

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

## **Thursday, 19th October 2023**

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

Attendees Parents: Sonja Sedran, Kathryn Fairweather, Kate Pope, Sarah Bradshaw, Nicola Wood, Lisa Cuthbert, Esme Bulmer, Fran Pern, Jo Plaskitt, Rachel Atkinson and Sophie Reeves.

### **1. Welcome**

Sonja Sedran (SS) opened the meeting at 6.30pm and welcomed everyone.

### **2. Apologies**

Helen Mackinder, Bev Quarton, Lucy Pointing and Laura Cottrell.

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

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 12 October 2022 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, with £8,600 donated to school, which was slightly more than the original total announced as there had already been a donation direct to school earlier in the year that hadn't been included, so well done to the whole team and parents too. Leigh Smith (LS) thanked FOSS. SS expressed her thanks to everyone and noted there will be some changes taking place this year. Helen Mackinder (HM) and Lu Turner (LT) have decided to step down from the committee, SS expressed her thanks to both HM and LT who have been committee members since 2018, HM organising our B2S donations, social media and Triangle submissions, LT ran the Christmas Fair, created many props and wonderful hampers over the years. SS expressed her thanks to the flurry of new members and opportunities this brings and how wonderful it was to see so many here tonight. SS confirmed that she will be stepping down as Chair, but will be available to provide support for the next school year to help with the transition. SS explained it had been a privilege to be part of the FOSS team she first joined in 2017 and she expressed how lucky it was to work with an amazing school team, first with Mrs Metcalfe and now Mr Smith, and a special thank you to Emma Massey (EM) and Charlotte Hope (CH). EM reciprocated thanks to SS, SS thanked the amazing FOSS team both past and present. SS shared a calendar of events for the year ahead with dates finalised and wished everyone a successful fundraising year ahead.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

SS delivered the Treasurer's report.

SS provided a summary of where the year started and the profit made from each event, SS highlighted that we now have historical data so we can look back and compare all events over the last 4 years. We raised £11,000 in the last school year (excluding expenses). SS expressed how friends from other PTA's have raised a similar figure but with almost double the number of students. She also highlighted that our school numbers have remained consistent at around 90 pupils, which LS agreed, Slingsby has such strong support from school families. SS confirmed that a contingency of £1,000 has been kept in the account as has been done historically. SS asked for questions.

LS commented how incredible the figures were for the Duck Race considering the event had to be scaled back to be inside the Village Hall because of the bad weather, to only be £600 down from last year was a brilliant achievement. SS shared the good initiatives the working party had from new volunteers such as Rachel Atkinson (RA), but it was disappointing that they couldn't run them on the day. RA has all the information if it's decided to run the activities in the future. LS commented it can't be seen as a negative and SS agreed it was a good figure given the circumstances and explained how a lot of the fundraising is done prior to the event through Duck sales, and that the new locations where we sold ducks this year had helped to make up the loss on the day. SS explained that school sales have been consistent for a few years now, so to seek growth we need to try other venues to sell at before the event. Pulling the raffle together and having it on hand to sell before the event also proved to be fruitful.

*New Fundraisers* – Little things like the Krispy Kreme individually are small numbers but when combined make a difference to our total number.

*Christmas Fair* – SS confirmed this new event had been a big contributor to this year's figure. A new event run by LT who worked hard to make it happen. As it was the first time running the fair there were some costs so there is an opportunity to make more profit if we run the event in the future. It was noted that the figure shown also included the Christmas Draw. SS highlighted that there was some positive feedback from the village and families about the community event so it would be good to build on that. This was agreed by other various members of the team. SS explained that the event is not running this year due LT stepping down and not having the numbers in the FOSS team and highlighted that if it is decided to run the Christmas Fair again planning needs to start around March to approach stall holders. Jo Plaskitt (JP) commented about other Christmas Fairs and events in the area to be aware of to avoid a clash of dates, for example the new St. Clements weekend in Malton at the end of November this year. It was agreed FOSS would need to communicate with Visit Malton and other local events before agreeing a date. SS explained that the fair had included a Santa's Grotto, children's games, refreshments and was a big opportunity, it just needs people to bring it together.

*Tea towels* – These were created for the Royal Coronation and the Jubilee Celebration, SS explained that they could be created for other events. LS agreed and commented on how it was great to involve the children at school and he was impressed with the artwork created by them for the tea towels. SS explained that the tea towels and gift items were co-ordinated by Bev Quarton (BQ) and BQ does have other commitment to FOSS events so maybe it could be taken on by someone else in the team.

*Scarecrow & May Day Weekend* – SS explained that the money generated by having the opportunity to run the refreshments in the Chapel on the bank holiday Monday was wonderful, and we made £1,100 just in refreshments on that day which lifted the overall figure and helped to compensate for the Duck Race result. The Scarecrow weekend was co-ordinated by Kathryn Fairweather (KF), and SS noted that the figure for the Saturday and Sunday are quite light because the Monday is the main May Day event. FOSS have confirmed with the Slingsby May Day committee that they would like to continue to run the refreshments on the Monday next year. SS explained that KF had captured some learnings to work on for next year but considering it all ran with volunteers, the event was a huge success. SS commented on the support for baked donations, KF agreed, and we just need to call out for more volunteers to help us on the day to make the most of the opportunity, KF agreed. SS explained that the opportunity to extend the offer on the green this year during the May Day celebration on the Monday and run the children's area had made about £900 which was up on the previous year, of which, had also been a good year. LS commented on the atmosphere and the how positive the support was for a community event, he explained how people had come away talking about the event and how good this reflected on the school and the community. SS agreed that we need to consider that events like this are also for the community and it's not always about the making money. LS commented how he has had parents come to the school because of the events that FOSS run and what we do.

*Christmas Party* – SS highlighted that this event is coming up and that we should consider the format and look at how the party was run before Covid. SS highlighted that the new members might not be aware of the old party format where families donated food for a sit down meal but explained that this does reduce the cost of the party as this event is fully funded by FOSS. SS explained that food donation lists were previously put up in the entrance to school and due to parents no longer entering school at drop off time it is not as easy to coordinate, but maybe with the parent/teacher evenings coming up, lists could be made available for families to review. Something to consider as it will reduce costs. SS highlighted the cost of buying books that are gifted to the children has gone up to almost double the cost, and that FOSS also pay for an entertainer. SS explained that the books are chosen by teachers which makes it more personal but this does mean that cheap bundle offers are not usually available. LS confirmed that he is looking into suitable bundles available to save costs and keep the figures down. JP asked if FOSS have tried local book shops like Kemps in Malton and offered to ask a contact there. SS highlighted that other options for a gift have been discussed in the past but it's always been agreed that books are an important gift.

*Duck Race* – Fran Pern (FP) offered to help with the Duck Race this year given some feedback previously discussed after the event and agreed to discuss ideas with Andrew Pern and Sarah Kelly (SK) and will meet up with SS in January. SS agreed it would be great to tap into resources we have with school families and asked if FP would be willing to take on more of the organisation for the event, FP agreed to discuss in January.

SS briefly touched on a snapshot for the other events: Halloween, Christmas productions, Mother's Day and Duck Race and highlighted how all the information was provided in the report handed out.

*Calendar of events* – SS provided a calendar of events to highlight the year ahead. SS explained that BQ is working hard on the upcoming Halloween Party and the school Christmas Cards. SS highlighted a new opportunity at school, hosting an open afternoon for families to see what FOSS funds have gone towards.

*Pre-loved uniform* - SS has booked a pre-loved uniform sale for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November and also confirmed that the uniform supplier School Shop have agreed to give FOSS a small discount of around 10-12% for bulk orders of new uniform, the profit of which will go back into FOSS.

*Whole school panto trip* – SS highlighted that the school panto trip, tickets and transport is paid for by FOSS.

*Year 6 leavers* – Trip to Flamingoland and meal at Florios in Malton was paid for by FOSS.

Christmas Party – Also fully funded by FOSS.

SS highlighted that the point of FOSS is to help with education as outlined in our constitution, LS agreed. SS asked for questions, none were raised. SS explained that all the information is available and can be circulated, in order to keep everything transparent for everyone to see.

*Audited accounts* – SS confirmed that the accounts have been audited and there were no issues, the documents were not completed in time to distribute at the meeting. It was highlighted that it is not a requirement to have the account audited but historically it was decided to have this done. There were no questions.

## **6. Election of Committee**

FP and RA confirmed they are very happy to support and volunteer but are unable to commit to joining the committee at this time.

SS explained that Laura Cotterall was happy to join the committee but unable to attend the AGM.

Committee members as volunteered and accepted – Kathryn Fairweather, Kate Pope, Sonja Sedran, Bev Quarton, Nicola Wood, Esme Bulmer, Sarah Bradshaw, Sophie Reeves, Lisa Cuthbert, and Laura Cottrell.

## **7. Election of Chair**

SS nominated Kathryn Fairweather. Sarah Bradshaw seconded the nomination. KF accepted the nomination. SS asked for further nominations but there were none forthcoming. KF duly elected as Chairperson.

## **8. Election of Secretary**

KF nominated Sophie Reeves. Kate Pope seconded the nomination. SR accepted the nomination. SS asked for further nominations but there were none forthcoming. SR duly elected as Secretary.

## **9. Election of Treasurer**

SS nominated Lisa Cuthbert. KF seconded the nomination. LC accepted the nomination. SS asked for further nominations but there were none forthcoming. LC duly elected as Treasurer.

## **10. Other business**

SS asked if anyone had any other business, nothing raised.

## **11. Closing**

SS thanked the attendees of the meeting for coming along and thanked KF for stepping into the Chair role and SR and LC for taking on officer roles. SS expressed a special thank you to LS, EM and CH for attending the meeting.

**Meeting closed at 7.22pm.**