

**Minutes of Friends of Belham Committee meeting  
23 June 2020**

**Meeting held online**

**In attendance:**

Eve Petcher  
Adam Scott  
Shaun Kirby  
Hannah Cleaton-Roberts  
Louise Murray  
Abba Newbery  
Christabel Daugherty  
Ginnie Kelly  
Stephanie Thomas



**1. General feedback from the class reps:**

In summary – COVID is affecting all families differently, however there is a general view that a) people have a lot on their plate already, especially as they try and work / care for their children from home, and b) there are plenty of people in financially straightened circumstances, although that is not necessarily the case across the board.

**2. COVID SUMMER FUND**

It was agreed that we should not fundraise for general FoB funds but we would like to raise money for a “COVID summer fund”, i.e. funds specifically designated to help families within the school over the summer holidays in whatever way the school assesses there may be need (along the lines of the £30 Sainsburys vouchers we funded for 44 children in March). It was agreed that this fundraising should be a) anonymous if possible, b) not linked to any specific activity, c) prefunded by the FOB funds. The idea is that those who are in a position to donate can give anonymously but there should be no perceived obligation for anyone who is in difficult circumstances. If there is a shortfall in the amount raised v what is prefunded by the FOB, then FOB will make up the difference.

Action: Eve has emailed school and we await their response

- Whether there is a need for such a fund
- What might the money be needed for (e.g. books, sainsbury’s vouchers)

**3. Street spelling treasure hunt**

The idea of a street level book swap was popular in principle but rejected on grounds of hygiene issues. Instead it was agreed to set up a street level spelling hunt. It would work as follows:

- Families agree to participate
- They put up a designated image or a letter in their window on a specified weekend

- • Over the weekend, the children have to go around the neighbourhood and identify the letters and spell the word or phrase that is spelled out, or count how many e.g. flowers they can see
- • The phrase may suggest that they all do an action which they can then take a picture of and send in to the school?

Action: Hannah is putting a call out in the Friends Friendly and will coordinate this with help from others.

#### 4. Other fundraising / activity ideas

For September, the following ideas were raised as possible fundraisers (or were ideas deferred to September..)

- • A fun run, but on an individually sponsored basis
- • A book swap or donation programme, where people bring surplus books to school and they are either distributed amongst families who need them or available to be swapped
- • [we should keep the uniform donation table here, as we were going to do that]
- • Dog kennel hill playground - not a fundraiser but a free social event. Dog Kennel Hill playground is booked for 11-3.30 on Sat 19 Sept but obviously we'll have to review guidance to see if this can happen. We will send you all a meeting invite so you can choose to put this in your diary if you wish.

#### 5. Reception parents welcome

Adam agreed to sort out a Zoom call or similar for new reception parents in September. Adam, Eve and Christabel have children starting in Reception (if any else of you do, let us know!), we will look too recruit some class reps too.

#### 6. Clarifying class reps and teacher gifts

It was asked if class reps are expected to be the ones to organise gifts for teachers and school staff. We don't feel it is part of the class rep role and it should be made clear that money raised by FoB is never for teacher and staff gifts or social events. You may choose to initiate a collection if you want to. If you don't see anyone else taking the initiative but you think that a collection for gifts should happen, then you could ask for volunteers - this has been done in the past. Gifts for teachers has already happened organically in years 1 and 4 without FoB class reps getting involved.

#### 7. Spending agreed by the committee since the previous meeting:

16 March 2020

**School request for FoB support to purchase workbooks and exercise books for all pupils in advance of anticipate school closure for Covid-19**

**Agreed amount: £3200**

**Actual spend: £2144**

Adam Scott email to committee and reps 16 March 2020: spending agreed by replies

17 March 2020

**School request for FoB support for Belham families at the start of Covid-19 Lockdown**

**£1340 spent on Sainsbury's vouchers direct by FoB, distributed by the school to vulnerable families**

Email from Alison Sprakes, Tuesday, March 17, 2020 suggesting FSM children or children of families self-identified to the school as financially vulnerable could be supported with £20 food voucher and £10 stationery voucher. This was as the school was likely to have to close and the school hadn't had any clear guidance from the LA or DfE regarding these children and parents.

Agreed by committee via email in response to Eve Petcher emailing committee and reps 17 March 2020

8 May 2020

**£700 for materials and equipment for the Copleston Growing Garden**

Work to be done and purchases to be made by Giles Hardy

Adam Scott email to committee and reps 8 May 2020 - agreed by replies