



## **FRIENDS OF BINFIELD SCHOOL**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1079512**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

#### **PRESENT**

Charlotte Light	Joanne Maher	Claire Turner	Deborah Conneely
Jessica Simpson	Karen Hardy	Nicola Jenkins	Victoria Lunn
Hayley Hammond	Steve Roby	Ali Melabie	Martyna
Lorraine Parker	Rachel Parker	Rebecca Munroe	Kirstie Rolfe
Kate Hayes	Lee-Anne Ashworth	Judith Bullock	Joanna Copperthwaite
Jackie Kelley	Joanna Ronan	Judith Bullock	Tania Chizlett
Carina O'Keefe	Jon Crouch	Gemma	
Kerry Mistry	Suzie Featherstone-Wright		

#### **APOLOGIES**

Sam Sykes                      Sam Daines

#### **MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes were reviewed and accepted as a true representation of proceedings.

#### **CHAIR REPORT**

As I look back on my role as chair over the last three years, I couldn't have believed how different each year has been! I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say that it was lovely to have a normal school year this year!

Firstly, I want to acknowledge all the staff at the school. Parents only see a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes.

The teachers and TA's spent countless hours planning lessons and writing reports, organising classrooms, training and all manner of extra duties that parents don't realise. And in the middle of that, they teach our children the most important skills and nurture their love of learning!

The senior leadership team and office staff - you are always kept on your toes and work so so hard! Parents don't realise that most of you are here into the evening and during the school holidays. You deal with all manner of enquiries from administering magic tissue to a grazed knee to addressing serious family concerns. The longer I have worked with you, the more I have seen how much you do. I have so much respect for you all. Thank you.

A very special mention must go to Mr Munden too. He has put his heart and soul into Binfield and is so hard working and willing to get stuck in for the good of the school. He is an absolute asset and we are all very grateful for his help to run our FOBS events too.

And events we had! Our first real year with real live events that proved to be huge successes and bring the community feel back to the school.

The FOBS team kept some events that began in covid times on our calendar, like the Bag2School as this helps the wider community. The popular and tasty Doughies Pizza kits and the gorgeous

Spring Planters. But we also brought back some old favourites that we had all been missing - like Christmas - which we brought back with a bang!

The Christmas Sub Committee was made up of members that may have helped at a bazaar or run a stall but not the entire event and others, that because of covid, hadn't even set foot in the school! But we made it work! We tried some new ideas, learnt a lot of new skills and it was a complete success! We introduced the token system which helped us move towards a cashless system whilst still teaching the children the value of money. And with a grand total of over £5,000, we started the year off strong.

Of course, Binfield kept Believing too and although the weather was a bit damp and there was a football match on that day, the elves and Father Christmas himself did not disappoint the little ones.

Moving into 2023 and we had to bring back our Quiz Night. It was our first event aimed solely for the adults, everyone had a wonderful time and we all knew more than we thought!

And before we knew it, it was spring with our pre-loved uniform sales, spring planters brightening our doorsteps and the Easter holiday Binfield Egg Hunt.

FOBS ran the Egg Hunt solely this year and it was another great success. We were expecting it to be quieter, due to more countries opening their borders after lockdown, but were delighted that it was as busy as ever and made a healthy profit of over £4,000!

April and May brought a first for our generation - a Coronation - which we celebrated in true British Fashion with tea towels and picnics. The Big Help Out also saw families coming into school to help Mr Munden paint, garden and sharpen a lot of pencils. A great way to get families involved and something we hope the new committee will keep doing.

Not to forget the children! They finally got their disco! With a brand new team and lots of learning on the job, they pulled off a wonderful disco attended by almost the entire school. The music blared, the sweets flowed, the kids had a blast!

But summer also brought some challenges and with no event lead, we had to cancel our Summer Fete. In true FOBS "Think outside the box" style though, we ran a bumper Summer Raffle and Silent Auction that culminated with another community event - Party Bye the Pitch. Tania secured 21 incredible raffle prizes and 10 remarkable auction lots and this ensured that we smashed our previous raffle / auction record and raised over £3,000!

And to add to the pot, we continued to receive cash-back incentives from AmazonSmile, Easyfund-raising and Bracknell Forest Lottery, as well as being of recipients of a donation from Windsor Yards Farm and a few anonymous donations too.

All of this making our total amount raised to just over £20,700.

So what did we do with that money?

We have funded the enrichment weeks throughout the year, extras like special red ties for year 6, exciting school plays and we gifted every child a special pin to commemorate the King's coronation. We have spent just shy of £1500 for books for every year group and ensured that each teacher had a float to buy those extras for their class.

£3,000 helped pay for a permanent canopy structure in the BOLE so that our children can learn outside in all weathers. £3,000 has also gone towards the swimming pool that we will be hosting again in September and that each child will get a chance to use.

But our biggest spend will be the Sound System in the hall. As much as I would have loved to have completed it, the school know that £10,000 is ring fenced for this project when they have completed their due diligence and I cannot wait to hear the results!

And to my core committee. Hayley, Claire, Vicky, Jess, Tania, Charlotte, Lorraine, Debs and Kate. From running events, to accounts, website updates, posters and last minute comms, approaching businesses for prizes and being my sounding board - thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We also say a final farewell to Kate Hayes. This is officially her last FOBS meeting as a parent as her daughter is moving onto secondary school. Thank you for the many years you have been part of FOBS and all you have done.

As my time as chair ends, I can reflect that I have learnt a heap of new skills, overcome a few challenges and made some wonderful friends. I have loved being chair and I am so proud of what FOBS has achieved in the last 3 years. I had 3 personal objectives when I took on chair:

1. To put up a new shed (tick)
2. To give FOBS a new logo that was more in line with the school's logo and made it more obvious that we are raising money for the school (tick), and
3. To break the mould of doing the same style of fundraising (tick). I don't know if we needed a pandemic for that to happen, but I just wanted to show people that trying something different isn't wrong, it's just - Different. And after 3 years at the helm and having helped raised £54,434.03, it doesn't hurt to do things your own way.

Finally, to the incoming committee - you are the future of FOBS. Make FOBS what you want it to be. Raise the money how you want to raise it and have a blast whilst you do it! Because I have.

Thank you  
Jo

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Well this has been the first 'relatively normal' school year since 2018-19 and it was great to have a few 'firsts' dropped into the year that FOBS have supported with. In September we had our first ever 'Pool to School' which was a huge success, so much so, we have booked up for another 2 years. We saw the children make great progress and enjoy the experience. Water safety is a life-saving skill and we are so pleased FOBS are supporting this with us as so many more children can't swim these days. There were several children for whom this was their first experience being immersed in water and it was an absolute joy to see their faces. There was also the return of the Christmas Bazaar —the first one since Covid which was welcomed by the wider community (although Covid finally got me and I wasn't able to be there — it was the first one I've missed in 21 years, with the exception of Covid years). It was also lovely to be able to have the first 'new Year R parents evening' again — it was a 'taste of the old Binfield community spirit' and was a super evening. And the school discos were back - which I'm told the children thoroughly enjoyed on Friday albeit very noisy!

FOBS wouldn't happen without someone taking the lead, and I want say a huge thank-you to Jo for chairing FOBS again, over this last year. Jo — it's not an easy role to do and having to rally everyone around and bring everyone together and focussed on the tasks in hand. You're stepping down now after a few years at the helm, and should do so knowing the positive impact you've made in your time in the role. I'm sure you'll be on hand to offer the new Chair/co-chairs advice next year.

Claire — with everything you have going on, I really don't know how you do it all. You've been so hard-working behind the scenes, dealing with all the financial stresses and chasing up the staff to spend their money! It's such an important role that is essential for FOBS to run smoothly. We're sad you're stepping down but want to thank you for all you have done over the past few years for our school.

Hayley —You've been our consistent face over the years- I'm not sure how many years, but I'm sure it must span a decade? Thank you for all of your time and energy you've given to the role and for all the organising and running around behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. We're sad to see you're now stepping down but thank you for your contribution over many years.

And finally, to **all** of the committee members for continuing to organise a wide range of events and managing fundraising ideas, and to all FOBS members who have contributed to these throughout the year. The effort and hard work is really appreciated by the whole school community and this is giving the children extra resources and experiences that they would not otherwise have. A special farewell to Kate who is now leaving us after many years as Abigail moves on to secondary school. Times are very challenging in Education at the current time and the pressures on schools are immense. Having such an amazing FOBS team really does help to lighten the load, even if it can't remedy all of the issues.

FOBS have continued to support us in so many ways e.g. with Class budgets, even more new reading books (which are making a huge difference in supporting children to recover lost learning), continuing to keep the BOLE going and having a new canopy in place; Pool to school in September and enrichment weeks which have been back this year, as well as class budgets. Father Christmas also managed to make a face to face appearance in December and the class presents were also very much appreciated. Y6 are also looking forward to a special end of year leavers' celebration too.

So as we formally end this year, it is worth reflecting on the joint efforts of everyone at Binfield who are contributing to the education and well-being of the children. It is a true collaborative effort and we are so lucky to have such a great team of people. We have just had the latest test results and our school's results are very strong across the board — well above local and national levels. This is testament to the great partnership between home and school and the ongoing support from FOBS. We are still recovering from Covid and we haven't recovered all lost learning yet, but we are well on our way to do this for all children. So thank-you —we couldn't do it without you!

As we move forwards, we are hoping to make the 'Pool to school' an annual fixture as supporting all children to be water confident and be able to swim is an important life-skill and we will also be continuing to invest in technology. We hope to have a *new*, all singing sound system in place by Christmas (a 50:50 project with school). We would welcome FOBS' ongoing support with fundraising for these big projects as we are not able to do these without additional fund-raising and they are extremely costly.

Many thanks once again to all of you.

Suzie Featherstone-Wright

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Binfield 10k contribution (from May 2022)	1200		
Christmas Bazaar	5007.55		
Binfield Believes & market	659.45		
Christmas market raffle donation	65		
Quiz night	536.89		
Spring planters	131.41		
Easter Egg Hunt	4247.62		
Doughies pizzas	144		
2nd hand uniform	332.25		
Bag2School	901.8		
BFC Lottery	803.5		
Amazon Smile	240.71		
Easy fundraising	195.01		
Collection boxes	92.51		
Coronation Tea towels	458.09		
Coronation Games/Tombola	60.69		
Windsor Yards craft fayre	200		
Donations/Stock purchases	293.46		
Non Uniform day	652.59		
Summer raffle	2138.67		
Summer Silent Auction	912.52		
Ascot ticket sales commission	26.5		
Disco	1463.81		
Sports day refreshments	TBC		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£20,764.03</b>	<b>£17,950.72</b>	<b>£15,719.28</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Sound System (ringfenced spend)	10,000.00		
BOLE canopy	3,000.00		
Swimming Pool	3,000.00		
Books	1,498.56		
Teachers Floats	1,353.64		
Christmas week	1,004.87		
Sports week	950.00	TBC	
Enrichment weeks	769.70		
Year 6 red ties	360.50		
Coronation pins	351.49		
Circus (deposit 2024)	300.00		
First Aid training/supplies	283.26		
Coronation lunch	275.11		
Year 6 leavers pens	229.19		
School plays	200.00		
Year 6 leavers day	200.00	TBC	
Beacon advertising	148.00		
Parentkind membership/Insurance	133.00		
Miscellaneous	129.38		
Maintenance	124.70		
SumUp machine	39.00		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£24,350.40</b>	<b>£17,227.96</b>	<b>£21,247.59</b>

## **ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b>ROLE</b>	<b>NOMINATION</b>	<b>PROPOSER</b>	<b>SECONDER</b>
<b>Co Chair</b>	Rachel Parker	Tania Chizlett	Lorraine Parker
<b>Co Chair</b>	Nicola Jenkins	Tania Chizlett	Lorraine Parker
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Victoria Lunn	Jess Simpson	Nicola Jenkins
<b>Secretary</b>	Kirstie Rolfe	Jo Maher	Nicola Jenkins
<b>Treasurer</b>	Steve Roby	Claire Turner	Joanne Maher
<b>Vice treasurer</b>	Charlotte Light	Karen Hardy	Nicola Jenkins
<b>Co website co-ordinator</b>	Jon Crouch	Lorraine Parker	Joanne Maher
<b>Co website co-ordinator</b>	Lorraine Parker	Tania Chizlett	Rachel Parker
<b>Marketing &amp; comms officer</b>	Jess Simpson	Nicola Jenkins	Victoria Lunn
<b>sponsorship officer</b>	Tania Chizlett	Lorraine Parker	Hayley Hammond

Claire to update the new Core committee members names with the Charities Commission.

### **General members**

All meeting attendees voted and agreed to become general members. It was agreed general members are entitled to a vote if they have been active members of FOBS. The Constitution defines what constitutes an 'active' member. It also defines the committee's ability to remove a general member in the future.

All online people to send contact details to [fobs@friendsofbinfieldschool.co.uk](mailto:fobs@friendsofbinfieldschool.co.uk) if you wish to be included in future communications.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Rachel & Nicola passed on thanks to Jo, Claire, Kate, Hayley & Debs.

#### 2023 Chair Priorities

1. encourage new members
  2. build community
  3. Nicola would like to instigate the Binfield Big Help out on annual basis
  4. PTA events overall to improve efficiency & ease of use
  5. Jon advised that he has a conference call speaker that FOBS can borrow for meetings going forward
- Shed & Gazebo maintenance
    - Need to check shed exterior annually for weatherproofing (painted in 2021)
    - Gazebo's need checking annually for repairs (last check May 2022)
  - Gazebo / Equipment loans
    - Formal process to be instigated by Kirstie
  - Summer working party
    - Ali would like to have a BOLE tidy and general school working party is needed
  - Regular funding for Sharon Guilding student Internet safety sessions
    - Constitution to be reviewed by core committee and discussed at September 2023 meeting
  - Binfield Believes pole maintenance & sleigh construction
    - Nicola proposed getting the pole professionally repaired
    - Sleigh is currently in Jo's garden and will need proper storage / repair before December

Next FOBS meeting to be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Further meeting and event dates to be shared in September 2023.