



Charity No. 1074903

FOLGS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 29th SEPTEMBER 2015

Committee:

Chair - Anna Stevenson

Vice Chair – Katy Simpson

Treasurer – Heather Pearce

Secretary – Mary Bannister

Class Reps:

Reception – Genny Snowden

Year 1 – Caroline Simmonds

Year 2 – Penny Brash

Year 3 – Sam Scott

Year 4 – Jessie Simmons

Year 5 – Michelle Russell

Year 6 – Caroline Wallace

1. **Apologies** – Irene Mackenzie; Michelle Russell.
2. Chairman's welcome & update – Pippa ??(Year 1), Anne Consedine (year 4) – nominated as year reps. Welcome to Mrs Geoghegan and Mrs Patterson.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – current spending and on-going projects – see separate Treasurer's Report.
4. **Feedback from last year's fundraising**
 - Comedy night, aim for early February 2016
 - Reschedule Quiz Night for an alternative evening in February/March 2016. Mrs Geoghegan kindly offered the school hall as an alternative venue to the village hall.
 - Bingo event went very well. More and smaller prizes needed so that every child wins something. Pitch it as a children's event rather than an event for all.
 - Easter Break. Date for last day of term Thursday 24th march. Back on 11th April. Other schools back on 18th.
 - The Church is very keen to do an Easter event in conjunction with the school again this year.
 - Lovely feedback from inter-village. Agreed that it went really well.
5. **School Funding & Wish List**
 - Mrs **Geoghegan** – extended gratitude to the Friends for all the work they do in behalf of the school. The money raised, and the events organised make such a difference both inside and outside of school .

One of lovely things about this school is the community and the parents coming together to fundraise.

- Discussion about the bigger plan of fundraising into the future.
- **Arts funding:** Little Gaddesden is lucky to receive specific funds donated by an ex-teacher, which are set aside for arts projects and events, as was her specific requirement. Her fund has paid for the authors we have had into school recently.
- **Sports events/equipment funding:** Like all schools, we are given PE funding post-Olympics, sports coaches, buses, subsidised events, so the school doesn't ask the friends for funds for sports.
- **Maintenance:** An amount of money is given to church schools to maintain buildings. Now £4000 p.a. (radically cut in last few years). School looking fairly secure but don't have the pot of money we used to have e.g. if roof caved in, hall floor, boiler. Friends do contribute to the maintenance budget (10% has to come from PTA or school can't access the funds).
- **Wish List:** (a) flooring under the canopy in class 1; (b) footpaths (there is a drainage issue that needs to be resolved – grilles need to be fitted. Once fitted footpaths will be re-done.) (c) Gazebo needs painting; grounds upkeep generally – may be better for it to be done professionally rather than by parents/friends. (d) Class 3 has been painted and has fresh carpet; (e) new carpet needed in class 2; (f) replacing computers; (g) heating – class 1 cold, class 3 too hot; (h) Friends will support Golden Time; (i) some money for a school play – they are thinking about doing something differently this year. (j) General maintenance inside and out. It was agreed that the Friends could agree an amount p/a for the school to use on general maintenance.
- Agreed we could set up another working party for parents to help in playground maintenance and tidying e.g. jet wash the play equipment; take away the apples; etc.

6. Event Planning for Autumn Term

- i. Autumn Walk
- ii. Bonfire & Fireworks night - 1st November. Same format as previous years at October House. 5-7pm. Volunteers needed - 3 or 4 people on the bar. Waitrose have given us discount on alcohol. Also need volunteers the day after for tidying. Working party needed. Suggested that older children help with selling flash toys and sweets. All class reps ask for older sibling volunteers. Adult working party for food and drink. Claire and Irene reviewing stock. Class reps to speak to class parents.
- iii. **Pre-Christmas Shopping event** - Friday 13th November. 7-10pm. Stallholders at previous Christmas bizarre don't historically make money. SO splitting out stalls into a pre-Christmas shopping event with bar and canapés and open out to wider community. Currently have 18 tables signed up with

16 different stallholders – Waitrose cheese tasting stall. Many small local suppliers.

- iv. **Christmas Bazaar** – 28th November - change of focus to previous years – auction, raffle, food, bar – make money; make it more of an event for the children. Class 2 where children can choose gift for parents to help children wrap present for parents. Hog Roast instead of turkey rolls. Don't need a specific coordinator. Anna and Katy will coordinate.
7. **Class reps & event organising** - Anne & Penny – Quiz Night; Pippa & Jessie – Bingo; Comedy Night – bar/ticket sales – Michelle; School Disco – Caroline & Jessie.
8. **Website** – we have looked into refreshing the Friends section of the website; re-drafted who we are and what we do, and included a noticeboard for upcoming events and notices, and an archive of minutes, and easy fundraising. Year reps; committee; contact info.
9. **AOB** –
- New parents are encouraged to become more involved in the Friends.
 - 6th November – breakfast at Red Lion for Class 1 parents.
 - Calender on website!!! Include Friends events.
 - ALL – lots of people sharing concerns about traffic; Mrs Geoghegan agreed to put an awareness of speed into parentmail.
 - Claire Franklin has kindly offered to take on Christmas Cards for Schools.
 - T-towels/aprons/calendar etc – Caroline Simmons will look into it.
 - Anne Consedine organising coffee morning for Yr 4 and yr 3.
 - Class reps to update parents' contact lists
 - Anna Stevenson will be resigning as Chair of the Friends at Easter – please do come forward if you are happy to be a committee rep.

10. Date of next meeting: January 19th 2016