

Inspire AGM Meeting Minutes

Beeston Library & Online via Teams, Wednesday 9th Oct 2024, 7pm

Present:

Helen Ackroyd, Nick Allen, Margaret Anderson, Sarah Baker, Jill Barr, Denise Bond, Ian Bond, John Cottee, Peter Cribb, Leon Dale, Mark Dorrington, Victoria Dunstall, Michelle Dunstan, Sharon Elliott, Kirsty Ellis, Lucianna Gallucci, Hilary Gaw, Peter Gaw, Andrew Graves, Joel Hall, John Hess, Jackie Hewlett Davies, Stephen Hewlett Davies, Mathilde Horsley, Maya Hough, Nick Jones, Aidan La Mola, Margot Madin, Diana Meale, Cristina Moran, Carol Newman, Kath Owen, Lesley Parker, Ann Penn, Deborah Porter, Alan Ramsay, Nicky Reed, Lucy Reid, Michael Reid, Helen Robertson, Val Sawyer, Katharine Say, Liz Stonebridge, Ruth Telford Brown, Clare Tobin, Joy Ward, Annette Watts, Greta Weaver

Apologies: Pauline Allan, Ebony Moody, Nick London, Rebecca Streets,

1. Welcome

- John Cottee (Chair of Inspire Board) welcomed members to the in-person and online Inspire AGM. He explained how members could ask questions, vote and made everyone aware that the event was being recorded for minuting purposes.
- John Cottee asked for members to raise any items for Any Other Business.

2. To receive and approve the minutes of the AGM held on 11th October 2023

- John Cottee asked members to approve the minutes from the AGM held on 11th Oct 2023 and that they were a true and accurate record.
- Members voted:
 - Yes – 32
 - No – 0
 - Abstain - 1
- **Minutes approved.**

3. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes

- None.

4. Presentation of the Annual Review

- Peter Gaw (Inspire, Chief Executive Officer) welcomed everyone and explained that the biggest challenge of each AGM is having enough time cover all the great work that Inspire has achieved during the last year. PG took the opportunity to thank staff, partners and volunteers who make all the wonderful events, activities, learning and services happen.
- Presentation of the [Inspire Annual Review 2023/24](#) video.

5. To receive and approve the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

- Margaret Anderson (Inspire, Chief Finance Officer) was pleased to report that Inspire continues to be 'a going concern' and that the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024 have been prepared, audited and filed with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).
- Inspire's Statement of Financial Activities shows a deficit of £16,899 after an actuary pension adjustment of £154,000. The Chief Finance Officer explained to members in detail that due to the assumptions applied by the actuary, the actuarial valuation at the year-end has resulted in a surplus position for Inspire however, this has been reduced by the effects of the asset ceiling. The full surplus has therefore been removed and the pension valuation is shown as a breakeven position at year end.

- By stripping out the pension adjustments Inspire's activities over the year reveal a surplus of £137,101. Margaret Anderson explained how this surplus is made up of restricted, unrestricted and fixed asset funds and how and when these are used along with summaries of where the Society's money came from and how it was spent.
- No comments or questions were received either online or from the library meeting.
- Members were asked to approve the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024.
- Members voted:
 - Yes – 40
 - No – 0
 - Abstain – 0
- **Report and accounts were approved.**

6. Confirmation of newly elected Board Member

- Following elections held in June 2024, John Cottee proposed the confirmation of Jackie Hewlett Davies as a director of the Inspire board as outlined in the Society's rules.
- Members voted:
 - Yes – 38
 - No – 0
 - Abstain – 0
- **Appointment of Jackie Hewlett Davies to the Inspire Board was approved.**

7. AOB

- No comments or questions were received for any other business. John Cottee formally closed the 2024 AGM.

Close of AGM – 7.30pm

Inspire AGM 2024 Poems

Presentation and readings by Andrew Graves including:

- Ceremony
- This Town
- Getting Lost
- Still Notts Talking
- Billy Boy & Joe
- The Edge

Getting Lost

We come here to find ourselves
but mostly to get lost.

In this place, this space,
portal to the universe,
the beginning of a journey
into history's bookends
and futures unexplored.

Where hobbit holes
lead to wizard schools
where Mills and Boon and

monsters meet in a Dewey
Decimal discovery
of well-thumbed wonder.

Where we can find recipes for
a better world, DIY our lives
back together and dictators
are made to behave themselves
or be archived and put back on
the shelf.

We come here because its free
yet its value is priceless,
no borders, backstops or hate speak here, just free movement
into an education where bank accounts don't matter.

Council house or posh estate,
church, temple, mosque or chip shop, wherever we come from
we can all gather here
to worship in words
with this infinite congregation.

This community of superheroes,
time machines and aliens,
Shakespeare, celebrity,
Psychology, philosophy

where religion, and science,
might dance to the music
of jazz, folk or poetry

We come here when words fail us
or when there is too much to say.
Where we can locate what we need to know
and everything they wish we couldn't.

Because when governments form not cabinets
but coffins for our ideas, our hopes, our art

we still have this place,
where the books might be on loan
but what we gain from them is kept forever.

It's ours, this place.

This palace of knowledge,
this cathedral of classics,
this mansion of magic,
this shelter, this refuge,
for the curious and stuck, the dreamers and the learners,
the weary and the excited

and this bleeding-heart poet,
who first came here when he was twelve to escape
from the cold outside and his parents' divorce

apocalypse
and instead found
Ray Bradbury, new worlds and rocket ships.

We still have this place.

This space, portal to the universe,
the beginning of a journey
into history's bookends
and futures unexplored.

Where hobbit holes
lead to wizard schools
where Mills and Boon and
monsters meet in a Dewey
Decimal discovery
of well-thumbed wonder.

We come here to find ourselves
But mostly to get lost.