

THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY, NETHER STOWEY

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

held at The Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey
on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Roger Stacey (Chairman), Eliza Sackett (Secretary), and 14 members.

1. Chairman's welcome

Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for coming.

2. Apologies for absence

Eric Coates, Judith Greig, Pat Pardoe, Gae and Mike Richardson, Elisabeth Woolcock.

3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

It was proposed by Catherine Christie, and seconded by Sian Stafford, that the minutes were a true record. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Submission of accounts

Eric Coates had distributed accounts for the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 (filed with these minutes). These showed a total bank balance of nearly £46,000. He had also sent his report (filed with these minutes). Expenditure had been heavy – a great deal of maintenance work had been done on the library building – but it had been covered by income generated by Library Operations and surplus funds from last year. A recent budgeting exercise had shown that energy costs will increase considerably (and Roger remarked that the ceiling of the computer room needed attention). The library's Reserves stood at c£40,300, and the financial sub-committee were working on a reserves policy.

5. Report of the Trustees

Copies had been sent to members and were distributed at the meeting (filed with these minutes). Roger thanked Catherine and Carol for their work on book sales, Eric for his work as Treasurer, Norma for her valuable fund-raising and grant-sourcing skills, Kevin for representing the PC, Eliza and Terence for doing Collection HQ (stock management), Bill for founding the Chess Club, and Jo for her H&S work. He also thanked Sian for raising the library's profile so successfully. Finally, he thanked the teams of volunteers who staffed the library so efficiently. Volunteer time spent this year totalled an amazing 2,500 hours. Roger said that TPLNS was now four and a half years in to its seven-year CLP agreement with Somerset Libraries, and Darren Smart, the new SL manager, was already having discussions with SC about the renewal of CLP agreements. TPLNS and other CLP libraries would be asking for an increase in the annual grant of £5,000 from SL to CLP libraries, since costs, especially energy costs, were increasing.

6. Election of Trustee

Sue Aubrey was required to retire, and was willing to stand for re-election. Roger asked for a proposal that Sue be re-elected; Pat Stacey proposed and Bill Streeter seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

7. Election of Committee Members

Sian Stafford proposed, and Norma Frood seconded, that Jo Davison and Lynn Scales (at present co-opted) be elected. The motion was passed unanimously. Ruth Pickard proposed, and Catherine Christie seconded, that Eric Coates and Bill Streeter be re-elected. The motion was passed unanimously.

8. Review of subscriptions

The subscription was £5 at present. Sue Aubrey proposed, and Catherine Christie seconded, that the sub stay the same, and the motion was passed unanimously.

9. Any Other Business

i. Eliza suggested that as well using its own Facebook site, TPLNS might publicise events and news on the Stowey News Facebook.

ii. Roger said that TPLNS would be a warm welcoming space for everyone, not just library members, this winter, as it was last year.

iii. Norma thanked Lynn for all her hard work in co-ordinating the volunteers.

iv. Ron Scales said that the automatic lights outside the library were not very effective; Roger said the land ownership of the library environs/car park was complicated, but he would look at the issue.

v. Catherine paid tribute to Roger as the moving spirit behind all library activities, and thanked him for his hard work; everyone joined in a round of applause.

There was no further business. Roger thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.10pm.