



## **FOSS AGM – Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> at Slaley First School**

### **Minutes**

1. **Those Present:** - Joanna Chapman, Laura Black, Sue Roff, Debbie Brett, Julie Hay, Laura Jude, Andrea Gaskill, Linda Johnston

2. **Apologies:** - Marie Beckett, Nikki Saunders, Cara Stephenson

3. **Minutes of last year's AGM**

The minutes of last year's AGM were read and agreed

4. **Matters arising:**

- a. It was agreed to keep the notice board on hold
- b. No funds are required for the gardening club at present
- c. FOSS are now registered with HMRC for claiming gift aid – Lucy to check if it is possible to claim gift aid for the two donations recently received to the charity (from Chapman Trust and Mr and Mrs Morton)

5. **Chair's report (attached)**

This was read and agreed. Laura Black talked how this year we are planning to refresh the range of fundraising events as we have done the same ones for the last couple of years. New events would include the carol singing and treasure hunt. The suggestion was to make the summer fair a larger weekend event this year, with potentially a football tournament – suggested timing was end June / beginning of July.

Another big event that will be planned for next Autumn was another promises auction – key for this will be to have a clear target for where the money will be spent to focus requests on (last auction it was IT equipment and the gardening club)

The feedback for the summer camp has been really strong, with requests to do this as an annual event. Whilst Rye Hill Farm was ideal for this event, it was felt that if this is an annual event we should see if other locations can host as well, so we are not asking the same venue every year to give up a valuable weekend of revenue.

Another suggestion was to make and sell bags for life this year as a fundraiser, especially with the changing legislation to remove free plastic bags in shops. Laura Jude to investigate where another local school (Lewside Primary) sourced theirs.

6. **Treasurer's report (attached)**

This was read and agreed.

7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts**

Phil Stephenson has kindly agreed to act as independent examiner of accounts

8. **School Spend Plan (see attached)**

Key decisions for the spend plan are on hold until Mrs Brett has taken on the headship of the school, however the following updates were given:

- There was a preference to also invest in laptops for the school as well as ipads to help develop keyboard skills
- The netbooks the school has are now working, so add to the available resources the school already has
- There will also be investigation into whether new projectors are required and what maintenance contracts can be put in place to keep IT equipment working



- It was suggested that there are charities and companies that might donate laptops or pc's that they are replacing as part of their ongoing maintenance scheme that the school could use. Lucy to investigate what companies exist that process old computers from companies for donation to schools. Joanna will also look into whether she might be able to donate old pc's from Orange Plant to the school.
- Laura Black to investigate whether donations are available from the open cast mine at Kiln Pit Hill – it appears that they may have been offering funding to local schools?
- Other changes / updates
  - o Forest school storage – not required at present
  - o Hall expansion – Becky Jackson did not manage to secure funding for this, so there are no plans for this to go ahead
  - o Library – the suggestion was to set up a specific meeting for this after Debbie Brett has settled in to talk details for this investment – suggestion as March – Lucy will send out details nearer the time. In the meantime, it was agreed that Julie Hay and Sue Roff could go ahead and order books they have as priority requirement at the moment.
  - o Parentmail – Julie Hay to check what the current budget is to cover this. In the past people have expressed concern with FOSS paying for this as it is not a resource for the children, however it was seen as a valuable communication tool for the school and parents. The suggestion was that FOSS should pay half the cost.

**9. Appointment of committee**

Linda Johnston joined the committee as co-chair, proposed by Lucy Irish and seconded by Sue Roff.

Laura Black will continue in her position as co-chair.

Lucy Irish will continue in her position as treasurer.

**10. AOB**

Linda Johnston will organize the hampers again this year for the Christmas plays. Andrea Gaskill offered to help source boxes for the hampers

Linda gave an update on the gardening club – there are plans to restructure the garden in a one off 'big plant' then have the emphasis on tending the plants for the school and club members ongoing. They are looking for ideas for how to refresh the garden e.g. adding bird feeders / seats etc. They currently have £75 and will request donations from local garden centres and come back to FOSS if any help is required.

**11. Date for next meeting**

The date for the next FOSS meeting will be after Christmas, There will be a meeting specifically to plan events on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Lucy Irish's house at 8pm. Please contact Lucy if you would like to join.

*N.B. since the meeting this has been changed to Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December*