

**Friends of Bethersden School
Parent Teacher Association
Registered Charity No. 1039219**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**9th October 2019
School Hall at 9:30am**

MINUTES

- 1] Approval of minutes from December 2018 AGM

Confirmed that approved

- 2] Report for year-ended 31 August 2019;
i) Financial Update – approval of accounts

The financial information was presented to the meeting and accepted

Everyone was also reminded to place any amazon order through the “Amazon Smile” website, as it will trigger a donation by Amazon to the school with no downside to you the customer.

- ii) Election of Officers and Trustees of the Committee

The existing trustees were confirmed as re-elected by the meeting.

Coleen Hemmings, Heidi Baker and Simon Whitehouse stood un-opposed for the positions of chair, secretary and Treasurer and were appointed by show of hands.

(after the meeting Gemma agreed to continue as a committee member in the role as vice-chair)

- 3] Volunteers to help out at events

The chair noted that in order to hold events the on-going support of parents, staff and the wider community was so valuable.

At the Christmas Spectacular it was noted that teachers and year 6 children would be manning the stalls (who would receive small gifts in recognition), but more volunteers were still welcomed to help with setting up and clearing away. Mr Gawthorpe confirmed he would be sending out a sign-up sheet via parentmail.

4] Spending / Fund Raising Proposals

Mr Gawthorpe confirmed the importance of the funds raised by FOBS to the school, equivalent to almost £70 per child, which made a huge difference to the opportunities available to the children.

He also noted that there were opportunities to secure funding from external parties - for example, banks were required to support local good causes (so, if anyone knows someone who works in a bank...?!)

It was also suggested that there were fund raising ideas to collect specific plastic packaging (Morgan Jones agreed to investigate) and through the Co-Op Local Cause scheme (Simon Whitehouse to review - scheme reopening to new local causes in Spring 2020)

One member invited sponsorship proposals pre 31 October 2019 and/or at start of 2020, and offered the possibility of providing a sponsored mini-bus to the school - FOBS Chair and Mr Gawthorpe respectively to follow up

It was also suggested that a used school uniform sale could take place where undamaged unwanted school uniforms could be sold for a small fee to parents.

Sensory Room

Included in the presentation were proposals for sensory room (basic package would cost £5-£7k to set-up, including fibre optic curtains, digital projections and a vibrating chair, but in future could bolt on further features - there were no ongoing subscription costs). Such rooms are traditionally perceived as tools for children with behavioral or learning difficulties, but a review of the school indicated that 40% of children would benefit from such an environment.

However, all children would be able to enjoy the multimedia aspect of the room for learning opportunities (such as simulating a world war II bomb shelter, or an underwater environment, etc which could be purchased or created in-house)

In addition there was scope to let the room out to the wider community, and provide an opportunity for pre-reception children to enjoy the school and encourage them to enroll in future (though it was noted that this would reduce the availability of the room for un=planned use by individual pupils)

Mr Gawthorpe agreed to put together a more detailed proposal for all members to consider and consider approving in future.

New Android Tablets

Increasingly tablets and laptops are being used to assist teaching in the school. Tablets have the advantage of being cheaper than laptops, but the existing tablets are now over 7 years old so increasingly will not support modern apps.

Therefore the school is asking FOBS to assist in the purchase of 30 tablets (at approximately £100 each) to enable this resource to continue to be available. Other sources of funding were also being reviewed.

Forest School

Working with Clarus homes to grant a 25 year lease to the school (at £1 a year cost!) for land adjacent to the school field to utilise as a forest school area. This is not yet certain, with discussions between the Parish Council, Clarus and the school on-going.

Clarus have already provided a £5k grant to the school, and will provide a yurt, bridge and ground works on the land.

There are opportunities to obtain grants for other improvements, equipment, etc but it is hoped that FOBS will be able to also provide funds in future.

There are opportunities to lease for third party use as well as enabling our own children to enjoy.

Coaches for Annual School Trip

Whilst the details of the trip are still being confirmed, FOBS normally provides transport. This makes such a trip financially viable for the school and ensures that all families are able to afford to participate.

Teacher Wishlist

It is widely acknowledged that teachers often spend their own money on resources for their class activities.

This idea is that a small pot of money (say £150) is available for the teacher and pupils to enjoy a more engaging learning experience. They will determine how it is spent - it could be a number of smaller activities, they could hire an external group for a day, or fund a school pet, etc

The money could be held by FOBS and then the children would put forward a "business case" to get the money released, or the teacher and class could use their own discretion (receipts to be provided!)

Other ideas from members were;

Leavers

At the moment the plan is for the school to put on a leaving event at the Sty and Pig function room and provide a leavers book

It was suggested that FOBS may fund a hoodie top, plus a USB stick of photos could be provided (possibly paid for by sponsorship?)

Reception Playground

Mr Gawthorpe confirmed that a kind parent had volunteered to work on the area, which would therefore be refurbished over the following months

Other work around school

It was suggested that a "Saturday work party" could be arranged to help on school maintenance tasks (eg painting), or possibly a "wishing washing line" to which were pegged jobs for people to take down and carry out

5] Events for the Year

Plans were confirmed for;

1st November	- Fireworks (run by governors)
13th December	- Christmas Cracker
7th May	- VE Celebrations
27th June	- Summer Spectacular - possibly an evening event this year

It was noted the village VE celebrations were on Friday 8th May and the hope was expressed that as many parents and children would be able to attend.

It was also noted that there would be a book at bedtime and a book reading day (including a mobile library and a stagecoach bus or possibly a lorry trailer - somewhere different for children to enjoy reading!)

The idea of an outdoor cinema was also floated, as was a "battle of the classes" quiz for parents

Finally, it was agreed that the cake raffle would continue on the last Wednesday of each term, and that volunteers to make the cakes would be warmly welcomed

6] Any other business

As in-coming Chair Coleen thanked all those attending for their support and voiced everyone's hopes that FOBS can continue to become more successful with increased engagement of parents and members of the community to the benefit of the school and its' pupils

No further matters were raised and therefore the meeting was closed

Signed

Chair