



The Friends of Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Minutes of AGM on 26th September 2023 @ 7.30pm via Zoom & in person

Welcome

VS welcomed all present in person and via Zoom.

Attendees:

In person: Vanessa Swain (Chair), Nicole Cuppleditch-Swain, Amy Bailey, Mrs Stewart, Robert Buttery, Charlotte Isaac, Chris Telfer, Rebecca Richards, Vanessa Taylor, Lily Swain, Julie Pearce

Via Zoom: Alex Jacob

Apologies:

Kathryn Clarke, Nikki Cooke

Agenda Items:

Item	Details
Chair's Report	Good evening and welcome to everyone for supporting our AGM. My name is Vanessa Swain and I have been the current chair person for the last year. Our committee's aim has been to raise much needed funds to benefit our school pupils, whilst holding fun events to hopefully appeal to our families and the local community. We hope that everyone feels they are included with the decision making on how our funds are spent. The school headteacher kindly attends our meetings and brings items to be requested. These are then considered for their benefit for the pupil's education and social experiences, we then all vote accordingly.

There have been requests made that may need a response before our next meeting, these are then voted on our group chat.

We try and make sure all year groups will benefit over the years. Some of the items we have funded are; all year sixes are given a leaving gift, years 5 and 6 are offered the opportunity to attend young voices, which is an event held at the O2 in London, science resources have been purchased, coaches have been paid for the whole school trip to the pantomime, key stage one benefitted from us helping with the cost of coaches to enable them to all go to Legoland, we have also supported the whole school with a variety of equipment and computer software to expand their learning.

We have involved our pupils in our fundraising events, which they have seemed to have enjoyed the responsibility. Year 5 and 6 helped with the Christmas and Summer fayres, the children ran children's activities and they

were a massive asset to us as a committee. The pupils have also been encouraged to suggest items they would like to see at events, this has had a positive impact.

Some highlights of events that we have organised over the past academic year are; Treat sales held after school, family bingo evening, Scavenger hunts, Easter egg raffle, Christmas advent calendar raffle, the summer fayre, the Christmas fayre, discos for each key stage. These have been highly enjoyable events, which would not have happened if we did not have such a wonderful, caring team of members who all help, and support, in a variety of ways. We welcome feed back from events as this helps with planning for the future.

We are fortunate to be supported by the wonderful school staff team, engaging families and supportive governors, who all help and support our events, making them enjoyable for all. Everyone involved, past and present, has my gratitude because I can see how we benefit the children and school. We have some provisional events planned for the coming year, these are; a mufti day in exchange for chocolate for our Christmas event, advent calendar raffle, Christmas Market/fayre, Christmas discos to name a few. You do not have to be a committee member to be involved, being a committee member means you have a vote on how funds are spent and helping at events you are able to. Ideally, I would like each class to be represented by two or more members. Committee members can be family members, I had children who attended the school, I now have a grandchild here and work here as a teaching assistant. I have found personally that joining the committee, has helped make many friends over the years, helped me to gain confidence and has involved me in many new experiences. Everyone is welcome at our meetings, we have made them accessible by offering a zoom option, as we really do want the whole school parent body involved.

I am happy to support whoever becomes the new chairperson, it is a role that is challenging but also rewarding. I would like to thank everyone who

	<p>has supported myself and the committee over the last year. I look forward to the year ahead of events and fun.</p> <p>There will be an opportunity for anyone to ask any questions shortly.</p> <p>Thank you to you all, I will pass you over to our Treasurer Amy Bailey.</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>Current balance: £5, 647.93</p> <p>Money raised last academic year: £7, 112.77 (which is around £2,000 more than last year)</p> <p>Money spent: £13, 207.63</p> <p>We funded multiple projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coaches for pantomime trip, Young voices trip and KS1 Legoland trip ● Year 6 leaver gifts ● End of term treats for the whole school ● Computing supplies ● Maths supplies across the school ● Beebot Robots ● Fish tank upgrade ● PTA storage shed
<p>Head Teacher's Report</p>	<p>A huge thank you. Without the Friends and the efforts you go to we wouldn't have the level of resourcing we have. Every time I've asked, you've been able to help. It's so good to know that staff and volunteers are all in it for the benefit of our children. Seeing the competition and excitement around the different activities, e.g. the longest sweet competition, is wonderful. The Year 5s and 6s have loved being involved. At this point last year we were in the Ofsted window, which is never nice - can we demonstrate the best of ourselves when the inspector comes? After the inspection the year 6s reflected up it saying 'we were worried - they could have closed the school' shows how much the children enjoy their time here. The inspector was wowed by the children on the playground who mobbed him saying "come and see what we are doing". It was a 'short' inspection of two days - is it a smiling asasin? No he was great! The governors did a great job too and the inspector was impressed with the links between the PTA and the governors. The parents also had great things to say.</p> <p>I feel privileged to lead the team and have the support of everyone. There is 'no I in team'.</p> <p>I am so proud of the things we do.</p> <p>SMCS is now such a popular school we are oversubscribed and have a waiting list.</p> <p>We are who we are and we do what we do and you are part of the family. We are so grateful for all the resources you are able to fund.</p> <p>It's been a fantastic team and a very successful year - getting everyone involved - wow what a Christmas Fayre and wonderful grotto and the</p>

	<p>summer fayre with the amazing fly-over. Bucks schools fall in the FairFuding 40, which means they are in the bottom 40% for funding - so all your help is needed. A huge thank you to the Friends</p>
Questions arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Election of members	<p>Chair: Vanessa Swain stood, SF and and CT nominated Vice Chair: Charlotte Isaac stood, SF and and AG nominated Treasurer: Amy Bailey stood, VS and and CT nominated Vice treasurer: Chris Telfer stood, SF and and VS nominated Secretary: Alex Griffiths stood, CT and and AB nominated Committee members: Rebecca Richards - CI and and SF nominated Alex Jacob - AB and and VS nominated Vanessa Taylor - AG and and CT nominated Julie Pearce - AG and and CT nominated Sal Floyd - AG and and CT nominated Robert Buttery - CT and and VS nominated Nicole Cuppleditch-Swain - CI and and CT nominated Kathryn Clarke - CT and and AB nominated Nikki Cooke - CT and and AG nominated</p>

Date for next AGM: September 2024, date to be confirmed