



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28th November 2019 at 6:30pm in the Library

Attendance

David Grugeon (Chair)
Robin Boyd (Treasurer)
Janet Dolan
Sally Irvine
Jonathan Hodrien
Apologies from Barbara Wallis, Marianne Fellowes

Library Manager: Sue Osben
ALF Admin: Abi Hassett

33 Associate members of FOAL (the Friends of Aldeburgh Library) attended
Apologies had been received and recorded on file.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed Members, Associate members and guests to the 7th annual meeting of the Charitable Company. The members of Trust board introduced themselves and the Chair gave a short history of the Company to date and reviewed the current refurbishment program. He thanked those who had donated as well as those who continued to be members or attended courses. He also thanked Sue Osben and Abi Hassett who had done sterling work for the Library, noting we were pleased that we also had 2 former chairs of the Foundation in the audience (Clive Fox and Lynne Walker).

2. To approve the minutes of the sixth AGM held on 22 November 2018.

The Chair invited those present at the previous AGM to approve the minutes. There were no matters arising and the Minutes were approved.

3. To receive the Board's Annual report for 2018/9: questions on the Report

The Board's Annual report had been previously circulated and published on the website and the Chair invited questions on the Report. There were no questions and the report for 2018/19 was received. There was a general discussion about tutors' fees. The Chair set out the boards policy which was to raise the level of tutors' fees as well as those of contracting staff steadily and to match with rising course prices. The Board was reminded of the salience of its founding policies.

1. To advance the education of the general public in Aldeburgh, Suffolk and the surrounding area, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of a lending library.
2. To further or benefit the residents of Aldeburgh, Suffolk and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

The Foundation's policy and activities

Within this overall charitable purpose, the Foundation's specific policy and activities are summarised in the following statements.

The purpose of the Foundation is to encourage, promote and support the development of a thriving knowledge hub at the heart of the Aldeburgh community for the benefit of the whole community, in which reading, learning and sharing knowledge can help to shape the community's future well-being.

4. Accounts for 2018/19

The Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts for 2018/19 signed by Simon Ive as independent examiner and which had been adopted by the Board. These had been circulated and published on the website. The Treasurer reported that it had been a good year financially with increased reserves, principally through surpluses from courses. During the current financial year there had been significant expenditure on refurbishment, funded in part by donations, course fees and local grants. The Treasurer indicated the uncommitted cash reserves at the end of the current fiscal year (March 31st, 2020) would be about £10,000.

5. Election of Board members

The Chair explained that under the Articles of Association one third of the company directors/ Charity Trustees (members of the board) retire at the end of each AGM and may offer themselves for re-election. Sally Irvine and Janet Dolan retired at the end of this AGM but were willing to be re-elected for a further term. All members including Associate members, vote on elections to the Board and the Board subsequently elects its own chair.

Sally Irvine and Janet Dolan were duly re-elected by a show of hands.

The Members of the Company and Board directors (the Charity Trustees) were therefore (in alphabetical order):

Robin Boyd (nominee of the Aldeburgh Society) Treasurer
Janet Dolan - Adult Education Organiser
Marianne Fellowes (nominee of the Aldeburgh Town Council)
David Grugeon (Chair)
Jonathan Hodrien
Sally Irvine (Suffolk Libraries trustee)
Barbara Wallis (nominated by FOAL)

The Chair indicated that the Board was seeking new nominees for the Board and any interested parties should contact him directly.

The formal meeting was followed by a light supper and drinks for those attending.