

# Friends of Lytham Institute and Library

## 11 June Meeting

### Minutes

There were 29 people in attendance.

Bev Love chaired the meeting.

Because many people in attendance had not read the Newsletter sent to the email membership on 17 May, Bev summarized the developments which had transpired at the 9 April and 9 May meetings.

Subsequently, Bev summarized the activities that the provisional Steering Committee had pursued since:

- 16 May: Letter sent to David Gill, Chair of the Town Trust Board, detailing reasons why the Friends question the Lancashire County Council decision to reopen the Lytham Library in the Assembly Rooms and requesting that the TT reconsider its bid and join the Friends in lobbying for the return of the library to the Institute. Reply from David received on 7 June reaffirming the determination of the TT to give a place for the library in the ARs;
- 17 May: Newsletter sent to email membership;
- 17 May: email sent to Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive Officer of LCC, expressing the concerns of the Friends regarding irregularities in the process that led to the decision of LCC to award the library contract to the TT at the ARs, as well as the unsuitability of the ARs to house the library, in particular due to inadequate disabled access. Reply received on 22 May indicated Angie would look into concerns. No further reply since then. It was the consensus of the meeting that Angie should be contacted again with a firm date requested for a reply. [A second letter to Angie was sent on 12 June requesting a reply by 19 June. Reply received on 14 June indicating that a reply to the concerns raised would be sent early in the week of the 16th of June.];
- 21 May: Press release sent to the Lytham St Annes Express, the Blackpool Gazette, and Tony Durkin, announcing the renewed campaign by the Friends to see a return of the library to the Institute. Unfortunately, no acknowledgement was received;
- 4 June: proposed Friends Constitution sent to email membership for discussion at 11 June meeting.

Bev then asked the Fylde Borough councillors present to discuss a letter sent by the councillors to Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive Officer of FBC, requesting clarification from him regarding the response of FBC to the legal opinion secured by the Civic Society. Roger Lloyd indicated that the three independent Lytham councilors had sent the letter, with the Conservative councilors indicating that they would send their own letter, which as far as Roger knows had not transpired.

Bev went on to explain that the proposed action plan moving forward was to continue to press LCC regarding our concerns over the selection of the ARs as the location for the library, and to continue to lobby FBC to assume its responsibilities as charity trustee of the Institute.

A discussion ensued regarding the implementation of the action plan. One of the attendees read out an email which indicated that work at the ARs was to begin on 11 June to be completed on 12 July. A new attendee asked if it were not better to accept the decision to put the library in the ARs and to focus our campaign on subsequent measures to protect the Institute. After a wide open conversation there was once again overwhelming support to continue with the campaign to return the library to the Institute. There were also suggestions offered about specific follow up:

- Contact the Lytham councillors to determine what further actions they will take;
- Contact LCC again to request a reply to our concerns by a strict deadline [see above];
- Arrange to present a public question at the 15 July FBC meeting.

After the discussion Bev asked for a show of hands on the proposed Constitution. By an overwhelming show of hands the Constitution was approved.

Bev then asked for a show of hands on the proposed slate for the Steering Committee. By an overwhelming show of hands the Steering Committee composition was ratified: Bev Love, Chair; Julie McGreevy, Secretary; Jorge Rogachevsky, Outreach Coordinator.

To conclude Bev asked that anyone who could volunteer to perform tasks put their name on the sign up sheet; 11 people volunteered.

The meeting was then brought to a close.