**Friends of Finmere School Association AGM: Wednesday 18 September 2019**

Attendees: Emma Shirvall (ES) Ilze Van Schalkwyk (IVS) Helen Willis (HW) Jacky Horwood (JH) Amanda Houston (AH) Katie Woolacott (KW) Caroline Tucker (CT) Alicia French (AF) Claire Back (CB) Rosemary Fiander (RF) Jonny Bannister (JB) Rebecca Ayres (RA) Lynne Cooley (LC) Jana Schreuders (JS) Olivia Holdcroft (OH) Katie Underdown (KU)

Apologies: Sarah Torrance, Sharon Moore, Laura Walker, Meana Poole

LC opened meeting and thanked attendees for their support and for attending. Chairs report detailed that previous year had been successful and outlined use of FOFSA funds

* Books for Willow and Redwood Class
* Freezer
* Contribution towards whole school visit to the pantomime
* Christmas gifts for the children
* New Playground equipment

JH delivered Treasurers report. Current available funds to spend stands at £1795.87. Takings for the year was £22,008.61. Outgoing £22,008.61. This was a year of much higher incoming funds and higher spending.

The available figure to spend takes into consideration the payment of £973 for the upcoming fireworks event.

It was agreed that as in previous years that FOFSA would continue to fund the pantomime visit and Christmas gifts.

CT – Thanked FOFSA for ongoing support and on behalf of all the staff expressed how needed and appreciated funds from FOFSA were, especially for a small school in the previous financial year. LC asked if as in previous years if CT had any specific requests for the use of funds. CT appreciated that FOFSA agreed to provide funds for pantomime and Christmas books and also suggested as a fundraising target that the staff were agreed that the internet provision and IT hardware at the school required investment.

JH queried projected costs and CT advised that when quotes were obtained some years previously that the figure of £2-3k for the internet and £2-3k for the hardware were the figures discussed. CT advised that she will reinvestigate these costs as likely to have altered.

KW raised the possibility of renting equipment. CT advised that again further advice would be needed on this. JH raised that there may be IT skills within the wider school community, CT raised that there are significant restrictions on which contractors can access and work on school IT system.

RA will discuss potential funds from Mixbury trust which may be able to be allocated for IT provision. Asked if there was a specific item that was needed. CT confirmed that most required item was interactive whiteboard for Willow Class.

AF – Happy to submit a further Groundforce Tesco grant application

JH – Happy to approach Waitrose under their scheme

SW – Raised that quarry had advised they may be able to offer further financial donations in the new year and SW to approach after January.

LC – Raised that further advice on grants available via the Parentkind website and considering this further.

KW – raised in respect of costs that consideration should be made that the school has doubled in size and cost of pantomime tickets and Christmas books will have increased in proportion and this needs to be considered. It was agreed that books would be purchased via Amazon again rather than Coles. It was discussed that parents could be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards pantomime cost and FOFSA would continue to cover coach travel. This was agreed as reasonable.

CT – will check previous letters issued regarding swimming coach. KW advised voluntary donation requested in one term. It was not clear if this covered the cost of the coach for the two terms of swimming. CT will look into this further. Agreed that this was the approach that should be taken this year.

AH raised in respect of future years that the school could consider a visiting theatre company rather than a visit to the theatre to reduce costs. CT noted that this was an option but at present felt that the whole school outing and providing an opportunity for all children to visit the theatre was important.

LC discussed order of events for the coming year. Fireworks night: 26 October. Christmas Fair 7 December. Race night 29 February. Spring Fair 16 May.

LC asked if KW was happy to take lead on muffins for mum event as in previous years. KW happy to do this. Confirmed in the diary as 20 March 2020.

LC lead discussion on these upcoming events and other possible fundraising events to consider.

* Christmas Fair – space limitations discussed; CT agreed with warning that a further classroom could be opened up.
* KW raised idea of mobile ice rink for Christmas fair. AF will investigate this further.
* KW also raised Stowe Arts and open air cinema. This could be looked into further regarding costs as these companies handle licensing concerns which were raised last year.
* JH raised suggestion of pre booking or family ticket options for Fireworks night. Meal deal bundle idea discussed. KW mentioned that Eventbrite booking system could be used.
* LC advised that May fete would have VE Day celebration theme.

OH raised suggestion of a school or partial school disco. CT raised concerns regarding location, staffing and inclusion issues. With the growth of the school similar concerns raised re. movie night and current position is that these are not events that could be supported in school.

AH suggested a family games night, Bingo or a beetle drive. Idea was met with approval. Would be held in early evening and encourage whole families to attend, catered via bring and share or chip van and could be held at school. Date to be agreed for the summer term.

**Election of officers**

LC happy to remain as Chair of FOFSA – vote in favour unanimous

SW happy to remain as Vice Chair of FOFSA - vote in favour unanimous

JH happy to remain as treasurer of FOFSA - vote in favour unanimous

JS - happy to remain as vice treasurer of FOFSA - vote in favour unanimous

ES – to stand as secretary - vote in favour unanimous

AF – happy to remain as vice secretary – vote in favour unanimous

Meeting closed.