



FRIENDS OF BINFIELD SCHOOL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1079512
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – THURSDAY 15TH JULY 2021

PRESENT

Kerry Mistry	Suzie Featherstone-Wright	Kate Hayes
Purveen Hira	Debs Conneely	Hayley Hammond
Jo Maher	Jackie Rawes	Claire Turner
Tania Chizlett	Gemma Jones	Naomi Winmill
Nicola Jenkins	Cristina Lao	Lorraine Parker
Martyna Piatkowska	Victoria Lunn	Briarley Jenvey
Lisa Collins	Nick Foster	

APOLOGIES

None

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well it has turned out to be another very extraordinary year! We only had the last AGM in September and we were all hoping then, that we might be 'out of Covid' by Christmas – sadly it has not turned out to be like this. Although we have all had to adapt and work around the restrictions and created virtual events, I think it is fair to say that we have all really missed 'normality'. The school year is marked by so many special occasions and events that bring everyone together in our school community and it just isn't the same without them face to face. FOBS are integral to these and we have really missed you! We are really hoping that we can have more 'normality' back next year but we have been warned to expect a 'rocky' transition period – having a 'plan B' will be next year's motto!

FOBS wouldn't happen without someone taking the lead, and I want say a huge thank-you to Jo for chairing FOBS over this last year, to all of the committee members for continuing to organise virtual events and managing fundraising ideas, and to all FOBS members who have contributed to these 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 would not otherwise have.

Despite the challenges this year, FOBS have continued to support us in so many ways e.g. with personalised stationery packs for every child, Class budgets, and with the top-up money needed to replace the Adventure Trail (which is now being used by all of the children). Father Christmas also miraculously managed to make a socially distanced appearance in December and the class presents were also very much appreciated. Y6 are also looking forward to a special end of year BBQ too.

During the pandemic, the outside has become an important environment for learning in and we have really maximised the use of the BOLE for learning this year. As a result it has taken a bit of a pounding. We are very keen to continue to use and develop this space and we welcome your ongoing support in this area. We would like to explore having a permanent canopy and alongside woodchip top-ups and Bole tidies, some form of alternative flooring in some parts e.g. meadow grass. We have also had to utilise technology in ways we never even imagined a year ago and we are committed to continuing to work towards developing our provision to eventually enable a device for every pupil (Y1-6) in order to be able to personalise learning and have it available to use in the same way as we'd pick up a dictionary. Over the summer we are investing in upgrading the infrastructure and we hope to purchase some more devices for the pupils. Technology is incredibly expensive and some fund raising to support this project would be very appreciated next year.

So, as we formally end this 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, despite the huge disruption of the last 18 months. It is a true collaborative effort and we are so lucky to have such a great team of people.

The next few months are hopefully going to have more 'normality' back and I am sure we can all look forward to better times ahead! Many thanks once again to all of you.

CHAIR REPORT

Well, where do you begin to assess a year like we have never had before?

We knew that there weren't going to be any expectations because of the ever changing restrictions over the year, but deep down, we wanted to show that FOBS could still help under tough conditions. What this FOBS committee and the whole school community have achieved this year has more than exceeded anything we could have asked for!

Firstly, to the teachers, the TA's and the office staff - thank you. To the teachers & TA's having to get their heads around Teams and managing 60 children on a call, to planning lessons for those who were in class and those who were at home - you did it all in your stride. Thank you! To the office staff - you all need a medal! Parents don't necessarily see what you do, but I know that the office staff work over and above normal school hours. You worked in the school holidays when we had positive cases, you answered emails later into the night from worried parents and you still manage to smile. Thank you - I hope you can all take a moment to breathe over the summer and realise how strong a team you are.

For FOBS, this year has thrown us the challenge of no live / in-person events and we had to design, advertise and hold almost all our fundraisers digitally. This put a lot of responsibility on our web coordinators, Kate and Debbie and without their involvement and hard work, these events wouldn't have been possible. Thank you so much ladies.

A big thank you to our secretary, Hayley, who has run all our virtual meetings with efficiency. This has allowed parents to join meetings when normally they couldn't have attended in-person meetings. And thank you to all those who did continue to log in and join us online. These parents have been invaluable in offering ideas, opinions and volunteering when we needed help. Going forward, we know that this is going to be the key to retaining FOBS members, and so we will be looking to hold a mixture of in-person and virtual meetings.

And thank you to our treasurer, Claire, who has tackled the numbers, double and triple checked them and kept her promise to spend almost everything in the pot for the school, whilst identifying many side-schemes to keep extra funds rolling in!

We knew finances would be a concern this year for all of the families at the school and we were committed to looking at fundraising ideas without adding financial strain. We saw a huge success with our Bag2School collections and ink cartridge recycling schemes. AmazonSmile and EasyFundraising came into their own as families were stuck in lockdown and were ordering items online.

The events that we were able to hold were almost entirely virtual. We had to rethink the calendar and couldn't plan too far in advance as the restrictions changed so many times. With the help of new and established FOBS members, we filled the calendar with fun events like a Lego and art competition, a virtual balloon race and virtual magic show. The class photos were extremely popular too and they look fantastic. We were also very lucky to be chosen as one of beneficiaries of the annual Binfield Egg Hunt this year and the donation came at a time when we were unsure if we would be able to cover our commitments for the next year. Our Virtual Christmas event was a huge hit and we all knew that Binfield Believes, but to pull that one off took a special kind of magic.

And to top it off, we were also completely blown away by the response from parents, teachers, grandparents, etc. who answered our call to action over the Trim Trail appeal. Within 48 hours, our GoFundMe campaign had surpassed the total that we needed and to get feedback from all the children about how much they love it, is music to our ears.

As a result of all the hard work from this amazing committee and the volunteers, we have impressively raised over £15,500 this year.

And that money has been used!

We were committed to spending as much as we could, as we knew the school's income streams had ceased, but that their spending increased with all the covid measures in place. Starting the year, we were in a good place financially, having a buffer amount from the year before that meant we were able to help even before the new year had started. We had purchased individual stationery packs for each child and more play equipment for each class bubble.

This year, we invested money into resources for Maths, Science, English, History and in conjunction with the virtual book fair that we ran in November, we purchased so many new reading books for the children that the delivery filled an entire class room! Other big investments that we made this year again focused on IT and paid for storage and charging trolleys for the tablets that are used in the classrooms as well as purchasing 270 sets of headphones for the junior classes to use with these tablets. Our contribution to the Trim Trail was our biggest investment and ensured that it could be installed and used by the children this year. We were also able to purchase a new industrial laminator for the school, contributed to teacher's floats, Christmas celebrations, sports week and the year 6 leavers and finally replace our storage shed.

This year was no mean feat and whilst I may be comfortable speaking in a meeting or doing a promotional video, there is no "I" in this FOBS team. We couldn't have done it without the amazing parents who volunteer their time, ideas and expertise. You are a wonderful bunch of people and I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work this year. Because of you, we not only have invested over £20,000 into our children's education, but we have also ensured that we are able to meet our financial commitments with the school next year.

Finally, to the families of Binfield pupils - Thank You! Thank you for being supportive, thank you for embracing the virtual events that we held, thank you for your one-off donations, for clearing out your wardrobes and ink cartridges. Thank you for shopping online and helping us raise money passively! We know this year has thrown a lot at us, but we have shown that our school is a community that cares and values our children's education.

FOBS will always put the children first and next year will be no exception.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Summary of 2020/2021		
Income			
2nd hand Uniform Sales	£317.89		
Christmas jumper sale	£28.00		
Virtual Christmas events	£2,500.69		
Christmas jumper day	£570.00		
Christmas raffle	£592.80		
Lego & Art competitions	£108.44		
GoFundMe campaign (Trim Trail)	£2,610.00		
Quiz Night	£322.97		
Easter Egg Hunt	£2,571.50		
Virtual balloon race	£259.62		
Clothes Collections	£648.90		
Easy fundraising	£133.37		
Amazon Smile	£161.07		
BFC Lottery	£494.50		
One off donations	£634.48		
Paypal Giving Grant	£365.00		
FA Vase tickets	£125.67		
Summer Non uniform day	£1,124.87		
Magic show	£129.39		
Summer raffle	£685.24	Approx	
Class photos	£1,186.78	Approx	
	<u>£15,571.18</u>		£13,033.97 - 2019/2020
Expenditure			
Xmas Week	£808.92		
Teachers Floats	£1205.87		
Sports week	£858.79		
Contribution to Year 6 leavers	£239.99		
Maths	£450.79		
English	£448.90		
History	£143.88		
Science	£499.41		
IT storage/ Charging trolleys	£4,316.00		
Books	£1,011.86		
Shed	£2,750.00		
Headphones	£1,542.30		
Trim Trail	£6,380.00		
New Yr6 Ties	£335.95		
Laminator	£211.20		
Microphones	£70.00		
	<u>£21,274</u>		£19,795.90 - 2019/2020

The 2020/2021 financial year accounts will be checked and verified by Sandra Douglas of SKD accounting.

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair person – Jo Maher (proposed by Victoria Lunn / seconded by Kate Hayes)

Vice Chair person – Kate Hayes (Proposed by Jo Maher / seconded by Claire Turner)

Treasurer - Claire Turner (Proposed by Nicola Jenkins / seconded by Purveen Hira)

Secretary - Hayley Hammond (Proposed by Gemma Jones / seconded by Jackie Rawes)

Website Co-ordinator - Kate Hayes (Proposed by Deborah Conneely / seconded by Tania Chizlett)

Co Website Co-ordinator – Deborah Conneely (proposed by Naomi Winmill / seconded by Kate Hayes)

Co Website Co-ordinator – Nick Foster (proposed by Kate Hayes / seconded by Jo Maher)

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

General members

All meeting attendees voted and agreed to become general members. 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.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Shed shelving / painting Summer 2021
Inside of the roof needs painting to increase light and the outside needs painting to maximise shed lifetime although the shed has been treated with preservative. Painting materials have already been donated and Jo is trying to get the shelving materials donated by a builder's merchant. Jackie's Dad has provided a quote for materials to build bespoke shelving. Jackie advised she still has a gazebo and miscellaneous FOBS items in her garage. Volunteers to email fobs@friendsofbinfieldschool.co.uk if they are able to help.
- General Maintenance : Shed / gazebos (to be reviewed annually at AGM)
- BOLE tidy up Summer 2021 w/c 23rd August
Purveen advised she is happy to co-ordinate. Tania, Gemma and Debs may be available. Volunteers to email fobs@friendsofbinfieldschool.com with dates/times they are available during the week commencing 23rd August
- Gemma & Tania volunteered to co-ordinate the Summer term discos

PROPOSED EVENT DATES

Thursday 16 th September, 8pm	- FOBS meeting
Saturday 25 th September	- Open Air Cinema?
Thursday 30 th September	- Bag2School collection
September	- Christmas cards / products
Tuesday 12 th October, 8pm	- FOBS meeting
<i>Possible October events</i>	- Online Balloon race / Xmas Puddings
Wednesday 10 th November, 8pm	- FOBS meeting
<i>Possible November event</i>	- Virtual Book Fair? & Rainbow raffle donations?
Friday 3 rd December	- Non-Uniform day / tombola collection?
Saturday 4 th December	- Christmas Bazaar?
Thursday 9 th December, 8pm	- FOBS meeting
Friday 17 th December	- End of term assembly?
Sunday 19 th December	- Binfield Believes
Monday 17 th January 2022, 8pm	- FOBS meeting
<i>Possible January event</i>	- magic show?
Saturday 5 th February 2022	- Adults Quiz night
Tuesday 22 nd February 2022, 8pm	- FOBS meeting
Wednesday 23 rd March 2022, 8pm	- FOBS meeting
<i>Possible March events</i>	- Bag2School / Family Disco / magic show / pamper evening / gin tasting / wine tasting?
April 2022	- Binfield Egg Hunt
Thursday 21 st April 2022, 8pm	- FOBS meeting
<i>Possible May events (6th & 13th)</i>	- Infant & junior discos
Monday 16 th May 2022, 8pm	- FOBS meeting
Sunday 22 nd May 2022	- Binfield 10K?
Wednesday 15 th June 2022, 8pm	- FOBS meeting
<i>Possible event</i>	- Non uniform day?
Saturday 25 th June 2022	- Circus
Thursday 14 th July 2022, 8pm	- AGM

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th September at 8pm by Webex. All are very welcome.