

Suffolk's Libraries IPS

The Industrial & Provident Society Limited enabling county-wide library services supported by Suffolk County Council

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Title of Meeting	Suffolk's Libraries IPS Ltd. - AGM
Date	3 October 2019
Place	The Mansion House, Wherstead Park, The Street, Wherstead, Suffolk IP9 2BJ
Time	6:30pm – 8:00pm
Attendees	Directors, Members and Staff of Suffolk Libraries (for a full list of attendees, please contact Sophie Moy at sophie.moy@suffolklibraries.co.uk)

1.	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed the members, staff and other interested parties to Suffolk Libraries' seventh Annual General Meeting.</p>
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2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shelia Ash – Suffolk Libraries Extra• Jayne Austin – Suffolk County Council• Val Aynsley – Friends of Hadleigh Library• Nicola Beach – Suffolk County Council• Alison Britton – Friends of Halesworth Library• Amy Calver – Larking Gowen• Charlotte Clark – Suffolk Libraries – Southwold• Laura Cooke – Suffolk Libraries• Mary Dimond – Friends of Lakenheath Library• Paul Garcia – Friends of Long Melford Library• Fran Hartley – Friends of Chantry Library• Stella Houlihan – Suffolk Libraries – Framlingham• Tony Hutt – Friends of Debenham Library• Giles Kerkham – Larking Gowen• Amanda King – Suffolk Libraries – Bungay• Jim King – Friends of Elmswell Library• Cllr Michael Ladd – Suffolk County Council• Diane Moore – Suffolk Libraries• Gale Pryor – Suffolk Libraries Extra• John Raynor – Friends of Leiston Library• Debra Reay – Friends of Ixworth Library• Colin Rockall – Suffolk Libraries Board Member• Gayla Rowling – Suffolk Libraries - Leiston• Lisa Sanders – Suffolk Libraries – Wickham Market• Julie Shepherd – Suffolk Libraries – Eye• Trevor Stephenson – Friends of Capel St Mary Library• Cllr Paul West – Suffolk County Council• Alison Wheeler – Suffolk Libraries Extra• Maureen Wood – Friends of Debenham Library• Kay Yule – Friends of Woodbridge Library
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3.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes from the AGM 2018 were accepted as a true account of discussions.</p> <p>Proposed: Sylvia Knights (Bungay Library) Seconded: Sally Irvine (Aldeburgh Library)</p>
4.	<p><u>Annual Report</u></p> <p>Tony Brown (Chair) gave a speech highlighting another year of hard work and progress. He also commended the Strategic summary document which had been included in the pack. Suffolk Libraries were looking to invest in capacity and expertise in order to challenge the current perceptions of what a library could offer and to develop new relationships and services which responded to local need. In turn this would lead to activities designed to make Suffolk Libraries more visible and valuable to communities across the county. He finished by saying the Annual report presented another year of strong performance and positive outcomes.</p> <p>Bruce Leeke (Chief Executive) gave a speech where he looked back at past achievements to highlight the future value of libraries. The recent impact report had highlighted that just three activities delivered by Suffolk Libraries created £284,000 worth of social value for the NHS every year. The most positive outcomes of these sessions for users were the development of literacy skills for children attending baby bounce and tot rock, improved wellbeing for their parents and improved mental health and social networks for those attending Open Space. It also included increased happiness for over 55's coming to Top Time. These were significant numbers and reflected a clear correlation between the work of libraries and improvements in wellbeing across Suffolk. He finished by saying that libraries were organic, authentic and provided a community for everyone.</p>
5.	<p><u>Accounts 2017/18</u></p> <p>Maureen Garratt Simpson (Honorary Secretary) gave a speech explaining that the fixed sum contract with Suffolk County Council enabled Suffolk Libraries to concentrate on investing in the future financial security of libraries in Suffolk as well as exploring the potential of new income streams. The strength of Suffolk Libraries overall service delivery lies with its people which is why staff costs make up 57% of overall spend. As such it was crucial to continue to reward staff for their exceptional work in the community. She concluded by saying that Suffolk Libraries had again been supported by Friends Groups who worked hard to engage local communities through their local library. They also add value by providing funding for specific projects to improve libraries across the county.</p> <p>There were no questions and the accounts were accepted and approved.</p> <p>Proposed: Sylvia Knights (Bungay Library) Seconded: Sarah Wilson (Felixstowe Library)</p>

6.	<p><u>Appointment of Auditor</u></p> <p>The nominated members were asked to consider the appointment of Larking Gowen as the society's auditor for the ensuing year. The appointment was agreed in order to maintain the positive working relationship.</p>
7.	<p><u>Announcement of the election of up to two Suffolk Libraries IPS Ltd Board Members</u></p> <p>Due to the retirement cycle, Maureen Garratt-Simpson was required to step down from the Board this year and nominations were sought from our membership to become a Board member. Colin Rockall also sadly decided that he would also retire from being a Board member. The membership were asked to vote in two Board members at the AGM but, due to there only being one nomination, it meant that the one nomination automatically took a place on the Board. The successful nominee was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maureen Garratt-Simpson (Ipswich County Library)
8.	<p><u>Guest Speaker</u></p> <p>Scott Russell, from Paddy and Scotts, was the guest speaker and gave a speech in relation to his dynamic and successful business model. He also highlighted how companies could do better than global firms and how doing good was good for business. This specifically focused on the companies work in Kenya.</p>
9.	<p><u>Suffolk Libraries – A Year in Pictures</u></p> <p>The meeting closed by looking back in pictures at Suffolk Libraries over the past year.</p>
10.	<p><u>Closing remarks</u></p> <p>The Chair thanked the members for their attendance. He thanked Colin Rockall for all of his work on the Board and to Bruce Leeke, the Chief Executive.</p>