

Minutes

Friends of Longstone School

23rd January 2019

Attendees – Allen Morris, Emily Swindell, Julie Cox, Jane Stirland.

Apologies – Gemma Harvey, Jo Mitchell, Mark Taylor, Jenna Jackson, Georgie Swift

Action points

Allen – continue to look into claiming back charges on the FOLS bank account

Emily – discuss parent consultation letter ideas with Mrs Harvey including Mrs Unwin and the gardening club.

Emily & Jane – to print out and put quiz posters around the village

Emily – to order pizza and juice for the disco

Mrs Harvey – To remind parents to put up their names to help at the disco in assembly

Mrs Harvey - To discuss music with the children for the disco and to give lists to Jo Mitchell by Friday 1st February.

Mrs Harvey – to request defibrillator pads from the Parish council.

Emily – discuss the kurling target and shed with Mrs Harvey.

Emily – check the date of the Easter service with Mrs Harvey.

Emily opened the meeting and the previous minutes from 22nd November 2018 were signed off.

Before the agenda items were discussed, the meeting started with the attendees discussing the ongoing issue of so few people from the school community attending meetings or engaging in supporting FOLS, replying to letters or willingly signing up to help at events. Allen suggested widening the area of FOLS to members to the village, as well as the school parents, to try and encourage people with more spare time to support FOLS e.g. retired members of the community and grandparents of the children.

It has been the case in previous years that as FOLS members have served a time on the committee that the 'new' parents to the school usually filter in to the vacant positions. This does not seem to be the case at the moment. With numbers diminishing it was decided, that until more people attend meetings and voluntarily put themselves forward to help at events, that FOLS may have to cut back on the larger events and concentrate on events that need less man power to run. This may result in FOLS having to fold in the future, but currently we will continue with smaller events and projects to keep FOLS 'ticking along' until further notice.

The next meeting will be held at The Crispin in the village at 7pm on Monday 18th March. This above situation will be discussed further at that meeting.

1. Treasurer update

Allen informed the committee that we currently have £9716.26 in the bank.

Allen is continuing to chase £105 of charges that have been placed on the account for over a year, that Kerry started to look into. This will hopefully be resolved soon and we may be credited that amount to our account. Allen gave Emily a cheque for £118.95 to cover costs for the upcoming disco.

We have not had any invoices for cushions or any further information on the STOMP session discussed at previous meetings.

2. Christmas Bazaar Review

Emily thanked everyone for their help and donations for the Bazaar which was a great success. Allen told the committee that the bazaar made a profit of £1433.39. This was £153 down on last year, however Emily explained that we did not have the £200 of raffle ticket sales from Mr Mycock which made a significant difference to the raffle ticket profit.

Everyone agreed that the grotto door, supplied by Jon Hall, was great and very effective.

There was a discussion about how parents feel about donating to the Bazaar to mainly just buy everything back. Some ideas raised to be discussed before the next Bazaar were;

- Maybe stop the wine and water stall as that seems to be one of the hardest things to get donations for.
- Cut the number of hampers down as people will probably still buy the same number of tickets even if there was 1 or 2 fewer hampers.
- Ask for donations of bouncy balls, stickers and bits that people will have an abundance of at home to make our own secret cups, or paper bags to reduce plastic waste.

This way we are only asking for regifted/unwanted gifts for the Elves' secret workshop and teddies for the teddy tombola, which most people are happy to get donate. Parents are then only buying for their class hampers. We discuss these ideas nearer to the time of the next Bazaar if necessary.

3. Discuss feedback from parents' letter

After the last meeting where we discussed fewer parents attending and having fewer new ideas at the meetings, a letter was sent to parents to ask for ideas of what to spend FOLS' money on and for any new ideas for events. We have had 4 replies from parents. We all read through all of the ideas. Many of the ideas are things that we feel can be discussed with school and/or school council for most of the children's needs and ideas to be met. Some of the suggestions have the facilities and equipment in school already. Emily will discuss these with Mrs Harvey.

Allen came to the meeting with some pictures of an outdoor classroom idea that had been raised amongst a few members at the last meeting. This would allow children an area, in the shade in the summer and out of the cold and rain in the winter months. to play or study outdoors. Allen had prices for the most top end building from one company that would include the building with large sliding doors and storage area around the back. This was over £24,000 without foundations and a base. This is a long-term project that we would aim towards and possibly look into getting grants for, as we did with the climbing frame, if FOLS

was to continue beyond the current academic year. A future discussion on this can be held if there was any further interest in it, along with where it could possibly go.

One suggestion from a parent was a school kitchen garden. We were all in agreement that this is a great idea and that school does have the space for this in the garden and possibly near the chickens. This will need to be discussed further with Mrs Harvey and to see where it would fit in with Mrs Unwin's gardening club and the possibility of the local horticultural society lending a hand.

4. Winter Quiz and Supper

Emily informed the committee that ticket sales are going well. Jane suggested now opening it up to the village community, which Emily agreed could have been done earlier. Julie took a poster to put up at the village hall. Emily will put one on the village hall facebook page and will print several others to be displayed in the village shop and around the village by herself and Jane.

We have had several very good donations for the raffle too. Emily thanked all those who have donated these.

5. Winter Disco

All the information for the disco has been put out to parents and the pre-school. Emily has purchased all the tuck items and adult drinks. An order of juice and pizzas will be sent to Milly this week. It was agreed to stick to the same pricing system as last year. We need to rally up more recruits to help to serve pizza and tuck etc on the night.

Several parents have kindly offered to donate disco lights for the event too.

Mrs Harvey is discussing music playlists with all the children and will pass them to Jo Mitchell to create the playlists on the night.

6. Requests for purchases

Mrs Harvey asked Emily to request some child sized defibrillator pads for the machine in the village. We decided that this may be a request to pass to the Parish Council, as there are 2 machines in the village and one in Little Longstone. It may be beneficial to have them at all 3 for the village and not just at school?

Mrs Tilson has approached Emily regarding the purchase of a kurling target at £34.99. The committee discussed this and wondered if it was to only be used by the children in The Hive? Due to the price of the item, the committee decided that we would be more willing to purchase it if it was to be used in PE or by all of the children in school. Emily will need to check this with Mrs Harvey and Mrs Tilson.

Mr Unwin had approached Emily regarding the possibility of purchasing a new shed to store some equipment at the front of school. The current one is wooden and he would prefer a metal one with a base. This committee decided that if we were to buy a shed, would it be possible to buy one as large as possible for Mr Unwin, the school and FOLS to use it to maximise the space and create extra storage for all? Emily will discuss this with Mrs Harvey.

7. Set dates for future events

As mentioned above, we are not planning too far into the future re events but have decided that we can go ahead with the Easter competition and the sponsored bike ride as these don't need volunteers or support from the school community, as such.

Easter - As discussed at a previous meeting, following on from last year's Easter competitions, we have decided to ask the Infants to join in the egg decorating competition, if they would like to. We decided to set some limitations this year. The infants will be to decorate 1 egg in the style of a book character. The juniors will be asked to decorate 1 egg, with their display being the maximum size of a shoe box, with a link to Easter or the topic of local heroes and villains. All entries will need to be labelled very clearly with their name and year group. Prizes will be awarded to the creations which show as much creativity from the children as possible, and not so much their parents!

Prizes for first, second and third place, in the form of a chocolate Easter egg will be given out after the Easter service. Emily to check with Mrs Harvey on the date.

Sponsored Bike Ride – after the success of this event last year, we will run this again with the bike ride being able to be completed over several weeks, including half term. This will commence on Friday 17th May to Friday 7th June, with certificates given on 14th June.

Uniform Sale – Jane and Julie will be holding a uniform sale this Friday, 25th January. Some donations have been taken at the office. Jane told the committee that they have another sale in on Friday 29th March to coincide with the Donaldson cake sale.

The date for the next meeting will be Monday 18th March at 7pm at The Crispin.