

Friends of St Mary's Parent and Teacher Association
Registered Charity Number 1036532

Minutes of the AGM held 11th October 2021 at 19.30 via Zoom

Attendees:

Marge Jessop – Chair
Naomi Gornall - Vice Chair
Lauren King - Treasurer
Jo Berry - headteacher
Lucia (Verona) Smith
Gabrielle Shefford
Denise Lavender
Louise Pettit
Miranda McLean
Ozioma Uzoegwu
Eugene Ogbodo
Tim Gornall

Ordinary business:

1. Apologies for absence – Barbara Pink (secretary), Libby Griggs, Lizzy Redshaw, Anna Dixon, and Jo Measham (co-head) who was represented by Jo Berry.

2. Minutes of the AGM held 28th September 2020

These are available on the school website to view.

3. Any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 28th Sept 2020

Last AGM there was mention of updating the constitution. Since then the chair has issued documents to HMRC for FOSM to be granted official charity status, in order to receive gift aid. HMRC required governing documents, some of which had the wrong name and out of date info. Chair provided updated info, including the fact that FOSM calculates end of year accounts on 31st July (note at the time of meeting chair incorrectly said 31st August, she meant 31st July, that has been the practice so the constitution now reflects this). FOSM now officially recognised charity and is eligible to receive gift aid donations.

4. Treasurer's report for the year ending 31/07/21

See school website for full report.

5. Chair's report for the year ending 31/07/21

See school website for full report. Highlights included progress made to Willow Garden, integrating new parents and call for more volunteers.

All landscaping and planting for Willow Garden completed. Now finishing touches required and work to do on pond area. Suggestions welcome. LP suggested organising work party to help with weeding. JB suggested grand opening, perhaps a class at a time, Fr Peter to bless it etc.

Recent KS1 coffee afternoon was a success to help new parents integrate. Ideas offered included more similar events (once a term?) and potentially social for parents in the evening to do something like crafts or wreath making, while making contribution, so raises money and a chance to get to know each other.

Volunteers for the FOSM has been an issue. Lot of pressure on 14 people in the FOSM whatsapp group to help with all events. Need more volunteers going forward.

6. Appointment of an Independent Examiner of Accounts for the year ending 31/07/21

Treasurer has done this.

7. Election of Officers and Trustees of the Committee - a) Chair b) Vice Chair c) Secretary d) Treasurer

a) Chair - Marge Jessop stood unopposed. She will continue in this role for one more year.

b) Vice Chair- Naomi Gornall nominated Miranda McLean as vice chair. This was seconded by Marge Jessop.

c) Secretary- Barbara Pink has left the school. Lauren King nominated Tim Gornall as secretary. This was seconded by Marge Jessop.

d) Treasurer- Lauren King stood unopposed. She wanted to step down but with no one else to replace her, will continue to stay in post for a year. She will be stepping down next year and ideally would like someone to shadow the role to ease this transition.

Special Business

8. PTA purpose for coming year and how we will run including fundraising plans

Purpose is to fundraise to support and enrich the children's education and facilities. Secondary function to develop relationships between parents, teachers and school community.

Fundraising ideas include; discos (for different key stage groups), Mother's and Father's Day gifts, decorate Christmas baubles, hampers, non-uniform days. JB highlighted the issue of Mother and Father's Day gifts not being inclusive for all. Suggestion was to make it 'for someone you love' and perhaps linked to Valentine's Day.

MM suggested outdoor Christmas event, where classes sing a few songs (perhaps what they have been doing for nativity) and parents come to watch. Fundraising opportunity with sale of hot chocolate and mince pies, and have some raffles/stalls.

MM also suggested silent auction, where companies donate prizes and people donate what they think it's worth/what they can afford through seal bids. Highest bid wins.

Non-uniform dates agreed by school as follows;

Friday 5th November

Whenever Christmas dinner day is held

Friday 11th or Monday 14th February (could do a Valentine's Day thing maybe)

Friday 1st April

Friday 10th June

And potentially, on the day of the discos.

9. School bids for funding for the coming year

Finish off Willow Garden and moving on to pond area. Eventually the thought is to turn this into a forest school area.

Idea of having school panto was raised and this time, with actors coming into the school. JB and MJ will look into theatre companies who could do this.

JB also had idea of circular bench around a tree on school field. Idea is it's a friendship tree and any child can go there if they are looking for someone to play with.

10. Confirm class reps, allocate tasks, agree approach going forward

Reception - Naomi Gornall

Year 1 - Anna Dixon

Year 2 - Lucia Verona

Year 3 - Marge Jessop

Year 4 - Anna Dixon

Year 5 - As no volunteers were forthcoming from the year group, Lauren King will act as rep.

Year 6 - Miranda McLean

Going forward; New whatsapp groups being created to streamline volunteers so not the same people being asked for every task. Aim is to create a group for occasional volunteer requests and one for core group of volunteers.

MJ suggested a meeting about Christmas activities before half term.

11. Any other business

NG gave shout out to MJ for all her hard work as chair in a very challenging year. Thanked for all her efforts.

Meeting closed.