



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday 6th June 2023
At the Library, Ross on Wye
Minutes

1. The chair welcomed those attending: Jan Falkiner, Sarah Freer, Chris Houghton, Barbara Isle, Jane Roberts, Pam Stockton, (Committee) Chris Bartrum, Jenny Cook, Elinor Kelly, Claire Stenson, John Stenson, Andrew West. Clare West (chair) Alison Clarke (Speaker) Simon Beedon (Librarian)
2. Apologies from Melody Drake Lee
3. The Minutes of AGM held 15th June 2022 were approved.
4. The 2022/23 accounts (see annex 1) were available and had been checked by a local accountancy. The key items and the differences to the previous year were clarified by Treasurer Barbara Isle. The accounts were accepted.
5. Chair's Report:

As you'll have seen from the accounts this last financial year is one which has allowed more opportunities for fund raising - and one in which we made a sizable donation to the library to assist in improvements especially in the Children's Library - where projects are ongoing - and in areas like this one where the new café style chairs and tables were chosen to encourage people to see the library once again as somewhere to meet and relax, as well as a source of reading matter. We are also helping with the planning and funding of the forthcoming Children's Book Festival at the end of this month.

Our major source of funding - which is also a way of making good use of this lovely building - is events. As we got back into the swing of things after the worst of the Covid years, we enjoyed an excellent Autumn programme. A return visit from Marsha O'Mahony in September, Clifford Johnson, creative upcycler and inspiring fighter against the odds in October, the entertaining group of Marcher Authors in November, and then our Christmas treat, a superb event with Dick Brice. The loss of Dick so soon after that was a horrible shock to us all - he was a wonderful friend to the library group, a brilliant entertainer, and a lovely man. He is very sadly missed throughout the region.

In the New Year we we took a break from evening events but organised a couple of daytime happenings, a book launch and a St Patrick's Day quiz, and we encouraged people to recognise the library as one of the best "Warm Spaces" in town. When lighter, warmer evenings arrived in April we welcomed Meriet Duncan who gave an entrancing and very informative talk about the world of honeybees, and then in May, Alis Hawkins for a superb book launch.

Looking back to the Autumn - that series of splendid events reminds me of that old image of the swan gliding elegantly through the water, but under the surface paddling like mad. By Christmas I was feeling very pessimistic about the future of RLDG. We had lost committee members to family demands and, most tragically, we lost our wonderful and ever cheerful membership secretary, Barbara Whitehorne, to cancer. She is much missed by everyone.

So the committee was feeling very fragile, and so was I! An unexpected new ally, in the form of Chris Were from the Ross Gazette, published my cry for help and miraculously it worked. Not one but three new committee members joined us. Chris, Pam and Sarah have brought fresh life and energy and they join Jane, Barbara and Jan to form a strong and capable committee, ready to deal with whatever the future brings.

And who knows what may be around the corner? Those of you who attended last year's AGM will remember the inspiring talk

we had about the plans for the new Hereford library. Sadly, Councillor Gemma Davis who gave that talk and was a major force behind the protection and development of Herefordshire Libraries lost her seat at the recent election. I feel confident that the three Ross County Councillors will fight hard for our service, but without straying too far into politics, I do want to point out that many of the councillors who were in power at the time when our libraries were threatened with closure are now back. Furthermore, the retiring council did not leave Herefordshire County finances in good shape. The search will be renewed for savings The need to fight the good fight for this wonderful service may yet return.

As most of you already know I am stepping down from the chair and the committee. I have spent ten years with Ross Library Development Group and feel it is the moment, as the politicians say, to spend more time with my family! Which is a handy cue to thank my husband, Andy, who has been helping out behind the scenes and acting as our barman for the last year!

It has been a busy and very varied decade, and sometimes very stressful. But it has also been an opportunity to support the amazing professionals who run our library service and to get to know so many members of the local community who value it so highly. I retire knowing that Ross Library Development Group is as strong as ever and has a real and productive future.

Clare was thanked for her service by Jane Roberts, supported by those present.

6. Election of Officers and Committee members: Clare resigned but there were no offers or nominations for a replacement. Jan Falkiner stepped down as Vice Chair but was nominated and voted in as a general committee member. The remaining Members of the committee all agreed to stay on in their current roles. Clare noted that their skills and capabilities left her in no doubt that they would handle the situation and noted that co-option was a possibility.

7. Suggestions for future Talks, Events - some ideas were presented and the committee were urged to think about wider publicity. Clare noted that the events until October were in place and they would once again need to decide whether to continue through the winter.

8. Any Other Business

REFRESHMENT BREAK

Alison Clarke of the Ross CDT talked about the Achievements and Future Plans of the Ross Community Development Trust

Ross Library Development Group

Annex One

Ross Library Development Group

Balance Sheet and
Income and Expenditure Account

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Ross Library Development Group

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2023

General Fund - Unrestricted

	2023	2022
Income		
Subscriptions	280	284
Donations	66	300
Fund Raising Entrance Fees	540	42
	<u>886</u>	<u>626</u>
Expenditure		
Domain and Web Design	48	24
Mens shed	50	
Event expenses	94	
Sundry expenses	15	
Donation	3,250	50
Membership	25	24
Bank charges	10	15
	<u>3,492</u>	<u>113</u>
Surplus for the year	-2,606	513
Reserves brought forward	<u>10,137</u>	<u>9,624</u>
Reserves carried forward	<u><u>7,531</u></u>	<u><u>10,137</u></u>

Ross Library Development Group

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Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023

General Fund Unrestricted	2023	2022
Fixed Assets		E
Per Schedule		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	7,531	10,137
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets	7,531	10,137
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Represented by		
Unrestricted General Fund	7,531	10,137
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The accounts as set out on pages 1 to 3 were approved by the members of the committee on 21 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Clare West

Chairman

Barbara Isle

Treasurer

Schedule of Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2023

	General
	Equipment
Cost brought forward	1,116
Disposals	
Cost at 31st March 2023	<u>1,116</u>
Depreciation brought forward	1,116
Charge in year	
Eliminated on Disposal	
Depreciation at 31st March 2023	<u>1,116</u>
Net Book Value at 31st March 2023	<u><u>0</u></u>
Net Book Value at 31st March 2022	<u><u>0</u></u>

Ross Library Development Group

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of Ross Library
Development Group

Report to the members of Ross Library Development Group on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 set out on pages 1 to 3.

The members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for keeping accurate books to reflect the financial position of the group.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out from the underlying books and statements.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the group and the comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the group concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with accounting requirements have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Christopher Briggs Chartered
Accountant Thorne & Co. 1 St Mary(s
Street

Ross on Wye

Herefordshire

HR9 5HT

22-May-23