



**FRIENDS OF BINFIELD SCHOOL**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1079512**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY 11TH JULY 2019**

**PRESENT**

Kerry Mistry  
Kirsty Sizeland  
Julie Nixon  
Jackie Rawes  
Claire Turner

Katy Hughes  
Purveen Hira  
Hayley Hammond  
Stacey Omokaro

Polly Phillips  
Claire Thomas  
Jo Maher  
Martin Alway

**APOLOGIES**

Emma Pike  
Debs Conneely  
Rachel Norris

Darren Williams  
Suzie Featherstone-Wright  
Kelly Howes

Kate Hayes  
Andy Moorcroft  
Tom Olliver

**MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes were reviewed and accepted as a true representation of proceedings.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

First of all, apologies from Suzie. It would usually be her delivering this message. Unfortunately, her phased return to school means she cannot be here tonight. However, we have written this speech together...

We want to say a huge thank-you to the committee and to Stacey for chairing FOBS over this year and to all FOBS members who have contributed at the many events held throughout the year. The effort and hard work is really appreciated by the whole school community and this is giving the children extra resources and experiences that they wouldn't otherwise have. The new reading books have really made a difference across the school, but especially in the infants, where all the staff have commented on the great impact they have had. The technology is also now well embedded and we are looking forward to the next stage of the plan. We now have a device per two children and Reception will also be kitted out with 2 big tablet tables. Whilst waiting for the tables to arrive this year, the company allowed us to borrow the table for a few months. This has transformed the provision of technology in Reception and it has been amazing to see children as young as 4 creating their own green screen videos. You may have seen the input Reception made to their 'Welcome to Binfield' video – it's on Twitter if you haven't! We know that technology will continue to grow across the school. The enrichment weeks have also been positively received by the children too– thank-you.

I'm sure you've seen in the press and from Kim's recent letter to parents, just how desperate the financial situation is for schools. Many promises have been made by the government but as yet, money is not reaching LAs or schools. We are really stripped right to the bone in terms of budget and everything is being done on a shoe string, which is unsustainable. We are certainly not alone in this situation and schools across the country are suffering. Schools are also being left to pick up the pieces/plug the gaps where other services have also suffered from austerity measures, such as, social services, early help for parents, national health services and police. There is inadequate funding to support SEND pupils in the ways that teachers would wish to. Nationally, staff morale is at an all-time low and the average length of stay in the profession is now less than 5 years!

We are fortunate to have a great staff team here at Binfield where morale is very good and where staff are willing to learn and develop and persist through these challenging times. Our retention rate is well-above the national average. Teaching staff and leaders also voluntarily give an additional 20 hours or more on average each week (unpaid) because they are committed to doing the very best for the children and they really care. We would really notice a difference if they didn't!

Alongside this good will, we continue to be very proactive as a school and have chosen to continue to develop the business side of the school to bring in additional income to prop up the school's diminishing budget – it was a significant sum last year again which basically meant we could keep support staff in every year group. It sadly isn't sufficient. We are sharing our model with other local schools who are equally struggling to make 'ends meet'.

FOBS is an organisation that continues to bring the school community together and it is lovely to see the range of members that volunteer and work so hard. The summer fete was an excellent example of this and the joint venture of Dragon's Den was particularly special for the children and staff. We were also lucky to have such excellent weather! Christmas is always a special time at Binfield too and it is always kick-started with the Christmas Bazaar, which is always made magical for the children. And it's the little things you do – remembering a juice drink on sports day, the gifts for year 6, the teacher floats, helping at the new Reception parents meeting –the list could go on!

Looking ahead, there are many potential projects that will enhance the provision and learning for the children. For example, we would welcome any contribution towards purchasing additional curriculum equipment as we have very restricted budgets this year and have had to buy the basic essentials. Mr Sutton has a long list of Maths equipment which we can't afford to buy in one go! We have also begun to explore some bigger projects, such as an enhanced nurture space. However, we cannot progress these plans further without some initial investment and we don't have this available to us at the moment. We also welcome your ideas for future projects.

So as we draw together at the end of a school year, it is worth reflecting on the joint efforts of everyone at Binfield who are contributing to the education and well-being of the children.

Again, a big thank you to all of the FOBS team, as without you, we wouldn't be the school community that we are. You always go the extra mile and are definitely a huge asset to the school! You may think that the things you do are 'normal' things.....it has become *normal* to Binfield, but we can honestly say that the things that FOBS put on for our school are not just 'normal' things that happen in all schools and the children at our school benefit tremendously from all that you do.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

FOBS continues to be a significant fundraiser for the school and without the support of so many the children would miss out on not only the bigger projects we partake in but also those little extras that we are able to provide which enhance their learning.

I would like to say thank you to the amazing team of people without whom FOBS would struggle to continue and thrive. I truly am so grateful to you all for your time, support and passion for FOBS. In addition to the members of FOBS I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the school office, the Governors and Mr G for all the hard work they have put in over this past year and also the teachers who have given extra of their time to support FOBS ensuring the children can further benefit from the donations that FOBS has made..

Finally I must thank all parents and carers of the children – your continued support of FOBS and the events throughout the year is paramount and appreciated.

This year as a committee we have managed to raise in the region of £14,000 which is amazing.

So what have we spent money on and what are the future goals for FOBS?

We have:

- Upgraded the microphone and speakers in an effort to enhance school productions and assemblies
- Successfully replenished the books throughout KS2 providing books with more complex vocabulary and which cover more modern issues and topics for the children
- Purchased new scheme books for KS1 that link to the Read Write Inc programme used by the school
- Replaced the play bark surrounding the children's climbing frame ensuring it meets health& safety regulations
- Purchased safety helmets for year R children to wear whilst using the scooters, ride ons etc
- Replaced the basketball hoop bases
- Provided adequate storage for all the second hand uniform items

In addition we have; as with every year, supported the school with teachers floats, enrichment week funds for the Spring and Autumn terms, Sports week funds, Christmas celebrations and year six leavers gifts.

All of this was managed because of the long list of events that have taken place over this school year. These include the quiz night, Christmas bazaar, Summer Fete, Binfield 10k, two junior and two infant discos, a London Christmas shopping trip, several pre-loved uniform sales, refreshments at the sports days, and Christmas cards and tote bags designed by the children which were really popular.

So what are aiming for as we go into the new academic year?

Mrs Featherstone Wright and Mrs Mistry have shared their desire to explore designing and developing an enhanced nurture space for all children to have access to – FOBS are very keen to assist with this project

Fobs are also very keen as always to assist with the mentioned additional curriculum equipment required throughout the school to aid childrens learning.

We have taken on board feedback from the juniors discos regarding children purchasing fizzy drinks and will be continuing to implement clearer guidelines on this next year for parents. In addition to this we provided free fruit and water to all children attending the discos and will continue to do so - this means FOBS work alongside the schools healthy eating policy which we feel is encouraging to the children.

FOBS are very passionate about being as eco friendly as possible with our events and the equipment we use – we've had great feedback about parents being able to bring re-usable cups for hot drinks to evets such as sports days and will continue persevering with fresh ideas to ensure we are environmentally friendly with what we purchase and provide.

I would like to finish by thanking you for attending this evenings AGM and to invite you to come to further FOBS meetings which take place every other month – as a parent of the school you are automatically a member of FOBS so are very welcome – your opinions and ideas help FOBS to continue being relevant and successful. So please do come or continue to be an active member.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

<i>Treasurer's Report</i>		FOBS Meeting		11 July 2019	
Bank balance at		10-Jul	23,776	Main	
				PayPal	
Petty cash on hand		10-Jul	<u>2,000</u>		
	<b>Available funds</b>		<b><u>£25,776</u></b>		
Commitments	Xmas Week		Allowed	Spent	
				£832	
	Teachers Floats		£989	£611	£100 per class
	Bank charges		£20	£100	
	Sports Week Summer Term		£950		
	Enrichment Week Spring Term				
	Enrichment Week Autumn Term				
	Contribution to Year 6 leavers		£300		
	Hall microphones			£286	
	Purchase of books for school			£3,154	
	<b>Committed to Date</b>		<b><u>£2,259</u></b>		
	Available		£23,517		

## **ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Chair person** - Stacey Omokaro (voted by Claire Turner / seconded by Jo Maher)

**Vice Chair person** - Jackie Rawes (voted by Polly Phillips / seconded by Hayley Hammond)

**Treasurer** - Claire Turner (voted by Jackie Rawes / seconded by Purveen Hira)

**Vice Treasurer** - It was decided that this role was no longer necessary and that everyone on the committee would help out post events if required

**Secretary** - Hayley Hammond (voted by Claire Turner / seconded by Kirsty Sizeland)

**Vice Secretary** - Jo Maher (voted by Hayley Hammond / seconded by Polly Phillips)

**Website Officer** - Kate Hayes (voted by Claire Thomas / seconded by Julie Nixon )

Julie to update the new committee members names with the Charities Commission.

## **General members**

All meeting attendees voted and agreed to become general members (with the exception of Claire Thomas.) It was agreed general members are entitled to a vote if they have been active members of FOBS. The Constitution defines what constitutes an 'active' member. It also defines the committee's ability to remove a general member in the future.

It was also noted that Andy Moorcroft, Rachel Norris, Kelly Howes and Tom Olliver no longer wish to be part of the committee moving forward but will however continue to volunteer at FOBS events. Stacey passed on her thanks for all of their contributions.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Summer fete** - Stacey passed on her thanks to everyone involved with the Summer fete which was another hugely successful event, raising approx £4,000. Well done all!

**Additional space** - It was raised that FOBS are still in need of more storage space. We will need to revisit the possibility of us having space for a further shed with the School. The existing shed also needs to be emptied in order for the roof to be repaired.

**Family event** - Stacey raised the idea of having another family event in the Autumn term. A Barn dance was suggested, potentially replacing the first disco of the School year. Stacey to revisit this in September.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Sub committees** - Kirsty raised that it would be a great idea if we could encourage more people to get involved in sub committees next year (maybe holding the meetings in the pub!) without them feeling that they had to attend FOBS meetings. This would also help spread the load of running events

**Christmas products** - Hayley asked for people's opinions on the idea of producing multiple Christmas products (tea towels, bags, cards, gift tags etc.) from the picture that the children design at School. It was voted that this would be a great offer to have, Hayley to research further ready for September.

**Goodbyes** - Finally, Stacey wanted to pass on a huge thank you to Julie and Claire on behalf of all the FOBS committee for their help and support over the years. FOBS wanted to wish both of them all the very best for the future.

## **PROPOSED EVENT DATES**

18th September 2019 - FOBS meeting  
4th October 2019 - BOLE tidy up  
18th October 2019 - Second hand uniform sale  
19th October 2019 - Family event (Barn dance/Disco - TBC)  
7th November 2019 - FOBS meeting  
28th November 2019 - Harrods trip  
7th December 2019 - Christmas Bazaar  
14th January 2020 - FOBS meeting  
7th February 2020 - Second hand uniform sale  
7th March 2020 - Quiz night  
11th March 2020 - FOBS meeting  
24th April/1st May 2020 - Princess Trust sponsored haircut TBC  
1st May 2020 - BOLE tidy up  
12th May 2020 - FOBS meeting  
17th May 2020 - Binfield 10k  
5th June 2020 - Infant disco (Joint YR/Y1/2)  
11th June 2020 - New parents evening  
12th June 2020 - Junior disco (Split Y3/4 and Y5/6)  
26th June 2020 - New starter picnic  
26th June 2020 - Second hand uniform sale  
27th June 2020 - Summer Fete  
7th July 2020 - Junior sports day  
8th July 2020 - Infant sports day  
16th July 2020 - AGM  
22nd July 2020 - End of year presentation assembly

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th September at 8pm in the main hall. All are very welcome.