

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)
Inaugural Meeting on 21st January 2017 at 10am
held in the Study Area, Penketh Library

Minutes

Introductions

Permission was requested from all present to record the meeting to enable more accurate Minutes to be produced.

Susan (Morris), Senior LiveWire Advisor at Penketh Library introduced herself and explained how FOPL could help the Library and publicise events held in the Library such as Pram Pack, Stay on your Feet, Tai Chi etc. She asked us to aid her in increasing the usage and encouraging activities for all the Community and to consider FOPL as a long term commitment. She also suggested having the big events less frequently maybe 4-6 a year rather than monthly.

Jane and Phillip (Forshaw) introduced themselves and explained their reasoning behind forming this group. The initial idea was to ask all present to speak about their backgrounds but due to the amount of people present, was decided to postpone individual introductions.

We were joined by Tony Higgins, Warrington Borough Councillor responsible for Leisure, Community and Culture and specifically the Library Service (see AOB).

Purpose of Meeting

First Formal Meeting to establish FOPL, an independent, non-political group dedicated to the promotion, support and improvement of the Library Service in Penketh.

Aims of Group/Constitution

Read through Aims on the Constitution and agreed to put a copy on the website and send copies to all Members, also drew attention to the Data Protection Policy. Will keep copies of minutes in the Library and circulate via email and on the website. We were pleased to welcome new Members who signed and completed the Membership forms.

Stressed that FOPL does not want to run or fund the Library in Penketh. In supporting the Library staff we have to be careful to always liaise with them and work together. Mentioned the website (friendsofpenkethlibrary.org.uk) and facebook page (Friends of Penketh Library – FOPL) for up to date information on news and activities in Penketh Library. Future suggestions included a re-assessment of the opening hours.

Appointment of Officers

Jane (Forshaw) indicated her willingness to serve as Chair and Phillip (Forshaw) as Secretary, asked for a volunteer to be Treasurer and David (Adams) agreed to serve. These were proposed, seconded and voted in by the Members.

Skill set of the Group

Due to time constraints this was not fully covered, Jane (Forshaw) suggested that Members speak to her individually if they had any contacts that could publicise or help out with a specific area of expertise.

Review of recent Event

Swap Shop was well organised, had lots of artistic colouring in of posters and dinosaurs (Posh Paws), unfortunately not many swaps. See website for details of swaps still available until 28th January. All other swaps not wanted back will be donated to a local Charity.

Planned events

Mentioned, going to target local Residents to donate their daily newspapers. New groups to be formed - was suggested a Junior Chess Club and a discussion on liability and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks ensued, if any Club/Groups held within Library opening hours then the Library Staff are responsible for safety and security. Always consult Susan (Morris) before organising any events to check availability of space and suitability for inclusion in the Library activities. Big event planned for 11th February at 10.30 – 12.30 pm “Love comes to your Library” - poster shown. March event (no working title yet) explained to Group by Mary (Ross) based on the History of Penketh in conjunction with Penketh and Great Sankey Heritage Group, archivist from Central Library, genealogy drop in session, childhood diaries, talks about life in Penketh etc., to be held on 11th March with an exhibition continuing until 16th March. Judith (Kemp) suggested that the Penketh and Sankey Gardening Society would like to have a plant stall, they would need at least 2 months notice maybe May/June. Jane (Love) talked about the FOPL Mini’s Story and Craft Time starting on Thursday 26th January at 10.15 – 11.00 am, a fortnightly event for pre-school age and under. Sylvia (Haggett) told us about her upcoming Reading Group to promote friendships, increase reading habits, encourage discussions and ideas to be held weekly beginning on Wednesday 1st February at 2 – 3pm.

Publicity

Need to co-ordinate publicity with posters, to make sure we are not losing the goodwill of local businesses, a Twitter feed was proposed plus contacting Radio Merseyside. It was also suggested that a Parish Council notice board would be better located in a central position, preferably Honiton Square, to publicise community events.

AOB

We were happy to welcome Tony Higgins, Councillor for Leisure, Community and Culture, who is responsible for Libraries, he explained that he saw the Meeting advertised on Facebook and decided to come along. He was pleased to see the turnout and reiterated his commitment to the Library Service especially the keeping of Central Library in its existing location. Penketh Library is to remain in situ until the Master Plan for Honiton Square is developed, no time scale at present. He thought that FOPL could (help to) make the case for retaining Penketh Library by their actions and activities. He has asked for £3 million capital investment for Libraries to regenerate them and stated that the Report has not been finalised yet. Tony (Higgins) pointed out the national trend is to close libraries but not in Warrington, looking for creative thinking to increase the future progress and usage of Libraries. Was asked about who owned the buildings - owned or leased by WBC, it is their responsibility for maintenance. Pleased that Groups such as FOPL and "Save Warrington Libraries" are non-political and dignified in their conduct.

Date of next Meeting

Next meeting will be held at 10am on Saturday 18th February in the Study Area.