So rattle rhyme and roll to life,  
or get help with your council tax online -  
the only thing I've found for sure is  
just how much there is to find.

The possibilities are endless here,  
bound only by a spine,

it's a thousand universes wide;  
the single stickler's closing time. But nevermind:  
you can take a universe home with you, and I'll take one or  
two to mine.  
Books are moving.

So fill your lungs, with stories and songs, of Friar Tucks and  
Little Johns,  
or fall in love with de Botton,  
from the shelf to the shire to the castle to the sea;  
in a flying car, in Myanmar, you're in the driving seat, because you're in a  
library. And books are moving.

Don't just read the room: read the world, and more.  
Or write another world yourself, if this one's left you bored. Books are moving.

So hit the lights, and bring the noise, tear down the  
inside lane,  
the people need you, more than ever now:  
so peddle to the metal, and turn the page.