



FRIENDS OF SHIRLEY INFANT SCHOOL

(Registered in accordance with the Charities Act 1960 No. 1081056)

MINUTES FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Held virtually due to covid 19 restrictions)

1 October 2020 at 8 p.m.

In attendance:

Jo James (Co-Chair), Susan Kinch (Co-Chair), Mia Caruana (Treasurer), Jo Blondin (Secretary)

Peter Gould (Chair of Governors), Cate Gregory (Head of School), Laura Watts (Deputy Head), Nicola Howarth and Jen Bleeck (Co-Chairs of Shirley Juniors PTFA)

Jacqui Westbury-Hogg, Michelle Alldread, Becky Turnbull, Selina Sellick, Gayle Doulton, Lisa Witt, Naomi Rogers, Maria Day, Hannah Henderson, Rachel Holloway, Caroline Watts, Naomi Collins, Jen Pillinger, Lynsey Powell, Carly Sykes, Cath Dixon, Tansy Bailey, Inna Williams, Louise Elkins, Marle Coetzee, Amy Mayhew, Tom James, Audrey Cooper, Laura Sparks and Mary Hornby.

Ordinary Business

Apologies for absence

Laura Honan, Katy Durston, Kelly Winter, Richard Lomath, Mel Durman, Elissa Collins and Yvette Killick.

Approval of Minutes of the last AGM on 30.9.20

Copies of the Minutes had been circulated in advance and made available today. These were approved.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were a number of matters arising from the Minutes dated 30.9.20.

1. **Sponsorship** – Jo James (JJ) explained that, due to the corona virus, it had not been possible to obtain new sponsorships, as had been the hope when raised at the previous AGM. Sponsorship will be looked at again this year.

2. **Marvellous Me Feedback** – JJ referred to the use of Marvellous Me over lockdown and the fact that everyone was now more aware of how it works and its benefits.
3. **The puddle** – The puddle in the main playground continues to be a recurring problem. JJ said that FOSIS would be keen to help support any effort to clear the leaves, to minimise the issue and impact on the children.
4. **Rail painting** – Amazing progress has been made and this project is ongoing.

Co-Chairs report for 2019/20

SK said there was an overriding feeling that this had been a year of 2 halves. She thanked all the volunteers, without whom events would not be able to run.

She also thanked the Junior PTFA, explaining that both committees had worked together, shared ideas and run joint events for the benefit of both the Infants and the Juniors. FOSIS' ultimate goal has been and remains to raise funds to enrich the education of the children at Shirley Infant school. They said they also hoped and felt that they had continued to build on a sense of community.

Jo James and Susan Kinch then provided an overview of events last year:

Autumn Term

Quiz – This was a fun event and a good fundraiser. It is usually run annually and the committee are sad that, due to the corona virus, it cannot be held this year.

Fireworks – The second ever fireworks evening was a huge success. It was a fantastic fundraiser and a great family event.

Christmas Cards – The children designed their own cards, with the support of parents who came in to help. The finished cards were lovely!

Christmas Wreath Making – This was an adult craft night and was a really fun evening.

Christmas Fair – This was more like a party for the children and was held at the end of November, with crafts etc.

Other funds were raised through a cake sale, a mince pie sale and a bags2school collection.

Spring and Summer

Escape Room Event (Locked in a Case) – This was a really fun evening event, like an Escape room but with clues inside a case.

World Book Day Competition – A competition was run for children to write a poem or bedtime story for World Book Day.

Other planned events were a Silent Disco, a Colour Run, a barn dance, more cake sales, more bags2school collections and the biggest event, the Summer fair. These all unfortunately had to be cancelled, leaving a big dent in FOSIS' fundraising.

After this point, the role of FOSIS became more geared towards supporting the school teams and the communications between parents and carers. Parent forums were held virtually half termly and these greatly helped with communication in those very strange times.

Following some very sad news about a much loved teacher, at the suggestion of a parent, care packages were prepared and delivered to all the staff. The children did fun drawings and lovely items were donated and included. Each teacher and teaching assistant received one.

VE Day – FOSIS organised a competition, encouraging parents and carers to decorate their houses. This was not a fundraising event but became a highlight of lockdown.

Other Contributions – there were some excellent tidy up days - this year, with a focus on rail painting and the development of a sensory garden along the side of the Infant school building. This area is now looking lovely, with lots of new plants and is a great space. FOSIS also assisted with and provided food for the Year 2 leavers party.

Funds have also been raised through uniform sales – a big thank you to Karen Allen for her support with this and through the use of Easy fundraising.

Donations this year

FOSIS funds have provided individual baskets for the children to put their books and stationery in, to help prevent the spread of germs. They also funded rainbow bands as end of year presents. Other donations have included the lovely year 2 leavers book and the ongoing provision of Marvellous Me, which has proved to be a great tool. Donations have also been made for the purchase of sensory garden equipment, including sleepers and chimes, as well as plants.

Thank You's

Thank you to all volunteers - without them, FOSIS could not do what it does, to Cate, Laura and their wonderful team, special thanks to the office team, to Russell for his first aid

support, to Rob for being the bravest firework guy, to the general committee, the PTFA and big thanks to Jo Blondin, who is stepping down after 2 years as Secretary.

This year

This year, FOSIS needs to be creative with its fundraising. Safety has to come first but please pass on any ideas anyone may have. SK and JJ said they recognise that this year has been a tough year financially for many people. They hope to be able to continue to work closely with the PTFA team.

How To Get Involved

You can get involved by joining the committee, becoming a class representative, helping at a tidy up day or volunteering at events.

How to contact FOSIS

Through the Facebook groups:

Year R@SIS2020/2021

Year 1@SIS2020/2021

Year 2@SIS2020/2021

Email: fosis@shirleyschools.co.uk

Treasurer's report for 2019/20

The financial summary prepared by Mia Caruana (MC) was presented by JJ. JJ said that, considering lots of the planned events, including the Colour Run, the Silent Disco and the Summer Fair could not happen due to the corona virus, FOSIS have done really well.

- The infant quiz made a net profit of just under £536.
- The fireworks night was really good. Just under £3000 was taken on entrance fees and the sale of all things flashy! The event made just under £1500 each for both schools.
- Children's craft night – this was more like a party and made just over £300 (profit was split equally with the Juniors).
- Adult wreath making – this raised about £365.
- Christmas cards – the sale of cards designed by the children raised £218. FOSIS are hoping to be able to do this again this year but in a socially distanced way.
- Christmas fair – this raised £885 (after profits were split equally with the Juniors).
- Party pack donations – this has not really been promoted but still raised £95. FOSIS hires out a reusable party pack in exchange for donations.
- Year 2 cake sale – this raised just under £122.
- Tuck sale – this raised £71
- Bags2School – this raised £125.60, after a 50:50 split with Juniors

- Uniform sale donations – a very big thanks to Karen Allen for all her help with this. Uniform sales raised just under £123 (after an equal split with the Juniors)
- World book day donations – FOSIS set up a lovely writing competition. Donations raised £92.60.
- Balloon race – the virtual balloon race raised just under £102 after being split equally with the Juniors.
- Silent Disco/Colour Run – JJ thanked those who had not requested ticket refunds from these events which could not go ahead. After some expenses, donations still amounted to just under £750 (£1496.20 split equally with the Juniors).
- Other funds were raised through easy fundraising, the sale of donated metal bowls on the selling site, the sale of year books and other miscellaneous donations.

Expenditure this year included the year 2 leavers party, radios for events, the IPAD cost from the 2019 Summer Fair, raised bed sleepers for the sensory garden, plastic storage and a few other expenses. All of these are set out in the financial summary.

The closing balance at 31.8.20 was £11,857.21. Many thanks to Mia Caruana for preparing the financial summary.

Election/re-election of Committee Members

SK explained that it is necessary to re-elect committee members and vote in anyone who now wishes to take up one of the roles.

Co-Chair

It was confirmed that no one wished to stand for Chair. SK and JJ said they would be happy to be re-elected. They felt there was unfinished business due to the corona virus and it would feel sad and not right for them to stand down.

Susan Kinch to continue as Co-Chair – proposed by Jo James and seconded by Cate Gregory.

Jo James to continue as Co-Chair – proposed by Susan Kinch and seconded by Nicola Howarth.

Treasurer

Mia Caruana has now taken over as Treasurer, having been elected part way through the year. Mia is to continue as Treasurer - proposed by Michelle Alldread and seconded by Amy Mayhew.

Secretary:

Jo Blondin stood down. Amy Mayhew was proposed by Cath Dixon and seconded by Jo James.

General committee

The general committee members will now be:

Louise Elkins, Jacqui Westbury-Hogg, Sarah Crookall, Elissa Collins, Melissa Hornby, Hannah Henderson, Michelle Alldread and Caroline Watts.

The above members were proposed by Susan Kinch and seconded by Laura Watts.

Special Business

Specific Responsibilities

JJ asked if there was anyone who wanted to take on the responsibility for promoting/organizing bags2school, Amazon smile or easy fundraising. No-one in the meeting came forward so it was confirmed these would become the responsibility of the general committee members.

Appointment of class representatives

For 2020/2021, the class representatives will be:

Year R

Squirrels – Richard Lomath and Laura Sparks

Otters – Maria Dimech and Marle Coetzee

Hedgehogs – Lisa Witt and Lyndsey Powell

Year 1

Rabbits – Katy Durston and Becky Watson

Moles – Gayle Doulton, Carly Sykes and Eve Dyer assisting.

Owls – Mel Durman and Stacey Sellick

Year 2

Foxes – Tom James and Naomi Rogers

Badgers – Audrey Cooper and Laura Honan

Woodpeckers – Kelly Winter and Cath Dixon

Upcoming Events/Diary dates for 2020/2021

It was explained that FOSIS is understandably unable to hold any fundraising events on the school premises for the rest of the term. However, there are still some planned events:

- There will be a pumpkin hunt over the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of October half term. There will be a virtual map and lots of fun.
- There will be another virtual balloon race starting on 31st October.
- Christmas cards – FOSIS has changed companies quite a few times to try and find the best. It is exciting that this fundraiser can still happen. There will be a deadline of 6 November.
- There are also proposals for a wreath making kit.

If everything goes according to plan, there are a few dates planned in for events later in the year. If the Summer Fair can happen, it is planned for 3rd July and similarly, the Colour Run is planned for 27th March.

FOSIS wish to hold an Infant parent forum meeting every half term. Communication with the school team has been fantastic and FOSIS wants to retain that.

Update from the School

CG wanted to thank FOSIS. She said the school team could not have got through the last year without all the support and wishes. Every year, FOSIS goes above and beyond. CG said the care packages for the staff came at the perfect time. The care that went into them and the children pictures were lovely. The school team and whole community has been through lots this year. The support from FOSIS has been amazing and these views are echoed by the Governors.

CG said that the school have spent some of the money. The main focus has been to improve the outdoor environment and the school are so excited about the sensory garden developments. The chimes arrived yesterday. The sensory garden cannot be used as was originally planned but it will be used for groups of children if they are struggling or for quiet story time. In June that space was really useful. CG said the sensory garden has a special place in the hearts of everyone at the school – it was a passion of Leo's, a very much missed special member of the community. CG acknowledged that the community has been through a lot this year but the children are always at its heart – they come bouncing in through the gates with big smiles and resilience.

Plans for funds this year

This year, CG said they want to improve the main entrance to the schools and add bedding plants. They are also keen to improve the emergency drive – it is bumpy and not a nice place to play. They want to extend this area using the FOSIS and Sports funding.

CG said that it will be a different kind of year going forwards – they would like to finish what has been started, give the playgrounds a lift and continue to improve the outside environment for the children.

Chair of Governors

Peter Gould (PG) wanted to pass on a huge thank you. He said the work of FOSIS is appreciated by all the Governors and the school. The money raised is fantastic and binding together as a community is so important. The governing body are still meeting virtually. PG said he walks past the school regularly and sees the colourful fencing which is looking fantastic. He said he hopes that they will be able to meet face to face again soon.

Any Other Business

Jacqui Westbury-Hogg wanted to echo what had been said and thank the school for how well they have managed the corona virus situation. She said parents are proud to have their children at Shirley Infant school. The school team have gone above and beyond, especially with such tricky times. They always put the children first.

JJ wanted to pay tribute to the much loved Mrs Hearne, who very sadly passed away earlier this year. She said the memorial is on its way so thank you to everyone who contributed. There will be a story tellers chair and some benches to go in the main playground. Hopefully, these will be in place by the end of the year and will be a beautiful area for all the children to play.

SK said a big thank you to everyone. Hopefully, despite the restrictions, there can still be some fun events! If anyone has any fundraising ideas, please let them know. The next event will be the Halloween trail will be really good fun – please spread the word.

Nicola Howarth said a big thank you to Jo James and Susan Kinch – she thanked them for their hard work – they put their heart and soul into all the events they do.

CG said they would normally present flowers as a thank you. She has a present from the staff and school and arrangements will be made to pass this over.

End of Meeting
