

FOLS EGM

Present: Kenny Naidu-Johnson, Dao Turner, Lucy Giles, Chantelle Hazelwood, Kate Greig, Jane Paterson, Magalie Hill, Mark Williams, Jonathon Turner, Annabel Horseman, Sally Brogden, Yvonne Cannon, Yvonne Watson, Ruth West, Tom West, Matt Payne, Jon Spinage, Sarah Walker, Andrea Williams, Laura Pickering.

Apologies: Mandy Terry, Sarah Dixon.

Minutes from last meeting:

The minutes were accepted.

Constitution:

All present agreed to adopt the PTA UK Model Constitution. Adoption of this constitution is required to meet our legal obligations under Charity Commission regulations.

Elections:

Jon Spinage announced the results of the recent elections. Each post attracted only one nomination, so a vote was not required. The detailed presentation noted the proposers and seconders:

CHAIR – MARK WILLIAMS

VICE CHAIR – KATE GREIG

SECRETARY – RUTH WEST

Note: Chantelle Hazelwood and Lucy Giles already in role as Treasurers.

These roles were ratified with no objections from those present and will run until the next AGM.

Mark Williams presented a slideshow of the achievements made by parents and children over the past 8 weeks, relating to the Friends Easter Egg Hunt and other charitable activities. This was very well received.

Head's Vision for how The Friends of Launton School and the school can work together:

For the school to be outstanding, in its provision and outcomes for children.

1. Mrs Paterson began by introducing the Structured Thinking and Talking Programme, and the benefits it would bring to the children of Launton School. This programme has been reviewed by Sheffield Hallam University. Over 100 studies worldwide have shown that it enhances children's thinking and reasoning, accelerates progress in literacy and numeracy, helps children become more articulate and confident speakers, and teaches children how to challenge and question within the rules of respectful dialogue. These tools will stand the children in good stead in their futures and has been recommended by the Education Endowment Fund as an initiative that has a long term beneficial impact on children.

It would be possible to share the cost of implementing this programme with another school. The programme becomes embedded in a school over a period of three years and will start in January 2019.

The group present were supportive of fundraising to pay for this project.

2. School field project:

The school's large outdoor space is not currently being used to its full potential: the field is under used and it is frequently too muddy to use effectively. Plans were presented for a pathway round the perimeter of the field, thereby making the field instantly accessible. Grass space in the middle would remain for Sports Day, PE etc. Plans also include a trim trail, which can be added to in the future. The children are very excited about this project. On 10th April a representative from the company Schoolscares is visiting the school as one of a number of companies invited to tender.

Mrs Paterson confirmed the field does belong to the school, that placing equipment and a pathway on the field is permitted and she is receiving advice and support from OCC to develop the provision and comply with safeguarding priorities. It was agreed that fencing would be required between the school field and Launton Playing Fields as a priority since there are currently gaps in the existing fence work. Mrs Cannon added that from a teacher's point of view the field development would be extremely positive.

The group present were supportive of fundraising to pay for this project. On the Monkey survey completed the previous week 86% of parents said they thought the field was a worthwhile project for their donations.

3. Community

Mrs Paterson spoke about the importance of the school's place in the local community and of continuing to build on the new friendships, good relationships, and tremendous goodwill evidenced in the village's response to the Easter Egg Hunt. Opportunities to include the village and to welcome people to school events are being actively sought and planned in order to increase engagement.

The group were supportive of fundraising in support of this approach.

Financials:

Treasurer Lucy Giles explained the following figures:

Planned Expenditure school year 2017/18:

- Contribution to laptop hire: £2500
- Resources for curriculum topics: £1200
- Purchase of stage: £1000
- School library equipment: £69
- Present room: £258
- Christmas crackers for Xmas meal: £55
- Lottery: £970
- Leavers trip: £250
- Wayside willow – Parable Garden Day 2017: £200
- PTA membership: £105
- Theatre workshop: £600

TOTAL PLANNED EXPENDITURE: £7357

AVAILABLE BALANCE: £5532 (excluding £965 Match Funding)

Forward forecast of potential expenditure

I was outlined (Details in the powerpoint presentation) that there would need to be further £3 to £4k raised this year to meet the outline estimated costs of the Fence, Path, and first year of the P4C. This was agreed as very doable in the normal course of events but would require some planning.

- School field project will cost in the region of £16 to £20k these are only indicative at this point as more work needs to be done including a meeting on the 10th April with a play equipment specialist.
- Structured Thinking & Talking programme will cost £2000 per year for the next 3 years.

Plans/ideas to raise these funds:

- £2k - £3k in tax relief once Friends is a registered charity.
- Applying for grants (this is already in motion)
- Other projects –
 - Kenny's Walk
 - Neil Greig Chicago Marathon October 2018
 - Silent Auction
 - Other Mix it up type days
 - Sponsorship by local businesses
 - Match Funding from Bank of Tokyo (C/o Magalee's husband) HSBC and Santander are potentials.

It was agreed that a group would meet in April to agree the plan for these activities. The committee will facilitate this happening.

How Friends will work moving forwards:

New Secretary, Ruth West, presented the Committee's vision of how Friends would operate to its best abilities in future.

- Undertaking fundraising activities
- Making our money grow through tax efficiency, Match Funding, Gift Aid.
- Securing funds from grants and donations

The culture of Friends will foster inclusivity....everyone who wants to be involved can be. This is in line with the constitution. We all need to reach out to other parents to get them involved.

Friends will encourage good relations between the school, the parents and the children.

Friends will seek constructive feedback from parents using surveys.

Good relationships within the local community will be encouraged by engaging with the people and businesses of Launton and Bicester. This was played out recently through the activities surrounding the Easter Egg Hunt.

Next steps:

1. Submitting the Charity Commission Application.
2. First stage of the field development
3. Finalise plans for 2018 fundraising – need to hold a fund raising meeting. Date TBC.
4. Finalise dates for:
 - a. General Meeting
 - b. AGM
 - c. Committee meeting for Trustees
5. Ongoing communication to ensure full engagement of members.

AOB:

- Kenny talked about the sponsored walk he plans to take part in on 22nd July along the South Coast. The walk involves 24-30 hours of continual walking through the night. Kenny needs more people to join the team.
- Mark presented results of the parent survey regards “Mix it up Day”. This showed overwhelming support by parents from 78 to 86% positive responses. The details were presented in the powerpoint presentation.