

**BEACON VILLAGES COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD ON SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2023 at 10.30am in Ivinghoe Town Hall**

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Avril Davies, chair, welcomed the attendees: Joy Powell, Gareth Davies, Cathy Craft, Michelle West (Library Manager), Colin Arney, (treasurer) Gillian Arney (committee member), and Janet Page (Secretary).

**2. Apologies for absence** were received from Karen Hill, Michael Harris, Laura Davis, Lyn Mangisi, Sue Eyre, Elaine Wilson, Julie Fretwell, Claire Bamber, Karen Groom, Fiona Broadbent, Libby Thompson, Andrew Reeve, Alex Wynne, Derek Peverill, Sheena Bexson, Sam Lincoln.

**3. Minutes of the AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.** These had been posted on the website and were agreed as a true record.

**4. Reports**

**Chair:** Avril Davies' report had been published on the website ahead of the meeting. This year we had focussed on our rising costs, and Avril thanked Colin for his careful management of our funds. We are aware that the other community libraries are facing similar challenges. Avril thanked Shelle, the Library Manager, who had kept the library running, bringing our opening hours back to almost pre pandemic levels, and supporting new initiatives such as Warm Spaces.

Gillian Arney proposed, and Gareth Davies seconded the Chair's Report, which was agreed,

**Treasurer:** Colin Arney's report had been published on the website ahead of the meeting. He presented his report, together with the audited year end accounts, to the meeting. Colin reported our total reserves stand at £62,347. His report sets out the challenges we have faced with rising costs, but pointed out that the rise in interest rates also works in our favour. John Wallis, our auditor for the past several years, has indicated that he wished to stand down from this task. It was agreed we would give a thank you gift to John Wallis as previously, and Colin asked for suggestions for an auditor for next year.

Avril Davies proposed, and Janet Page seconded the Treasurer's report together with the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. These were agreed.

**Library Manager:** Michelle West's report was also published on the website beforehand, and as with all the reports, attendees had been directed to it ahead of the meeting. Shelle expressed her gratitude to the volunteers, the committee members, and the staff of Buckinghamshire Council for their support over the past year. The library has had a thriving year with over 10,000 items being loaned or renewed. Storytime has been reinstated thanks to a new volunteer, links have been re-established with the Pre-School, and we have resumed offering the library for small groups to use.

Janet Page proposed, and Gillian Arney seconded the Library Manager's Report which was agreed.

## **5. Election of the management committee.**

The following agreed to serve on the committee for the following year, and there being no further nominations, this was accepted by the meeting.

Chair – Avril Davies

Treasurer – Colin Arney

Secretary – Janet Page

Committee Members – Gillian Arney, Derek Peverill.

## **6. Any other business.**

There were no comments or suggestions in the box held in the library, however the following items were raised:

- (a) Cathy Craft suggested that we should offer tuition to Year 6 pupils on how a library works, how books are categorised, the dewey decimal system etc, and how to use a public library if research is required. This suggestion was warmly welcomed, and the Library Manager will look into implementing it.
- (b) Shelle will look at providing a local information leaflet, since we get several enquiries from the camp site. It was noted that the Pitstone Parish Council has good information on their website, and enquiries could also be directed there.
- (c) In response to a question, Shelle confirmed the Council Access Point was used regularly. Many people who came in to use the CAP subsequently joined the Library.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.00am.