

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 26 November 2020 *By Zoom 6pm*

Minutes

Attending via zoom

Board Members

David Grugeon (Chair) Robin Boyd (RB) Jonathan Hodrien (JH) Janet Dolan (JD) Sally Irvine (SI)
Marianne Fellowes (MF) Sue Osben (SO) Library Manager Abi Hassett (AH) ALF Administrator
Mike Ellwood (ME) Suffolk Libraries

10 Associate members of FOAL attended. 4 Apologies had been received and recorded below

The Chair welcomed everyone to the eighth AGM

1. To approve minutes of the seventh AGM held 28 November 2019
2. To receive the Board's Annual Report for 2019/20 (previously circulated)

The Chair thanked Sally and Janet who are both retiring and asked if they would like to say a few words.

Sally thanked all those involved in the improvements to the Library, especially Sue and her team, Studio Gray (Architects) and Duncans (Builders). Additional thanks to Caroline for the loan to the Foundation to enable the building programme to be completed.

Janet was pleased to watch classes increase over the years mainly down to having quality tutors. Thanks to students for their welcome feedback. Thanks to Jonathan.

Mike Ellwood thanked all those involved in these strange times.

Marianne, on behalf of ATC (Aldeburgh Town Council) thanked all involved...

3. Accounts 19/20 – To receive the Financial Statements adopted by the Board (Published on the Foundation's website)

RB reviewed the Accounts, highlighting that despite the impact of Covid and the building expenditure, the Foundation closed the year with cash reserves above £10,000. The Board felt it appropriate to cover events in 20-21 in the Report where it was noted that contracted expenses had been reduced, Courses had resumed both in the Library and online with a positive impact on the cash position. Simon Ive, our independent examiner had noted in a side letter that ALF remained a going concern.

RB was asked whether he was confident that the Foundation could meet its obligation to repay the loan facility by the end of 2022. He agreed that a great deal of uncertainty remained but that demand for courses was strong and he was confident the facility would be repaid.

The Chair thanked Caroline for the loan and confirmed we had received £10,000 in donations. We are doing as well as we can.

4. Election of Board Members.

Sally Irvine retiring

Janet Dolan retiring

Discussions to be had on the 'gaps' at the next Board meeting In January 2021. The possibility of an Assoc. member for a student voice and/or a Tutor.

Sue Osben was asked to say a few words. During these strange times we have managed to reach out to people in other ways, facebook and twitter, telephoning a library member, recommending a book. Looking forward to normal and seeing people in the Library and our volunteers. The only convenient part of being closed meant that improvements were carried out without interruption.

Chair thanked all staff.

The Chair mentioned reading documents for the SL AGM, re contact with isolated and home bound library users during Covid Lockdown One. If you compare Suffolk with one of our statistical neighbour counties(with equal spread of similar socioeconomic population) you find that SL Library staff had made contact with such Library learners by phone and email, to ensure that we checked that they were keeping up their reading interests and getting regular support from friends and/or family. Suffolk was about ten times more effective at such outgoing contact as the other County, and this was partly attributed to the emphasis on ereading and free wifi supported and encouraged by the Library staff.

Meeting closed 6.30pm

Foal Members present:

Gill Bracey
Caroline Boyd
Rosemary Carter
Victoria Emms
June Hutchison
Mike Kiff
Pippa Marson
Richard Marson
Louise Quirke
Coral Stebbings

Apologies

Celia Allaby
Alison Andrews
Patricia Little
Moya Luddington