

Supporters of Cowes Library
Minutes of Meeting Saturday 6th June 2026 at 1pm
held at the Beckford Centre

1. Present:

Joyce Blizzard (Vice Chair), Jo Townsend (Treasurer), Lin Hayward, Bev Thompson, Lesley Johnstone, Judy Ottaway, Maureen Briscoe, Catherine Fitton, Kim Oliver (Secretary)

2. Apologies for absence:

Adam Gaterell (Library Supervisor), Olivia Battley (Chair), Jacqui Joyes, Gaye Whitewood, Graham Nunn, Wendy Waldrop (Cowes Town Council)

3. Agree Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

4. Address Action Points:

None.

5. Treasurer's Report

Since the last balance, we have spent £70 on two payments for our advertisements in the Island Magazine for May/June, and our balance is now £4410.52

6. Library Supervisor's Report: delivered by Joyce:

I wish I had updates of dates and details for the finishing of the works and shelving, but I do not have much new to share sadly. There is some positive news at the end though.

WORKS/TOILET- we are still waiting on Crown Park's pricing of the works, so hopefully we will get a date soon. I will keep everyone updated as I hear more.

STAFF TOILET- the situation is currently the same, hopefully we can still use the Beckford Centre during the finishing of the works.

SHELVING- I have spoken to Elspeth, she had some time off just before my week off so everything has been a little disconnected so I will speak to her again about the 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 wood that is affordable, currently without a traders card it is seemingly quite a difficult task.

LIBRARY POSITIVITY- We have had an influx of new members the last 3 months, and Rhyme time has become busier, we are aiming to do a foam clay biosphere event on Saturday 4th of July, between 2pm and 4pm. It will be the 1 craft activity as a drop in and is very easy, but very creative. If there are 2 volunteers that would be free to join us that day, we would be very grateful.

I have managed to already get responses from schools for the summer reading challenge and I have started to compile a group of charities, CiCs and other community organisations to hopefully do a drop in day once we have a toilet again.

The library is regularly being used by 'Connect to work' 'lionheart school' and EOTAS (home schooled) tutors working with children and adults around 3 to 5 times a week currently, possibly more once lionheart school get going.

I want to thank you all for your patience and help during all this, I hope it will be resolved before the summer holidays so that maybe we can do some form of summer fair or events.

Comments at the meeting:

The theme for the summer reading challenge is “Read to The Beat”.

We could do a summer fair/event jointly with the Beckford Centre (offered by Lin).

Adam’s Monster Making Workshop held on Friday 29th May was a very good event.

Children’s pictures can be seen on the wall in the children’s library, and they can also be viewed on the SOCL Facebook page.

7. Delivery of Library shelving

Joyce has contacted Woodside Logistics delivery company again. They have a depot in Portsmouth and said that they would be able to deliver the shelving to the Island free of charge. The shelving has not been ordered yet owing to the Council’s new financial year and the local elections taking place. Joyce will email Elspeth at Library HQ who has been dealing with the library shelving company, with the address and contact details of Woodside Logistics. When the new quote has been agreed, the order can go ahead, and payment can be made to the IOW Council.

8. Foam Clay Biosphere event Saturday 4th July 2 – 4pm

Jo and Judy volunteered to help.

9. Jams and Chutneys in Library

A new batch has been for sale in the library since Tuesday 26th May. All the monies raised will go into SOCL funds, helping towards the purchase of the shelving.

10. Front garden update

The date for weeding was set for 27th May in the afternoon. Thanks to all who offered help during the heatwave, but with the weather as it was, it was thought we should postpone. However, Graham said he would go down at 6am to make a start. Lin was also there even earlier, plus coming back again to bag up the weeds. They have done a wonderful job of clearing the area and the troughs look lovely. On behalf of us all - a big thank you to both.

11. Page-Turner

There seems no point producing the next Page-turner until we have some good news about the library premises to share, at which point we can produce a celebratory edition. Penny may like to pick up the most recent Page-Turner from the library and replace the one in Gurnard Parish Council’s community noticeboard in Worsley Road which has not been updated.

Action: Penny

12. AOB

Lin advised that the future continuation of CHCG at the Beckford Centre is looking more positive. Following the two social media posts, there are now 4-6 more volunteers and 2-3 new trustees, one of whom will also take on the role of Treasurer. The change will enable the Beckford Centre to open two mornings per week instead of two per month. Lin will stay on as chair until the end of June, and once the full board of trustees is complete, they will take a decision as to her role.

13. Date and time of next meeting: Friday 10th July at 1pm at the Beckford Centre.