

RUSLAND READING ROOM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 12 MAY 2016

1. In attendance were Giles Wingate-Saul (GWS), Rachel Lumsden (RL), Anne Robinson (AR), Mike Benham (MB), Gordon Wilkinson (GW), Mandy Lane (ML), and Angus Adams (AA).

Apologies were received from John Dixon, David Hoyle, Natalie Bibby and David Robinson.

2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 21 May 2015 were approved.

3. Appointments:

ML reelected as Chair (proposed by GWS , seconded by GW)

AA reelected as Secretary (proposed by MB, seconded by RL)

GWS reelected as Treasurer (proposed by ML, seconded by AR).

4. Accounts and Financial Report:

GWS produced and went through the accounts he had prepared for the year ending 31 March 2016. Overall it had been a good year with an excess of ordinary income over ordinary expenses of over £2000. The number of users had held up. The hard work put into the Spring Show had proved to be well worth it with a net profit of £1847.10 being achieved. Despite special expenditure of £1738.68 for external painting the surplus for the year was still £872.38 and the capital currently stands at £9797.27. In addition GWS reported that he had received an anonymous gift for RRR of £1500. He pointed out that the sponsorship money received for the Spring Show may not be as much in the future. Also after discussion about the capital GWS advised that it should remain accessible rather than be bound up in any term investment because of likely future expenses, notably interior decoration and ancillary work such as dealing with the condensation problem. The accounts were adopted (proposed by GW, seconded by AA).

5. Fabric Report:

MB reported he had attended a Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAFS) meeting at Arnside with a view to seeing if any help could be sought with regard to the damp/insulation problem. All options (such as boarding over the walls and ceilings and full ventilation systems) were likely to prove expensive (perhaps £3000 to £5000) and we could request that the building be assessed for a viable solution if any expenses involved could be met or covered by a possible grant. MB stated he had already been in the roof-space and had opened up the existing air vents which had become filled with debris and had also boxed off the roof insulation material all of which should help ventilation. GWS thought the problem was partly caused by the corner areas being colder due to the external dressed stone. MB and ML are to enquire if a CAFS assessment can be carried out. GW believed a hall at Ulpha in the Duddon had put in an effective ventilation system which it might be worth inspecting. ML thought she would also ask the architect Roger

Newbold for advice if necessary.

Other points - GWS said the new gates being made by Mike Thwaites were coming on, MB and GWS to look at refixing a loose radiator, and GWS is to have new keys cut for the kitchen door as some did not work.

6. Charges

After discussion it was agreed to keep charges the same and to provide more promotion of the facility. A more prominent notice informing how to hire RRR and a separate RRR notice board were considered as a good starting point. GWS said he'd look into a suitable design. ML is to up-date and improve the web-site too.

7. Cleaning

Sub-committee formed comprising ML, AR, MB and RL and are to create a rota, and to work on check-lists for users so they comply with requirements.

8. Past Events

The Spring Show had proved a great success. Robert Wallace has indicated he does not wish to be involved in the future but all acknowledged that his work and good novel ideas had attributed to the show's success. ML has already thanked him on behalf of the full committee.

There had been three Domino evenings organised by GW - despite clashes with other activities they had proved to be a success and should be repeated.

9. Future Events

More Domino evenings, a music event, table-top sale, valuation day were all mentioned as possibilities. There should be a meeting in September to start the planning for the 2017 Spring Show.

10. Chair's Report

ML thanked everyone as it had been a hugely successful year. The Spring Show had been really good. The new gates will be a major improvement. The ventilation ideas are to be explored further.

11. AOB

(1) GWS will continue trying to dispose of the old slates

(2) RL reported that at a recent WI meeting the questions of public liability insurance for RRR and First Aid Box there had been raised. Appropriate insurance was confirmed but it was felt the First Aid Box should be upgraded.

(3) ML reported that at a CAFS meeting it was stated that all such facilities should have a hiring agreement. She has obtained a template and she and AA will work on this.

12. Date of next AGM

11 May 2017 at 7.30 pm was fixed.