

**Supporters of Cowes Library**  
**Minutes of Meeting Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 1pm**  
**held at the Beckford Centre**

**1. Present:**

Olivia Battley (Chair), Joyce Blizzard (Vice Chair), Lesley Johnstone, Jacqui Joyes, Catherine Fitton, Judy Ottaway, Maureen Briscoe, Wendy Wardrop (Cowes Town Council), Kim Oliver (Secretary)

**2. Apologies**

Adam Gaterell (Library Supervisor), Lin Hayward, Jo Townsend (Treasurer), Bev Thompson, Gaye Whitewood, Penny Acton, Graham Nunn

**3. Agree Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**4. Address Action Points:** addressed within agenda.

**5. Treasurer's Report** - given by Joyce, in Jo's absence.

Our balance stands at £4470.52 which includes £2,000 grant money for the purchase of the shelving.

**6. Cowes Town Council matters:** No matters raised.

**7. Library Supervisor's Report** - given by Joyce on behalf of Adam. (Summarised)

**BUILDING WORKS:** A trench has been dug, the engineer has been informed of the wall foundation depth, wires and pipes.

Amelia in charge of the project has now been chasing the engineer again for 3 weeks.

There is still no date or confirmation as to whether we will need to shut or be able to be open during the works.

**DUPLO BOX:** purchased as agreed costing £14. Cash used from Supporters petty cash tin.

**TEEN AREA:** Wood quote: Adam is still sourcing quotes so that he can build shelving in teen section. He will inform the Supporters once he has found something suitable.

**LIBRARY SHELVING QUOTE:**

Adam provided a quote for 4 units, 2 of a slightly wider width and 2 slightly thinner.

The purchase of the shelving was discussed by the Committee in the next point.

**ACTIVITIES:**

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> of April - Easter Crafts 2pm - 4pm (a craft activity that will be simple and easy for children and parents to do). If possible 1 or 2 volunteers would be very helpful.

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> April - Book swap 2pm - 4.30pm (a general celebration of world book night, although it will be a table out with books on and chairs for people to come in, swap and chat about books, no help is needed but thought people may like to pop along to it, we can't do a proper event due to the building works)

**FUTURE EVENTS:**

I am keen to keep our craft fairs as a joint event with the Beckford Centre, maybe include some craft tables at both venues, refreshments at both venues (Once works completed) and then the money can be shared, with a table for each place within the other.

I would like to try and do a boardgame evening for adults again, a bring your own bottle and play a variety of games, mainly in the spring or autumn months when the weather hasn't become too cold.

Music and poetry events, although I need to find out the standing with regards to PRS/music licences for us as I think it lapsed some time ago

### **8. Purchase of Library Shelving:**

The purchase and costings were discussed with Olivia and Joyce outlining the proposals that Adam and the Library Service had put forward. Initially, Adam had quoted for the shelving which is £2278 – see dimensions and costings below - and has sourced these sizes to enable the existing book stock to be accommodated. Delivery costs of £1650 however, raised the cost totalling £3928. This was regarded too large amount to be taken from the Supporters account.

Adam had also quoted for optional flexible display shelving, but it was thought that we could not afford this as a whole bay had to be fitted with flexible shelving, and he said that it wasn't essential. Elspeth, one of the Library managers has offered to personally donate several hundred pounds to help the process, but the group was not comfortable with accepting this kind offer. After further contact with the company several options were provided and it was decided by the Committee that:

The order will be put through by the Library Service who are dealing with FG Library Company, but it will be in the new financial year in April, and we will pay the Council directly. This will also mean getting a new quote. Hopefully, this will still be around £2278 and they do not have to pay VAT. Delivery can be organised to a delivery company in Southampton or Portsmouth for £195 belonging to Woodside Logistics (Dave Groves on 07534319857). A staff member at Cowes Library has used this company to deliver some heavy items to the Island and said the cost was very reasonable. Joyce will obtain a quote, and it was also suggested that we could possibly use an Island removal company such as Pete Holbrook. Without paying VAT and the high delivery cost to the Island, the amount is much more acceptable.

2x Double sided starter bay 1500H x 900W x 586D with 4no flat shelves per side, on castors    £1180 (no VAT) £236 VAT

2x Double sided starter bay 1500H x 750W x 586D with 4no flat shelves per side, on castors    £1098 (no VAT) £219.60 VAT

Total    £2278 (no VAT) £455.60 VAT

Delivery to a depot in Southampton or Portsmouth  
£195 (no VAT) £39 VAT

Delivery to IOW Est. no more than £400    Total £2873

Adam had said after much sourcing, this shelving which meets the Library's needs are the cheapest on the market and from a good supplier, so the group concluded that these shelves are exactly what was needed. Once the building work has been done, we can start building up our resources again but for any other monies requested, we will have to consider carefully and be cautious of funds going out of the account.

Joyce said she is going to have her chutneys & jams back in Cowes Library from Easter week.

### **9. Feedback from Mini Book Workshop 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Lesley, Judy and Joyce helped Adam, and it was a wonderfully creative event, well received, with clever craft from Adam that suited all ages and abilities. Pictures may be seen on the SOCL Facebook page.

#### **10. Future events and activities:**

**Easter Craft event Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2 - 4pm.** Joyce and Lesley volunteered to help.

**Book swap Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2 – 4.30pm.** Anyone welcome to go along.

#### **11. Front garden update**

Still looking tidy. Needs a bit of weeding. We will wait until after the plentiful, weed-suppressing bluebells have flowered. At the end of April, re-look at troughs and arrange with David and Graham for a Wednesday or Thursday.

#### **12. Page-Turner**

Once the building works have been completed, we can have a Celebratory Issue.

#### **13. AOB**

- 2026 is the National Year of Reading. The Library Service and all the libraries have been promoting this and will continue to do so throughout the year with book displays, running events and engaging with schools and other people in the community. Joyce spoke of a recent filmmaking project developed with Christ the King College and Quay Arts, with the aim of connecting young people with libraries as described **‘for libraries to gain recognition as collaborative, innovative spaces capable of meeting the needs of future generations. Connecting Libraries is a project developed in partnership with the IOW Council’s Library Service, with support from Arts Council England and Quay Arts’**. Adam took part in this film where students visited five libraries filming facilities and staff and themselves, asking different questions about the services. The whole film, which showed students talking about our relaxed inviting spaces, was clearly positive and can be viewed on Creative Island’s website: [www.creativeisland.org](http://www.creativeisland.org)  
A short extract can also be seen on the Supporters of Cowes Library Facebook page along with other pictures of school class visits to the library and Natalie at the Priory School talking to junior pupils.  
Judy said that when the Library is fully accessible, the Supporters can possibly do something to contribute towards the National Year of Reading.
- Olivia recommended Natalie’s book display, “Choose a Surprise Book” which consists of wrapped books with clues written on the outside about their contents!

**12. Date and time of next meeting:** Saturday April 18th at 1pm at the Beckford Centre.