

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Title of Meeting	Suffolk's Libraries IPS Ltd. - AGM
Date	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
Place	The Cookhouse, Suffolk Food Hall, Wherstead, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 2AB
Time	6.30pm – 7.45pm
Attendees	Directors, Members and Staff of Suffolk Libraries (for a full list of attendees, please contact Nikki Sturmeay at <a href="mailto:nikki.sturmeay@suffolklibraries.co.uk">nikki.sturmeay@suffolklibraries.co.uk</a> )
<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome</u></b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed the members, staff and other interested parties to Suffolk Libraries' third Annual General Meeting and remarked that he was delighted that 43 out of the 44 libraries were represented.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b></p> <p>Deborah Cadman – SCC, Marion Harvey – Ipswich County Library, Sue Charteris – Equal Value, David Thomas Friends of Halesworth Library, Charlotte Clark – Southwold Library, Ali Hopkins – Halesworth Library, Lynne Walker – ex-board member, Peter Aldous – MP for Waveney, James Cartlidge – MP for South Suffolk, Chris Fardon – Arts Council, Jenny Peachey – Carnegie Trust, Jimmy Jewell – Elmswell Library Friends, Clara Eastell – Society of Chief Librarians, Dr. Daniel Poulton – MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, Ed Vaisey – Minister for Culture and Communications, Peter Bernard – Eye Library Friends, Di Humphrey – Friends of Lowestoft Library, Rachel Wood – Friends of Newmarket Library, Becky Brooks – Friends of Oulton Broad Library, Bob Jardine – Saxmundham Library Friends, Chris Bally - Suffolk County Council, Ben Gummer – MP for Ipswich</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>Minutes</u></b></p> <p>The minutes from the AGM 2014 were accepted as a true account of discussions.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>Annual Report</u></b></p> <p>Tony Brown (Chair) gave a speech in which he read excerpts from two customer letters complimenting Suffolk Libraries for their service. He praised staff on their success in embedding new ways of working after leaving Suffolk County Council. He also thanked community groups and stated that the board and community team want to support all groups in recruiting and maintaining their numbers and their energy.</p> <p>Alison Wheeler (General Manager) thanked Suffolk Libraries staff for their hard work since divesting from Suffolk County Council three years ago. She also quoted the recent staff survey. She thanked the community groups for their fundraising efforts; she spoke of Suffolk Libraries sharing their successes to assist other library services in moving</p>

	<p>forward. She concluded by stating that the future will be focused on continuing the Suffolk Libraries services and thanking the board for their guidance and advice.</p>
5.	<p><b><u>Accounts 2014/15</u></b></p> <p>Jonathan Ogden (Honorary Secretary) presented a speech detailing the struggle Suffolk Libraries faced at the beginning of the financial year. He commented on the success Suffolk Libraries had in breaking even after funding cuts and beginning the year with a deficit. There were no questions and the accounts were accepted and approved.</p> <p><b>Proposer: Sylvia Knights (Bungay Library)</b>  <b>Seconder: Sue Buck (Long Melford Library)</b></p>
6.	<p><b><u>Appointment of Auditor</u></b></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.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Sylvia Knights (Bungay Library)</b>  <b>Seconded: Anne Mallalieu (Glemsford Library)</b></p>
7.	<p><b><u>Announcement of the election of 2 Suffolk Libraries IPS Ltd Board Members</u></b></p> <p>The following Directors were voted in by the society membership:</p> <p><b>Tony Brown (Beccles)</b>  <b>Jonathan Ogden (Kesgrave)</b></p> <p>All nominees were thanked for their interest in becoming a Director.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Guest Speaker</u></b></p> <p>Joanna Trollope, Author, gave a passionate speech on her personal view of the importance of Libraries in today's society as not just a place of learning but a safe haven for the vulnerable. She gave an overview of her role on last year's committee in conducting a public review of the nation's library services. She concluded by complimenting Suffolk Libraries as the blueprint that the nation should follow.</p>
9.	<p><b><u>Closing Remarks</u></b></p> <p>The Chair thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.</p>