

The Friends of St. Margaret's School 2020/2021

Members Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 18/01/21 @ 8pm Via Zoom



Present:	Jing An	Mike Brown	Hannah Brown - Treasurer (HB)	Bryony Buckley	Victoria Cawkwell - Chair (VC)	Nils Cohrs
Gianna Ulyatt	Ella Long	Lynda McIvor - Minute Taker (LM)	Eleanor Smith	Helen Tait – Patron (HT)	Lorna Winship	Tamsin Cohrs
Apologies:	Amanda Smallbone (AS)					

Item No:	Topic	Actions:																												
1	Apologies for Absence: Amanda Smallbone																													
2	<p>Financial Update from Treasurer: Brief update on financial position given including update from the previous term;</p> <p>Income and Expenditure Update Income – Autumn/Winter Term 2020</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Amount</th> <th>Source</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£43.61</td> <td>Amazon Smile Commission</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£18.36</td> <td>Easy Fundraising Commission</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£6.35</td> <td>Stampastic Commission</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£369.94</td> <td>Non Uniform Day</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£232.80</td> <td>Bags2School Collection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£320.54</td> <td>Virtual Balloon Race</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£300.00</td> <td>2021 Jenny Ulyatt Calendar Sale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£30.00</td> <td>Surplus Tea Towel Stock Sales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£6.59</td> <td>PayPal Account Correction Payment (as per Temporary Covid Refund Policy)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£852.00</td> <td>Christmas Card Project (money has not been transferred by APFS yet)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£2,120.19</td> <td>Total</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Plus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£255.00</td> <td>From the Virtual Book Fair (money given directly to school as credit to spend with Scholastic)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Amount	Source	£43.61	Amazon Smile Commission	£18.36	Easy Fundraising Commission	£6.35	Stampastic Commission	£369.94	Non Uniform Day	£232.80	Bags2School Collection	£320.54	Virtual Balloon Race	£300.00	2021 Jenny Ulyatt Calendar Sale	£30.00	Surplus Tea Towel Stock Sales	£6.59	PayPal Account Correction Payment (as per Temporary Covid Refund Policy)	£852.00	Christmas Card Project (money has not been transferred by APFS yet)	£2,120.19	Total		Plus	£255.00	From the Virtual Book Fair (money given directly to school as credit to spend with Scholastic)	
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Expenditure – Autumn/Winter Term 2020

Amount	Destination
£123.00	Parentkind Membership & Insurance
£60.00	Prize Winnings for Virtual Balloon Race
£143.72	Christmas Lunch Gift Bags (divided by 420 pupils = 34p per child)
£326.72	Total

Grants and Commitments 2020/21

Amount	Destination
£200	Hardship Fund
£800	Bug Club Subscription
£400	News 4 Kids Subscription (TBC)
£680	Theatre Performance in School (TBC)
£300	Contribution to Y6 Leavers
£20	Lottery Licence for Summer Fair (TBC)
£2,400.00	Total

Bank Account Balance

£6,972.76	Current Balance
Keeping £1000.00 contingency in the account and deducting our current commitments of £2,400.00 leaves us with £3572.76 to allocate	

HT confirmed that the Hardship Fund had not yet been accessed, and welcomed ideas about how it might be promoted.

HT highlighted the need for technology; the school is waiting for 11 devices to arrive and another 2 have been loaned out. Food vouchers have also been given out. If the school team feel there are signs of a family experiencing difficulties at this time, they would raise the option of support available via the school Hardship Fund (noting there is also a local authority hardship fund available). Single requests for support can access up to £200; with other avenues that can be explored if the request exceeds that.

An opportunity to promote the Hardship Fund via the Friends of St. Margaret's (FoSM) section of the school website was discussed, with HB volunteering support from the FoSM to compile some content for the website (note: people do not need to access the Hardship Fund via the FoSM).

HB

	<p>HT suggested that the school newsletter could also be used to promote the support available.</p> <p>Opportunities to provide further support for remote learning were discussed, and HT confirmed that additional devices, both for children in school and that also could be held as spares to loan out, are needed. iPads tend to lend themselves well to the 'app-based' work that the Infant children do, with the junior children finding Chromebooks more useful. Procurement of additional devices does not have to run through the County Council's processes, but must show value for money (e.g. via competitive quotes).</p>	HT
3	<p>Fundraising Requests from School & Ideas</p> <p>The FoSM Committee had met to consider fundraising ideas but were sensitive to the current circumstances and impact of ongoing Covid19 related restrictions.</p> <p>HT talked about a proposed three-year plan of works to the three play areas at school. Quotes are being sought for comparison but the festive break and lockdown have delayed responses. There has also been some discussion about the development of an eco-pod (outdoor classroom) that can be used for counselling sessions, music sessions and similar, and that would help to address space shortages at school.</p> <p>VC mentioned that ideas for investment in outside facilities had been considered given the restrictions on indoor space.</p> <p>HT noted that outdoor improvements are a priority including e.g. outdoor gym equipment, with added benefits in that it could double up as PE equipment. The requirement for Infants was more focused on creative play as the ship, for example, approaches the end of its shelf life. The school would liaise with Reception teachers on the best solution for the Early Years children. In terms of priority, the Junior space would be the priority where the surface is also a problem; then the Infant space; then the Early Years space.</p> <p>VC agreed that this was something the FoSM could look at in terms of providing support.</p>	VC
4	<p>Upcoming Fundraising and School Community Events</p> <p>HT reported that some families are feeling isolated from the school community at this time. HB shared the view that fundraising has been very 'light touch' so far so as not to add extra pressure; and so</p>	

	<p>had been considering ideas to bring the school community together instead, e.g. a whole school bingo event or similar (noting that it needed to be engaging but also manageable). Involvement from the teachers was thought to make a big difference, but the FoSM agreed it can be difficult for teachers to get a balance between school time and non-school time.</p> <p>HB is going to look into companies that offer to host quiz nights, and HT mentioned that some of the school staff might have some expertise in e.g. bingo and/or quizzes, so will follow up and feedback.</p>	HB HT
5	<p>Second-Hand Uniform Sub-Committee</p> <p>HB advised on the postponement of the second-hand uniform subcommittee at this time due to the restrictions. It will be picked up again by the FoSM after lockdown.</p>	HB
6	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>ES asked about options to help Year 6 celebrate their time at St. Margaret's and mark their move on to the next stage of school. The Year 6 hoodies were discussed, and Eleanor volunteered to coordinate activities. VC will link with ES as there's an allocation of money for Year 6 and parents can decide how they want to spend it (there may also have been parental contributions in previous years).</p> <p>HT mentioned that the school were hoping to put the gazebo on field (like last year) to enable each class to gather together. Given the changing circumstances it was agreed to review as the situation changes.</p> <p>HB shared the Committee discussions about the summer fayre. At this time it looks unlikely that it could go ahead, but it will remain under review as the situation changes.</p>	ES VC HT HB
7	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>TBC</p>	