

# **Friends of Slingsby School ('FOSS') Annual General Meeting**

## **Wednesday, 12th October 2022**

Attendees Staff: Leigh Smith, Emma Massey, Charlotte Hope.

Attendees Parents: Sonja Sedran, Lucy Pointing, Kathryn Fairweather, Hannah Plowman, Wendy O'Connor and Kate Pope.

### **1. Welcome**

Sonja Sedran (SS) opened the meeting at 8.35pm and welcomed everyone.

### **2. Apologies**

Lu Turner, Helen MacKinder, Bev Quarton, Nicola Wood and Kate Stansfield.

### **3. Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 14 October 2021 were circulated. It was agreed that they are a true and correct record of the meeting and that there were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **4. Chairman's report**

SS reflected on a successful fundraising year, especially coming out of covid restrictions. We had to remind ourselves what fundraising we could do, we were open to new ideas and tried lots of new fundraising opportunities. It had been a lot of hard work for such a small team but the team wanted to demonstrate that they were open to new ideas. SS thanked school for their support, fundraising is much easier when school are open to new ideas. Leigh Smith (LS) expressed a huge thank you to FOSS, the donation to school was phenomenal, especially considering that there were still some restrictions in place. SS talked about the plans for the year ahead, there are lots of ideas but FOSS are limited by the number of volunteers and time. A calendar of events has been planned that include a mix of fun events for the children and good fundraisers and the focus is to stick with the plan to deliver these events and encourage more people to get involved. SS thanked the FOSS team with a special mention to Kathryn Fairweather (KF) and Lucy Pointing (LP) who has stepped down from her role as treasurer. Kate Pope (KP) commented that it had been a stretch for the current team and that the figures raised were amazing considering it had mainly been down to SS, LP and KF. KP felt that there are a lot of parents in school that will want the events to run and that we need to spread the word and need more volunteers to spread the load. Charlotte Hope (CH) commented that when she was on the committee previously that responsibilities were more spread within the team and mini committee's were created to run different events, LS, KP and Emma Massey (EM) agreed. Some discussion was had about how we could gain more interest from other parents and carers to join the committee and volunteer, it

was agreed that FOSS would set-up a small stall at the parents evenings that are running next term, the figures donated to school by FOSS over the past 3 years would be added to the parents questionnaire sent out by school along with a question asking if they would be interested in volunteering with FOSS. SS commented that she would email those who had volunteered for events previously to ask if they would volunteer regularly. KP suggested that the events table was amended to show what work is done behind the scenes by existing members to make it clear that any new volunteers would only need to focus on the events themselves. Hannah Plowman left the meeting and agreed to formally re-join the committee.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Lucy Pointing (LP) delivered the Treasurer's report.

*Affiliate schemes (easyfundraising and Amazonsmile)* – It was felt that these have more potential as they are all set-up, we just need to encourage more families to use it. SS commented that it was positive that new people have joined it in the last year and that it can now also be used for online grocery shopping, if we can use refer a friend we receive an extra £5, it was agreed that this will be included in the school newsletter.

*Bag2School* – Is quite static but it does work, there was some discussion about the price per unit dropping but agreed that it was still worth running and trying to advertise more, there were discussions about having a permanent donation station on site but it was agreed it would be difficult to gain the relevant permissions from the local council and Castle Howard, plus it may cause concerns from villagers. More were in favour of creating a notice board outside school for FOSS, LS will ask about the permissions required to install a notice board, SS confirmed that the committee have discussed already and FOSS would consider funding this.

*Pre-loved uniform* – Has been successful, there was discussion about how we could gain more sales as we have good stock levels and good quality. SS has created a new catalogue to be distributed with the School Newsletter that includes photographs, descriptions and prices.

*Halloween* – Is quite static and there had been more costs, it was agreed that it is a really fun event for the children that they all enjoy, everyone had been pleased that it was able to go ahead. From feedback FOSS have been clearer in their communication this year that it is a FOSS run event and that we need more help to run it, so far we have more volunteers.

*Christmas Events* – Had produced good results. The Christmas Party is a large cost, especially the book gifting and we're not sure families realise this is an event organised and funded by FOSS. SS explained that Lucy Clay is looking into sourcing the books at a discounted rate. There was some discussion about gifts but it was agreed that books were the most suitable and (LS) will put forward some book suggestions from the School Council so that they can be sourced early.

*Spring Events* – The new spring lambing competition and guess the sweets had been easy to run and produced a good result but we will need a new family if we run it again as they have now left the school.

*Plant Sale* – This raised significantly more due to a large donation of plants from Castle Howard, Lisa Bolland has historically provided the plants but she is no longer at the school. SS confirmed that Castle Howard will donate again.

*Scarecrow* – This event went really well, SS thanked KF for running it. SS explained that the other village committees are very happy to work with us over this weekend and that FOSS will now have the opportunity to run the pop-up café in the Chapel for 3 days rather than 2 as previously. Wendy O'Connor (WO) confirmed that Pat Thompson will be stepping back from the Maypole Committee so FOSS will need to work closely with whoever takes on that role.

*Duck Race* – Produced an amazing result. It was felt that Andrew Pern volunteering to run the BBQ and also donate the meat and condiments made a huge difference to the fundraising. Lots of positive feedback was received about the new token system and the use of the new card machine, everyone agreed that these had all been really positive.

*Sports Day Refreshments* – A new fundraiser and very easy to do, it could also be an option to look into adding a BBQ after sports day as so many families attend but due to the closeness of the date to the Duck Race FOSS do not currently have enough resources.

*Outgoings* – A large donation was given to the year 6 leavers and it had also been agreed between the committee to donate one of the bag2school collection funds to a Hull 4 Ukraine Collective.

*Contributions to school* – LP informed the meeting that the contribution to the school for year 21/22 was £7,700. The meeting agreed that this is an amazing result that will make a significant difference to school. FOSS has retained £1,086 as a contingency/buffer for future events. This is about the same as the contingency retained last year, there was some discussion about if this was needed but all agreed it was for the best and school know it is there is it is ever needed.

*Audited accounts* – LP drew the meeting's attention to the audited accounts for FOSS (**see attached**) which have been independently verified. There were no questions arising from the audited accounts.

## **6. Election of Committee**

SS explained that Bev Quarton, Helen Mackinder and Lu Turner had all expressed they were happy to remain on the committee and Nicola Wood would like to join but all were unable to attend. Sophie Cooke has also expressed an interest to join, SS to followup.

Committee members as volunteered and accepted – Kate Pope, Lu Turner, Sonja Sedran, Helen Mackinder, Bev Quarton, Hannah Plowman, Nicola Wood and Kathryn Fairweather.

## **7. Election of Chair**

Kathryn Fairweather nominated Sonja Sedran. Emma Massey seconded the nomination.

SS accepted the nomination. SS asked for further nominations but there were none forthcoming.

SS duly elected as Chairperson.

## **8. Election of Secretary**

Sonja Sedran nominated Kathryn Fairweather. Wendy O'Connor seconded the nomination.

KF accepted the nomination. SS asked for further nominations but here were none forthcoming.

KF duly elected as Secretary.

## **9. Election of Treasurer**

No-one has come forward for this position, HP has offered to help out in the interim, it was agreed that the position would be advertised in the School Newsletter.

## **10. Other business**

*Halloween Party* – SS confirmed that over 50 tickets have sold so far and that Bev Quarton (BQ) is running this event for the first time. It was agreed that some of the helpers would wear high vis to easily identify them to children, CH will arrange to lend them to FOSS.

*Christmas Fair* – SS explained this new event is still being planned, there are 6 confirmed stalls, some discussion was had about contacts, who else we could ask to host a stall and if we could ask Castle Howard for their donated Christmas Tree earlier to use at the Fair before going to school. SS confirmed there will be a Santa's Grotto, Swinton Band, Face painting and refreshments run by FOSS.

*Christmas Raffle* – HM managing the list of prizes, LP suggested asking school families for any prize donations in the School Newsletter.

*Christmas Party* – We still need a volunteer to run this event. There was some discussion about if this should run in its traditional format, or if it should be simplified down now parents and carers do not have daily access to the school lobby where donation and volunteer lists have previously been posted. It was agreed to book Magic Mike and run the entertainment and a disco, that food would be simplified to snacks and drinks as it is running the same day and the Christmas Lunch in school.

*FOSS Newsletter* – SS explained this will be a new newsletter to run once a term to share with school families money raised by FOSS, events coming up, volunteers needed and more. There was some discussion about what could feature in the Newsletter, LS suggested photographing the new playground updates, EM suggested doing a spotlight feature on different members of FOSS to highlight what they contribute. It was agreed this was a really positive way to communicate with parents and carers.

*School Pantomime Trip* – SS has already put forward covering the cost of a pantomime trip to the FOSS team. There was some discussion about the different options available to travel to different theatres, host a visiting production and the different costs. It was agreed that it is a valuable experience to take the children to the theatre and that FOSS would cover the whole cost for the

children to travel and the ticket. It will be communicated through a letter inviting children to attend a fully funded trip to the panto to make it really clear to parents that it is funded by FOSS.

*Future school upgrades* – LS has projects in mind to further upgrade the playground with resurfacing and paintwork plus create a dedicated computer area in the current class 2 and possibly a climbing wall. There was a lot of discussion about how these could be funded, if it should be done through a tracker and made clear what we were directly fundraising for, LP suggested crowdfunding as an option for the larger projects. LP suggested an open day in school and KP suggested an open hour so that families could see for themselves where funds have gone and how it is benefiting the children. It was agreed to focus on the Halloween and Christmas events for now, school will put together a wish list with some estimated costs to aim for and it will be reviewed after Christmas. LS said it was wonderful to have the donations from FOSS and it allows school to not have to ration art and DT supplies like other schools do, he feels it's important to create highlights for children at school and it is wonderful to have the donations from FOSS to give school the opportunity to do this.

*Transport costs* – There was some discussion about the costs of transport and if this should be partly funded by FOSS. WO suggested hiring a community bus for a term, LS will look into this as an option.

## **11. Closing**

SS thanked the attendees of the meeting for coming along and thanked KF for continuing with the committee role. SS expressed a special thank you to LS, EM and CH for attending the meeting.

**Meeting closed at 10.30pm.**