

Supporters of Cowes Library
Minutes of the Meeting Saturday 18th April at 1pm 2026
Held at the Beckford Centre

1. Present:

Olivia Battley (Chair), Joyce Blizzard (Vice Chair), Jo Townsend (Treasurer), Wendy Waldrop (Cowes Town Council), Lesley Johnstone, Gaye Whitewood, Jacqui Joyes, Lin Hayward.

2. Apologies:

Adam Gaterell (Library Supervisor), Kim Oliver (Secretary), Graham Nunn, Maureen Briscoe, Catherine Fitton, Bev Thomson.

3. Agree Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting 14th March were approved.

4. Address action points:

Joyce's Jams and Chutney have now been in Cowes Library since the beginning of the Easter holidays. Lesley said that the marmalade is very good!

Front garden: The Bluebells are still flowering so no immediate action is needed.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Jo showed the latest accounts, and the current balance stands at £4480.52

6. Library Supervisor's Report:

WORKS/TOILET - the plans from the engineers are now with Crown Park, so hopefully we will get a date soon, it sounds like it will take about 1 month as long as there are no other major issues during the works. The start date is hopefully going to be in the latter half of May, not definite but what all involved are aiming for. Whether we will be in a situation to stay open or we will have to close again I don't know yet, I will keep everyone updated as I hear more.

STAFF TOILET - during these works no matter the situation we will not have access to our toilet, so I will contact Lin at the Beckford Centre when I have dates to see if us using their facilities as staff during this period will still be okay.

SHELVING - We are now in the new financial year, but I know that being the council it can take a little longer into May to settle the budget and various council changes, so I will speak to Elspeth next week and see when it will be best to get another up to date quote. I know Joyce has said she will speak to the delivery company soon so we can work out the best way to proceed.

TEEN ZONE - I am still trying to source affordable wood to build the small display wall, but currently getting it for the size of the space is difficult, again I will keep everyone updated on progress.

7. Delivery of Library shelving:

Joyce has contacted Woodside Logistics delivery company who have a depot in Portsmouth and in turn can deliver the shelving to the Island. The details and dimensions of the furniture have been supplied and a request for a quote for delivery to Cowes Library has been made. It was pointed out that the order for the shelving has not yet been placed and may not go through until May. Once we know when, we will be able to proceed.

8. Feedback from Children's Easter Craft Saturday 4th April:

Joyce and Lesley led the craft of making finger bunnies and other activities such as Easter cards, bookmarks, decorating eggs made of thick card for children to hang up at home and even bunny hats. It was a really enjoyable drop-in event with about 12 children and their adults.

9. Future events and activities:

Book swap Friday 24th April 2 – 4.30pm. As part of World Book Night celebrations, book lovers are invited to Cowes Library to swap and chat about books and share in the written word. There is no need to book, people can just go along.

Due to the uncertainty of the library works, no other major events can be planned.

10. AOB

Lin announced that she will resigning as a Trustee of Cowes Heritage and Community Group at the end of the year, but in the meantime, everything will still carry on and we will be able to hold meetings in the Beckford Centre.

11. Date and time of next of next meeting: Saturday 6th June 1pm at the Beckford Centre