

Friends of Belham AGM - Minutes

18 November 2021

Attendees:

This was a well attended meeting with teachers, governors and parents. Attendees included Adam Scott, Kathryn Church, Hannah Cleaton-Roberts and Shaun Kirby

1. Welcome to all

Adam welcomed everyone.

2. Impact review - School Perspective

Tom Turnham, Deputy head, gave an overview of the benefit of the FOB fundraising from the school's perspective. FOB's positive impact included:

- Funding support packages for families at the beginning of lockdown
- Funding the Belham Bees (two new beehives on the roof of the school)
- Providing books for the classroom libraries - including fiction, non fiction books and the reading passport books as well as the rising stars reading scheme.
- Buying and repairing musical instruments for the peripatetic teaching programme
- Funding costumes etc for the amazing Year 6 performance of Honk!
- Providing ice lollies and refreshments for sports day
- Funding school trips to the theatre
- Transforming the garden and the Copleston garden
- Funding all sorts of other things, including leavers hoodies and year books.

3. Review of the last year - FOB perspective

Adam gave an overview of the year from the FOB perspective. He

He reiterated the aims:

To work closely with the school

- we held the last FoB meeting in the school, with Ally Sprakes in attendance. It worked well and we hope to repeat.
- we really appreciate the school's great communication with FoB and collaborative approach

To channel the energy of the Belham community into the wider community

- we worked with the school to make the fair in September an event that appealed to the wider community and was in support of our area - fundraising for educational charity Ignite Hubs as well as FoB.
- Community Christmas Cards last Christmas, plan to repeat

To make FoB sustainable

- FoB's internal sustainability: worked to bring on new committee members a year ago to avoid a cliff-edge this year, thank you to Kathryn for stepping up. It would be great to have 2-3 people joining the committee each year.

- FoB's environmental sustainability: FoB has always been conscious of its environmental impact, we've tried to carry that on - reduce plastic (e.g. wholesale bread rolls - plastic free), reduce waste and disposable stuff (like this event tonight), recycling... Laura Ford sustainability advisor

To make FoB inclusive

- Tried to get more men involved - thanks to those who stepped up
- making events inclusive to those with SEND - Libby Sarsfield - small things like doing Xmas cards at home instead of school, making Santa's grotto work for SEND children. First steps on this...

4. Plans going forward

Kathryn spoke about plans going forward:

- 1) She noted the things which happen every year, e.g. the fair, fun run, etc.
- 2) She highlighted a focus on events that balance helping grow the school community ethos with raising funds.
- 3) Continue with a focus on campaign fundraising - started in this vein with the Maker's Room Upgrade, and the recent decision of the wider group to create an Arts Fund, allowing the school to have a flexible pot of funding for the arts. Consider other flexible fund pots, e.g. sports fund. Work with our parent fundraiser Alex to look at other forms of income.
- 4) Find the right balance between quantity of events, and overwhelming parents with demands - no easy task - source your ideas on what we could be doing differently to engage parents more
- 5) Work with the school to increase community engagement - as COVID recedes, what types of events could we partner with school on to utilise the fantastic community space? Talks, lectures, music, charity, etc?
- 6) Field ideas on what new activities to consider in the next year - including learning from other local school parent groups and PTAs as to other successful events that we could hold.

5. Financial overview

Shaun gave an overview of the financial position for the year and going forward. See his slides for details.

- Cash of £24,240 held at the end of the financial year of which £4,883 is reserved for the Lane, £5245 to the Makers Room, £2775 to the Arts Fund, and a further c£6000 committed to spending by the school, leaving unallocated funds of around £6,723.
- Surplus of £7,820 generated from events reduced from FY 2020 due to COVID. £11,393 was raised from events in FY2020 and £25,454 was raised in FY2019.
- Donations paid to the school in the year total £23,660. A further £7,134 has been paid since 31 August 2021 and £6,000 has been approved but not yet paid.

6. Electing new committee

Hannah led the process to elect a new committee as follows:

Kathryn Church - chair (Nominated Hannah Cleaton-Roberts, seconded Adam Scott)

Chantelle Edwards - deputy chair (Nominated Hannah Cleaton-Roberts, seconded Adam Scott)

Doug Renwick - treasurer (Nominated Hannah Cleaton-Roberts, seconded Shaun Kirby)

Lucy Beedham - committee member (Nominated Hannah Cleaton-Roberts, seconded Adam Scott)

Rachel Noar - committee member (Nominated Hannah Cleaton-Roberts, seconded Adam Scott)

All committee members were voted on by a show of hands and elected by an overwhelming majority.