

SOMERSHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY (FOSL)

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 10th July 2025, 7.30pm

Present: John Barrott (Chair/ Acting Secretary), Jennifer Parsons (Treasurer), Denise Calvert, Margaret Barfoot, Debbie Barrott, Andrew Chapman, Glenda Meakin, Jenny Smith, Lynda Brailsford, Lorraine O'Brien, Henny Thompson, Jean Stanton, Felicity Ash

Apologies: Lesley Minter, Monica Scobey, Elaine Buckridge, Judith Bullard, Sally Walsh

The meeting commenced at 19:30.

1. CHAIR'S OPENING ADDRESS

John Barrott welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were presented on behalf of Lesley Minter, Monica Scobey, Elaine Buckridge, Judith Bullard and Sally Walsh.

3. RETIREMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the retirement cycle in the Constitution, one-third of Directors are required to retire each year at the Annual General Meeting.

This year, Debbie Barrott, Denise Calvert and Lesley Minter were the next on the retire/re-elect rota. All have expressed a willingness to continue serving on the Board if re-elected.

These re-appointments were agreed unanimously by those present.

During the year, Elaine Buckridge resigned as Secretary and the Board are grateful to Elaine for her work on behalf of the Board during 2024/25. Elaine remains as an active FOSL volunteer.

Also during the year, Robert Downing resigned from the Board for health reasons and the Board's thanks are extended to Rob for his many years of support.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chair briefly summarised the content of the minutes of the previous AGM, copies of which were circulated at the meeting and had been sent to FOSL members and volunteers in advance of the meeting.

No comments or amendments were received and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 31st July 2024 were agreed as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Points arising from last year's AGM were summarised as follows:

- The transfer of banking from Santander to Lloyds has been completed.
- The incorrect link to the new FOSL website from the Council Library website has been fixed.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

John summarised the contents of the Chair's annual AGM report (which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting).

In summary:

- Opening hours were maintained at 21.5 hours per week.
- The financial performance was as predicted, being effectively break-even.
- An excellent year for fundraising and donations.
- A membership renewal drive had been reasonably successful.
- The bank account had been successfully moved from Santander to Lloyds.

John mentioned that, looking to the future, it is important to continue to recruit new FOSL Board members (trustees) to ensure a positive future for the library. For example, the current lack of a Secretary places additional burdens on other Board members.

John thanked all the FOSL volunteers for their efforts in maintaining a welcoming environment for 21.5 hours per week and all the contributing members for their continuing support of the library.

7. REPORT FROM TREASURER

Jennifer summarised the financial activities:

- The new bank account has been set-up to require dual authorisation.
- The library remains in a good financial position, having sufficient reserves, currently standing at £19,363.
- Three large donations were received in the year, totalling £900.
- A good year of fundraising raised £1100.
- The Parish Council contributed £2,400 towards utility and 'phone bills. This contribution is gratefully acknowledged.
- The draft statutory accounts for financial year 2024/25 have been received from the accountant and were ratified by the Board at the 10/7/2025 Board meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A FOSL member asked about the two leaks in the roof which had become apparent last winter. John replied that these have been intermittent and difficult to pin down, although efforts in the direction are continuing. They are not considered to be serious at this stage.

The meeting closed at 19:53.

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These minutes were ratified as a true record at the FOSL AGM held on 9 July 2026

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