# Friends of the Croft School

**Minutes of AGM held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 15th October 2020**

**Via Zoom**

**Present:** 2019/20 Committee: Alex Milner, Merrigan Bee, Hannah Lansdowne, Veronika Dutfield, Sarah Draper, Ali Smith

Also: Sarah Bishop, Nick and Tia Fuller, Lucy Bintcliffe, Tasha Cook, Sophie Jacobs, Victoria Soutar

Apologies: Sarah Leaver, Elisa Lodato, Phil Hartley, Damian Smith, Becca Eccles

1. **Minutes of Last AGM**

The 2019 AGM minutes were approved by all and signed off by Veronika.

1. **Chair’s Annual Report**

Veronika Dutfield reported that we had a fantastic start to the year, raising a record £4.6k from Fireworks Night and a further £1.4k from little events such as second hand uniform sale, Christmas raffle/disco/colouring competition plus one-off donations/Amazon Smile. Unfortunately plans for further events such as the Quiz, Safari Supper and Summer Fair had to be cancelled due to Coronavirus. Despite the lockdown we managed to clear £4k in profit but the coffers are currently very low, so with events currently on hold we need to find new ideas for raising income. A lot of current committee members are also standing down so we need new volunteers to step up and fill official roles including Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

1. **What We’ve Achieved**

Hannah Lansdowne outlined FOTCS’s achievements of 2019/2020:

* Focus was on spending (all our savings in the bank, £14.5k).
* Enriching environmental education through our support of the Croft vegetable garden, Gardening Club run by Sarah Draper and the construction of the new outdoor greenhouse classroom.
* Focus on outdoor play including the recent installation of the activity trail for KS2 pupils, the Lodge and tree planting in the nature area and a stage, benches and climbing frame on the KS1 playground. (Merrigan Bee reported that we have quotes for new projects from our contractor All Out Play for when we have more funds.)
* 2019 Events pre lockdown included Fireworks Night, Christmas Raffle, Christmas Disco, Christmas cards and Christmas colouring competition.

1. **Special Thank yous**

Veronika Dutfield extended our special thanks to:

* Class reps and school office staff, Sandi Allen and Nat Jordan, for sending out our emails and reminders
* Rose Bray and Monette Corcos-Dainton for running the second hand uniform sales
* Tasha Cook for all her help despite not being a trustee
* Nature Club parents and children for giving up their time to help
* Fireworks team for all their efforts especially Nick Fuller (aka Martin Fuller = new treasurer) for his help with the health and safety and the bonfire builders
* Merrigan Bee for all her hard work with spending and for sourcing the fantastic new playground equipment/activity trail and outdoor stage
* Sarah Draper for all her hard work on the amazing Gardening Club (which was awarded RHS School Gardeners of the Year 2020)

1. **Treasurer’s Annual Report and 2019/20 Accounts Sign Off**

Damian Smith (Treasurer) was not able to be at the meeting but the 2019/20 Accounts were presented on slides and are available for all to see. In 2019/20 charitable activity/spend was £14,486 leaving £745 in the bank.

1. **Election of New Committee**

These existing committee members are remaining on the committee: Hannah Lansdowne, Ali Smith, Veronika Dutfield, Sarah Draper

The following are stepping down from the committee and were thanked for their service: Alex Milner, Sarah Leaver, Merrigan Bee, Elisa Lodato, Becca Eccles, Damian Smith, Phil Hartley

Committee members for 2020/21 were elected as shown below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Proposed by** | **Seconded by** |
| **Chair** | Hannah Lansdowne and Ali Smith | Veronika Dutfield | Merrigan Bee |
| **Deputy Chair** | Tasha Cook and Veronika Dutfield | Hannah Lansdowne | Victoria Soutar |
| **Secretary** | Lucy Bintcliffe | Veronika Dutfield | Alex Milner |
| **Treasurer** | Martin Fuller | Hannah Lansdowne | Ali Smith |
| **Committee 1** | Sarah Draper | Ali Smith | Sarah Bisop |
| **Committee 2** | Sarah Bishop | Veronika Dutfield | Tasha Cook |
| **Committee 3** | Monette Corcos-Dainton | Hannah Lansdowne | Veronika Dutfield |
| **Committee 4** | Sophie Jacobs | Hannah L. | Ali Smith |
| **Committee 5** | Mel Curtis | Hannah L. | Ali Smith |

**Staff contact: Victoria Soutar**

1. **Any other business**

Next fundraising activity will be the Halloween pumpkin carving competition (enter on Instagram or email a photo), registration on the FOTCS new website. Prizes sponsored by Murrays.

Future fundraising ideas: online Christmas raffle/Christmas event at the Nature Lodge – Christmas decorations/photo with alpacas etc./appeal for donations via *Beacon* and social media/socially distanced Safari Supper (Sarah Bishop).

Sarah Draper discussed her ideas for developing the old swimming pool area (currently a wasteland) into a wildflower meadow. This would be a low cost temporary use of space (approx. £60 for seeds) while funding is being secured for future development. It would also look beautiful and be a good opportunity for more outdoor learning (exploring insects etc.)

Victoria Soutar to share Sarah’s ideas with the other teachers.

1. **Actions**

* Alex Milner to update the Charity Commission website, prepare the minutes and send round the new committee/contacts list.
* Lucy Bintcliffe (new secretary) to get new committee members to sign trustee forms.
* Victoria Soutar to ask Mrs Gore about viability of Christmas cards/second hand uniform sales. Plus share Sarah Draper’s ideas with teachers (see above).
* Sarah Bishop to write copy re. Easyfundraising for the *Beacon*/social media/school newsletter.
* Ali Smith to link FOTCS Instagram with Facebook.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The new committee will meet on Thursday 22nd October at Hannah Lansdowne’s house if six attendees (due to Covid restrictions) or via Zoom if more to attend. Lucy to confirm numbers/venue.

The meeting was closed at 8.30 p.m.

.

Alex Milner

Outgoing Secretary 2019/2020