

Friends of Finmere School Association AGM – Held virtually October 15th 2020 via Zoom.

Attendees

Lynne Cooley (LC) Jacky Horwood (JH) Emma Shirvall (ES) Alicia French (AF) Sarah Torrance (ST) Sarah Watkins (SW) Claire Eason-Basset (CEB) Sharon Moore (SM) Jonny Bannister (JB) Jay Bannister (JaB) Helen Willis (HW) Oliva Holdcroft (OH) Jana Schreuders (JS) Meana Poole (MP) Debbie Clack (DC) Alison Evans (AE) Caroline Tucker (CT)

Apologies

Bernadette Ballantyne

AF opened meeting and thanked all of those in attendance for their support given the need to hold the AGM virtually. Handed over to LC to deliver Chair's report.

LC thank those in attendance and expressed appreciation for everyone taking time to listen in to what we've achieved as FOFSA to support our school during the last academic year.

Explained that this year for obvious reasons we have been restricted with our fundraising events, however, we did manage to run the following successful events for Fireworks night, Christmas Fayre, Valentine Disco, Race night and Tuck shop.

LC went on to confirm that FOFSA exists to raise money to provide additional resources to the children and users of the school. Also, to run events that give great experiences to the children, family, parents & friends of the school.

LC went to outline the current committee structure

- Chair – Lynne Cooley
- Vice Chair – Sarah Watkins
- Treasurer – Jacky Horwood
- Vice Treasurer– Jana Schreuders
- Secretary – Emma Shirvall
- Vice Secretary – Alicia French

LC thanked Sarah and Jana for their continued support in the roles of Vice Chair and Vice Treasurer they have now made the decision to stand down.

LC outlined the vacant positions as below

Vice Chair - helps to ensure that the Committee and all of our events continue to run smoothly. A support in case the Chair unable to attend and to spread the load during a normal busy year of events.

Vice Treasurer - responsible for supporting the treasurer with handling the money raised at events, making approved payments and making arrangements for counting of money at events, second signatory for banking.

LC handed over to JH for the Treasurer's Report – the detail of which is outlined below

- **Opening Balance £2,228.91 1st September 2019**

Income

- Fireworks £1,721.31
- Tuck shop £122.00
- New Parents cake £19.00
- Xmas Fayre £1,536.46
- Reduction of Petty Cash £300.00
- Opes donation £3,200.00
- Buckingham Round Table Donation £500.00
- Valentines Disco £200.00
- Race Night £996.54
- Easy Fundraising £42.17
- Muffins with Mum £28.00

Total income £8,665.48

Expenditure

- Netball equipment £179.99
- White board £1,790.00
- Panto £255.00
- Finmere School donation- IT equipment £3,053.00
- Insurance £68.00
- Leaver Jersey £51.60
- **Total Expenditure £5,397.59**
- Petty cash Balance £100.00 (£39.06 to be withdrawn from bank)
- **£5,596.80 Balance in Bank**

Election of officers

LC, JH, ES and AF advised that willing to continue in their present roles. LC emphasised that we are a small committee and by having vice position we are able to offer each other support. Flexibility in the extent of the involvement and recognition of family/work commitments. LC and AF raised that have now been on the committee for three years and would be encouraging to see new members on the committee with new ideas. All current members of the committee re-elected unanimously.

LC asked if any nominations for other positions, ST advised that she was happy to stand for position of Vice Treasurer. ST elected unanimously.

LC asked if any nominees for position of vice chair, emphasised that we had operated without one previously. CEB nominated herself and was elected unanimously. LC thanked CEB for joining

committee and CEB said she hoped her experience in events would be an asset to the committee going forward.

AF thanked attendees for their support and that excellent news to be going forward with a full committee.

AF asked CT to then introduce her 'wish list' which is detailed below.

CT thanked the committee and the attendees of the AGM for their support and stressed that this is particularly appreciated in the present difficult circumstances.

CT advised that in discussion with the committee members prior to the meeting that there had been a decision to support Further improvement to Willow outdoor area via the installation of playground markings to enhance upper level of Willow play area.

CT advised that Mrs Fiander as retiring governor had donated £400 to the school to be used as the school would like. This will cover half the cost of the work and we were hoping FOFSA would fund the rest.

CT advised that the same company who installed main playground markings a couple of years ago and they have availability to complete this work this week in the coming days. A quick decision had to be made, so it was agreed that the work would go ahead.

CT also made a request for funds for the Blue-Bot® Bluetooth Programmable Robot Class Pack, details to be shared with the committee post AGM. CT provided costings for these of £409.70 ex VAT.

CT confirmed that as a visit Chipping Norton theatre for the pantomime will not be possible, the school are exploring options of visiting theatre companies who could either deliver Christmas theatre workshops to 'bubbles' or virtually. The possible cost of £300 approx. was discussed. AF raised that ES had done some research into potential pantomime streaming options and ES advised would be happy to share these.

CT confirmed that the school would still be supportive of finding a way for Santa to still visit this year with his sack of books for the children and are happy to explore a virtual or outdoor socially distanced visit. The cost of Santa books would still be request from FOFSA.

HW raised that this stage that may be possible to arrange the use a pony/cart to facilitate a socially distance visit to the playground for Santa. AF advised that there would be opportunity to discuss fundraising and Christmas specifically shortly.

AF advised that prior to the meeting there had been requests from parents to discuss further Music/Theatre/visiting expert/off-site experience to support curriculum. CT confirmed that when restrictions allow there would be interest in the allocation of funds for this purpose. SW raised the collection of funds at the end of nativity performances and summer performance in 2019 to be allocated towards a workshop – and specifically mentioned the African drumming workshop that was run previously. CT confirmed that there would be interest in doing something like this again when appropriate

Discussion closed on basis that committee would discuss fundraising requests.

AF introduced that we would now fundraising in the year ahead and that we needed to now consider a shift to online fundraising.

JH confirmed the Relaunch of Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile that were now both operating and both should be shared with the FOFSA Facebook page to encourage use,

AF confirmed that the PayPal account for FOFSA - in progress and that a text to donate number set up and may be utilised for future events if suitable.

LC raised the possibility of a School lottery scheme and SW advised that she had researched this and was easy to set up. SW advised that she would still be happy to do this or would share details.

JH raised the possibility of grants from Tesco/Waitrose. AF confirmed this would be possible but need to have a project and quotes. SW noted that the Waitrose scheme is a considerable amount of work for a relatively small sum of money. AF advised that may be possible to apply to various Tesco Stores.

CEB advised that there is considerable funding available via MK area sporting grants and she has some experience of this via MK Lightening involvement.

AF moved discussion to upcoming events and emphasised that fundraising not anticipated on the previous scale, encouraging sense of community and providing enjoyable events for children/families. The Pumpkin Trail scheduled for 26 October – 1 November already well underway.

LC raised Christmas Ideas already discussed were virtual Santa and this could be achieved via a video message and a goody bag with small gift and personalised letter being included. HW happy to help with visit to school for Santa.

LC stated that looking to arrange Christmas Raffle focussing on hampers. Agreed that a further meeting discussing specific Christmas plans would be arranged.

CEB raised that we should be thinking about events returning potentially as early as the Spring 2021 and that we should be thinking about what could be possible next year.

AF raised that prior the AGM the specific spending areas that had been of interest to parents had been a Christmas Pantomime – confirmed again at the various streaming options had been researched by ES.

AF repeated the point raised earlier by SW that other parents had mentioned the possibility of workshops – money previously collected at the end of nativity performance. Could funds be allocated for when these can go ahead in school?

AF explained that the primary interest raised by parents had been in supporting the school with IT subscription i.e. Google Classroom, Twinkl. Subscriptions that could be shared with parents to support home/school learning. JaB suggested White Rose Maths specifically and JH raised the Ten Town maths program for the younger children.

JS raised the suggestion along with JS for funds to be allocated towards the improvement of the former tepee area. Discussion that other shelter could be built, specifically willow branch structures that have been created at other schools. SW and JS said they would locate some examples.

LC and CT thanked those for their attendance and support and meeting was closed.