

FRIENDS OF BESWICK & Watton CE SCHOOL

Charity Number: 1036759

Committee Meeting Tuesday 28th June 2022 Agenda

- **Present** –Karen Devey, Andy Jackson, Fiona Spence, Rich Wilkinson, Fi Curtis & Miss Carr
- **Apologies for absence** – Mrs Harros, Jo Reid, Michelle Dixon, Kirsty, Fawn & Kerrie
- **Approval of previous meeting's minutes** - Agreed
- **Chair Statement** – copies circulated to all attendees (see below) – total shock displayed by attendees. Sad that Jo stepping down from the role but respected her decision to do so. Confusion over communications part mentioned in Statement. Rich explained he did handover to Jo & advised at the time he was there to help with anything if needed. Fiona explained that at the Quiz night she explained what had worked best in the past with alcohol sales & raffle prizes, this was to aid with the fundraising, not to tread on toes so to speak. Jo Reid was unable to attend the meeting due to illness so was unable to participate in the discussion. A general feeling that communication over items could maybe have been better all round. Noted for future.
- **Quick updates on previous agenda items:**
 1. Playground equipment – Miss Carr still looking into this.
 2. Leavers Jumpers – Michelle has ordered these.
 3. Team sports kits – Mr Lapworth & Mrs Burgess sorting this.
 4. Summer school trips – KS1 – Miss Carr booked trip will go ahead on 8th July at Williams Den.
 5. School Photos – to obtain total from Photos.
 6. Sponsored Walk – Total to be confirmed.
 7. Year 6 Leavers trip – Fiona S and Rich – have narrowed down to a final idea, just to sort a date, will be funded by FOBS.
 8. Mrs Oliver's Maze – Letters emailed out to the suggested local Garden centres, awaiting replies
- **Quiz night** – Still to confirm exact total.
- **Summer Fete preparations** – Sunday 10th July
 1. Marquee rental – Kilnwick park unable to hire out Marquee. Fawn looking into borrowing large Gazebo from her father.
 2. Confirmed for the event – Tombola, 2nd hand uniform stall, refreshments stall, SWILLS BBQ, cake/bun stall, ice creams, face paints/glitter tattoo stall, sweet stall (Ellie has kindly donated sweet to sell), plant & flower stall. Game stalls – welly throwing, beat the goalie (Mr Lapworth confirmed can do 1st hr), bat the rat, hook a duck, sweets in a jar, name the teddy,
 3. Some stalls manned, some still to cover(Karen to sort)
 4. Event publicity – lots of shares social media already, posters in shop windows, nurseries etc – Poster & events page on FB sorted by Fawn. Fiona contacted paper & local radio. Reminded all to Share, Share , Share away on FB!!
- **Any other business** – nothing else to discuss
- **Date of next meeting** – not decided due to summer hols fast approaching, Extraordinary AGM needed to elect new Chair for FOBS committee. All parents welcome.

To the FOBS committee and friends,

28th June 2022

Firstly, I want to pass on my sincere apologies for not being at the meeting this evening due to continued illness. I would have preferred to have spoken to you all in person at the meeting.

I was elected as the chair of FOBS well before the Easter break this year and I was happy to take up the role for the continuation of a fabulous charity that benefits all the children of the school. It's something very special and

honestly helps so many children financially too. Without parental support, there would be no FOBS and it was an honour to be a part of keeping it going.

I was asked if I was happy to start straight away which I said I was if everyone else was happy with that. No one disagreed and as a result of that, I began the role. No one has mentioned beginning the role at a later date since the elections or voiced any concerns to me at any time.

Since then I have tried to carry out the role to the best of my ability and with my absolute best intentions. I have asked a lot of questions, approached others to chat about things and asked for information to be forwarded to me/FOBS so that established contacts and the good work could continue in to the future.

I feel I've been spinning plates for the last few weeks, trying to ensure that everything is organised and in place for events, trying to please everyone both old and new members, and trying to be respectful to all those involved whether they are a committee member or a friend of FOBS. I've also tried to encourage everyone to attend meetings and help support FOBS in any way that they can, ensured minutes have been put on the website and distributed out to all parents to encourage others to help, and to ensure every parent was fully aware of everything that was going on.

I feel it has been an uphill battle and although I truly wanted FOBS to work as a team (both Committee and Friends), it feels very divided right now. I am finding the role very awkward and some comments made since I began, I've found somewhat hostile, defensive and in all honestly, really upsetting. I've been respectful throughout and not made a fuss, I just wanted to get the jobs done for the benefit of the events and the kids, whom we are ultimately doing all of this for.

The fact is, decisions are being made outside of FOBS by some, without consultation with the committee and as the Chair, my role is pointless in the current circumstances. Information hasn't always been very forthcoming despite requests and it's made it difficult to fulfil requirements to expected standards, although I have given it all of my efforts.

I therefore feel I have no other option than to step down from the post of Chair and pass all responsibilities back to the previous committee in order for them to oversee all FOBS duties until the end of this school year, as it has now been made known that this is what they wanted. I know the current committee members will make the very best decisions together and hopefully with the support of some of the previous committee too.

Decisions have to be for the good of the charity and for the benefit of the children, and so I have had to make this difficult decision, as I don't feel a divided group is of benefit to the charity.

In September 2022, FOBS will hold an AGM to elect all committee roles (Nomination forms to be completed in September) and for those interested in supporting FOBS to ensure their interest is known to the committee.

I will of course help out with flapjack baking for the summer Fayre and I'll happily sell them, other cakes and serve drinks etc if you're happy for me to do so.

I would like to say a huge thank you to those members who have supported me and the charity, it truly means a lot. In the meantime, I wish you all well and you know where I am if you need me for anything.

Kindest regards,
Jo Reid