

Supporters of Cowes Library
Minutes of Meeting Saturday 22nd August 2026 at 1pm
held at the Beckford Centre

1. Present:

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

2. Apologies for absence:

Adam Gaterell (Library Supervisor), Bev Thompson, Judy Ottaway, Maureen Briscoe, Catherine Fitton

3. Agree Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

4. Address Action Points:

- Gurnard Parish Council noticeboard is still displaying an old Page Turner. Joyce will email the Parish Clerk and ask him to remove it, as it is out of date, and saying that she had passed the most recent one to Penny. However, due to ongoing building work in Cowes Library, the last one produced was Autumn/Winter 2025 and would now longer be relevant.

5. Treasurer's Report

Adam had previously requested to purchase 3 £10 book vouchers for winners of the Summer Reading Challenge competition. Jo thought they had not been purchased yet. There are 3 blank cheques available to use. Since the last balance, our outgoings have been £35 to Cowes Magazine, and £0.40 bank charges. Our current balance is £4529.72. As we are unable to run any events, our main source of income has been sales of Joyce's jams and chutneys.

6. Library Supervisor's Report

There have been no updates on the building works other than we are waiting on Crown Park Contractors, so I don't think a Summer Fair can happen properly or even a Christmas one. Maybe look at planning for Christmas, but it depends if I get any news. Sorry for having no further information.

Regarding the shelving in the teenage section, Joyce knows a local carpenter friend Jim Bustin, who is able to do the work that Adam wants. He came to have a look and measure up on Monday. Joyce has asked him if he can provide a quote for the work and he will then arrange a time with Adam to do it. Adam also wants the library counter either replaced or raised by 2 inches. There is someone in Council Stores who can possibly sort out a replacement desk, but it may not be the right type. I suggested he ask the carpenter who said he could do that too. Adam said if the desk could just be raised, he would prefer this to be done if Jim is able and is within a price the Supporters are happy to cover. Again, Joyce has requested a quote for the Supporters to approve before any work is carried out.

We had a very fun activity with the silly sea creatures drawing session for all ages, with 13 children, 11 adults and 6 teenagers all taking part in drawing fun creatures. There were some wonderful creatures created too. The first of Natalie's Storytimes sadly was quite quiet due to it clashing with Cowes week and other events, but we have another coming up this Tuesday 25th from 2.30 - 3pm if anyone else could share the poster on Facebook from the Supporters page we would be very grateful.

7. Delivery of Library shelving

The shelving was ordered around the 20th July after Joyce replied to Elspeth at Library HQ, taking 5 or 6 weeks between ordering and delivery to Woodside Logistics. Library management will pass on any information they get about delivery times.

Joyce then contacted Woodside and suggested that due to the concerns of a third party delivery company being used, that both the shelving company and themselves, take photographic evidence on delivery and receipt, which they are happy to do so.

8. Previous events

Already covered in (6) above.

9. Future events

- Musical Storytime Tuesday 25th August - see above.
- World Knot Tying Day with Des Pawson Fri 18th Sept 3 - 4.30pm ages 7+.
Author of Knot Craft & Rope Mats. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about knots and have a go at making various knot-based items.
- Possible late summer fair. The meeting discussed a Fair and it was decided to concentrate on the Christmas Fair, held jointly with the Beckford Centre, splitting the proceeds 50/50.
Saturday 21st November was agreed as the date for our Christmas Fair and this date to be put Adam and the Council, for them to consider keeping this time free if the building work has not made any progress, as it is a popular fund-raising event for SOCL that we want to continue. Joyce will ask Adam if we would be allowed to have table holders. Joyce and Olivia to double-check that this date doesn't coincide with Northwood House's Christmas Fair.

Action: Joyce, Olivia

10. Front garden update

We will leave as it is for now, please continue to pull a few weeds if you are passing.

Action: All

11. AOB

- Dorothy Moir no longer attends meetings but appreciates being kept in touch with the SOCL via the Minutes. She asked whether the SOCL would like a virtually new flip chart stand and ring binder machine that she no longer requires. It was felt that these are things that we would never use, but Joyce will ask Adam if he knows anyone who would like them.

Action: Joyce

- Bev sent the following message via Kim: "I popped into Medina Bookshop this afternoon and chose this book about the fabulous collection of items held at Carisbrooke Castle Museum. It was reduced to the bargain price of £10 (really good for a hard back book originally priced at £22.50) and I used my £10 book token that I was given for last year's reading challenge - with the tokens, of course, donated by SOCL. So, not a travel book after all, but a beautifully illustrated book with full explanations about each item in the collection, which I shall enjoy reading very much. A huge thank you from me to SOCL, I was delighted to win the book token."
The book is "100 Treasures and Curiosities from the Collection of Carisbrooke Castle Museum".
- Lin drew our attention to a competition, "Town Trail: Where Is It?" Cost is £3 to enter and the prize is a £50 voucher for Correo Lounge. Last entries to be returned before 31st August.

11. Date and time of next meeting: Friday 2nd October at 1pm at the Beckford Centre.