



FRIENDS OF SHIRLEY INFANT SCHOOL

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

12 October 2023 at 7.30pm

Ordinary Business

Attendees

- Kass Colley – Co-Chair
- Megan Cox (MC) – Co-Chair
- Lynsey Powell – Secretary
- Cate Gregory – Headteacher (CG)
- Pete Gould – Chair of Governors (PG)
- Sarah Scott
- Kate Jackson
- Jessica Butts
- Tabytha Greenhalgh
- Zoe Konn
- Natalie Steel
- Annemarie Clayton
- Susan Kinch
- Lyndsay Goulston
- Sarah Lowth

1] Apologies for absence

The following individuals were unable to attend the meeting and sent their apologies:

- Alistair Rutt – Treasurer
- Becky Maclean
- Sally Kendall
- Amy Yates
- Abigail Gallagher
- Katy Durston
- Jo Baker
- Emily Arbery

2] Co-Chairs Report for 2021/2022

MC provided a thorough report on the work of FOSIS during the 2022/23 academic year covering the main fundraising events and activities as well as how the funds raised have been spent at the school.

Content was shared via a presentation, slides of which will be added to the Shirley Infant School website after the meeting for parents to be able to view.

MC explained that there are lots of exciting events coming up this academic year.

MC explained that one of the key items that FOSIS will be raising funds for this coming academic year is to get power to the new outdoor classroom.

3] Treasurer's Report for 2021/2022

MC shared some more details around the financials for the committee, explaining which events had generated the most income as well as where some of the money has been spent.

Content was shared via a presentation, slides of which will be added to the Shirley Infant School website after the meeting for parents to be able to view.

4] Election/re-election of Officers and Trustees of the Committee – Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and general committee members.

LP invited attendees to volunteer for any of the key committee member roles should they want to. No one came forward so the existing committee members have agreed to stay on for another year, all appointments were seconded by individuals in attendance. To confirm the individuals / roles are as follows:

- Megan Cox / Kass Colley – Co-Chairs
- Alistair Rutt – Treasurer
- Lynsey Powell – Secretary

The following general committee members all nominated themselves to remain on the committee and were seconded by attendees at the meeting:

- Amy Yates
- Annemarie Clayton
- Sally Kendall
- Sarah Scott
- Susan Kinch
- Tabytha Greenhalgh
- Zoe Konn
- Natalie Steel
- Reena Jewell

Special Business

5] Appointment of class representatives

The following individuals nominated themselves for the role of class rep and were seconded by attendees at the meeting:

Year R

- Hedgehogs – Angie Dharmaraj-Savicks / Natalie Steel
- Otters – Myiah Ahmed / Becky Maclean
- Squirrels – Katrina Crisell / Tabytha Greenhalgh

Year 1

- Moles – Emily Arbery / Kathy Marsh
- Rabbits – Lydia Stammers / Rachel Ayrton
- Owls – Jo Baker / Katy Durston

Year 2

- Woodpeckers – Jen Simpson / Annemarie Clayton
- Badgers – Abigail Gallagher / Sarah Lowth
- Foxes – Sarah Scott / Yasmine Arafa

6] Update from the school

CG thanked the committee for all of their hard work for the past year and explained to the meeting that whilst the money that is raised through all the events is very gratefully received it's as much about creating a sense of community amongst parents, teachers and the children.

CG also explained the importance of the parent forum and thanked those parents who have volunteered to be class reps. She explained the value that the school sees in the opportunity to have two-way communication with parents and looking together for ways to make improvements.

CG also reminded attendees that whilst she saw that there was great value in the WhatsApp and Facebook groups for parents to parents, CG reminded parents of the social media policy and as reps, if any school related issues crop up then please advise parents to reach out directly to the school to get them resolved.

CG explained that they are delighted with the outdoor classroom and are currently looking at options for the floor to protect it from the heavy foot fall and also a slipping hazard for the children when they take their shoes off. CG added that the first role of the new School Council will be to officially open the classroom in a formal ceremony.

There was an extensive discussion regarding the reading book issues in Year 1. CG explained that the Little Wandle scheme worked on the basis that the children read in groups in class, three times per week, that same book is then meant to go home with the children in that group so that they can confidently read to their parents/carers. The problem the school continues to have is that books aren't getting returned which means that unless every child in the group can have a copy of the book they have read in class, then alternative solutions have to be found such as online books.

The books, as they are bought in complete sets where each book costs £6, are extremely expensive with over £5k (£3k from FOSIS / £2k from school budget) spent on the scheme. Since the scheme began, CG estimates that approx. a third of books have gone missing. CG asked for suggestions on trying to encourage books to be returned. Several suggestions were made which CG is going to take away for further consideration:

- Book amnesty – let parents return any books found at home without fine for a defined period of time.
- Stickers placed on front of book, something along the lines of 'I cost £X, please return me on Thursday so I can go home with someone else on Friday!'
- Opportunity to donate when purchasing tickets for FOSIS events.
- Detailed infographic helping parents to understand the scheme and the impact of not returning a book.
- Moving people who repeatedly fail to return the reading book to the online provision.

CG advised that the school's budget for this year for Little Wandle is assigned to books needed for Year 2 to begin the scheme, so won't stretch to purchasing replacements of existing sets and so will likely look to FOSIS to support financially again. This means we have had to look at the E-library to enable children to read at home and continue the validity of the phonics scheme. We are not allowed to send home different books and we began to last year because of the problem, hence the electronic books. CG shared we want children to love and hold and share a book. They are getting this so much more in school now and we have library books to share the E books are currently not a long-term solution, however should they books continue to be lost we cannot financially year on year continue to just replace them.

PG echoed CG's thanks for the work of the committee and is looking forward to another successful year of events.

Any Other Business

MC closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and reminding people that if they did have any questions then please reach out to one of the committee members in person, on FB or via the fosis@shirleyschools.co.uk