

Friends of Slingsby School ('FOSS') Annual General Meeting

Thursday 16th October 2025

Attendees Staff: Emma Pearce, Emma Massey, Leigh Smith

Attendees Parents: Kathryn Fairweather, Lisa Cuthbert, Sophie Reeves, Esme Bulmer, Sarah Bradshaw, Kate Pope, Rachel Atkinson, Max Reeves, Grania Howard, Teri Deighton, Poppy Coe.

1. Welcome

Kathryn Fairweather (KF) opened the meeting at 6.35pm and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies

Laura Cotterall, Gemma Shipley, Andrew Jackson-Kirby, Steph Philips, and Bev Quarton.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 17th October 2024 were circulated. It was agreed that they are a true and correct record of the meeting and that there were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Chairman's report

KF reflected on a fantastic year of fundraising, with £12,000 donated to school. KF expressed her thanks to everyone on the committee for their hard work behind the scenes and acknowledged the strong school community support that FOSS benefits from. Special thanks was given to Andrew and Fran Pern, Paul and Laura Cotterall and Sarah Kelly who are incredibly generous with their time and skills and, alongside making adjustments to our larger events, have made a huge difference to our fundraising efforts over the last couple of years.

KF bid farewell to Lisa Cuthbert who stepped down as treasurer and from the committee and acknowledged her hard work and support of KF in her role as Chair for the last couple of years.

KF confirmed that she is stepping down as Chair but will remain on the committee and provide support to the team during the handover. The team thanked her for her dedication and commitment to FOSS since joining in 2018. KF expressed her gratitude to school for their continued support and encouragement with events, and to the FOSS team past and present, and described her time as Chair as a privilege.

KF wished everyone another successful year of fundraising with a strong calendar of events that are well supported by school families and the local community.

5. Treasurer's report

Lisa Cuthbert (LC) delivered the Treasurer's report.

LC shared a Financial Overview, providing a summary of the profit made from each event alongside data from previous years to compare against. LC expressed what an amazing amount we were able to donate to school as well as being able to start this financial year with a balance of £2083.74 which is slightly more than previous years due to increasing costs in running events such as Magic Mike at the Christmas Party, and to enable the purchase of additional items such as an iPad which will future proof our payment system for years to come.

Additional money last year came from a Gift Aid claim and the ASDA Cash Pot initiative.

Christmas Fair – This event was brought back after a year off and it was a very well run and successful event with a big increase in the amount raised, however, the profit isn't as high as it should be because extra costs were allocated to it for other events later in the year.

The team felt it worked well to run this event every other year as it is a busy time of year, and we are already asking a lot from families and volunteers during that period.

Scarecrow Weekend and May Day Celebrations - It was a huge success this year, the busiest it has ever been on May Day, with a fantastic number of scarecrow entries and the biggest fundraiser of last year raising £4473.03. The refreshments offering and profits continue to improve and increase year on year, with some very generous bakers, donations of sausage rolls and an efficient, experienced team in the café with special thanks to the hard work of Paul and Laura Cottrell. The team expressed gratitude to the Slingsby Community for their support, and to the Maypole Committee for their part in organising the May Day Celebrations and commented on how well everybody works together.

LC briefly touched upon some of the other events: Halloween Party, Christmas Productions, Christmas Cards, and the Duck Race. LC suggested that since Easyfundraising donations have dropped it perhaps needs more promotion. LC highlighted how all the information was provided in the report handed out and asked for any questions, none were raised.

6. Election of Committee

KF explained that Gemma Shipley, Bev Quarton, Steph Philips and Laura Cottrell were happy to remain on the committee but unable to attend the AGM. KF explained that Jane Wrigley was happy to join the committee but was unable to attend the AGM. Committee members as volunteered and accepted - Kathryn Fairweather, Sophie Reeves, Kate Pope, Bev Quarton, Laura Cottrell, Sarah Bradshaw, Steph Philips, Esme Bulmer, Jane Wrigley, Gemma Shipley, Teri Wright, Emma Pearce, Grania Howard, Leigh Smith, Poppy Coe, and Rachel Atkinson.

7. Election of Secretary

SB nominated Sophie Reeves. RA seconded the nomination.

SR accepted the nomination. KF asked for further nominations, but none were forthcoming.

SR duly elected as Secretary.

8. Election of Treasurer

KF nominated Jane Wrigley. SB seconded the nomination.

JW accepted the nomination. KF asked for further nominations, but none were forthcoming.

JW duly elected as Treasurer.

9. Election of Chair

KF asked for nominations, but none were forthcoming. The position is now vacant. KF circulated guidance from ParentKind with the team and explained the legal responsibility of being part of the committee. The committee members agreed shared responsibility of the tasks of the Chair role until the position is filled.

10. Other business

KF asked if anyone had any other business. LS expressed his appreciation for the small team's hard work and amazing efforts, and to KF in particular, on behalf of school and emphasized how much the school and children benefit from the funds raised by FOSS and that the money pays for things the school otherwise wouldn't be able to.

Gazebos – Foss has been given the opportunity to purchase two second hand gazebos the same size as FOSS's existing gazebos for £50 each. The team felt that they were needed for events such as the Duck Race and a good price.

Bags2School – There has been a significant drop in the price FOSS receives per kilo over the past couple of years from 50 pence per kilo to 20 pence per kilo, so it has been decided to arrange only one collection a year.

Pre-loved Uniform – This fundraiser has grown enormously over the last year or so under RA's lead, largely due to an increase in the refreshments offered at the sales. However, due to the current capacity of the team, and looking at the sales and profit figures of the uniform itself, this offering will be changed to a sale once or twice a year rather than via email throughout the year and will only be accepting donations of logo uniform.

Event Leaders for Small Stalls – It was suggested that it might be more efficient and remove some of the workload from the Chair role, if each stall for example at the Christmas Productions, Sports Day, Talent Show etc. had an event leader like at the big events. This would be one person responsible for organising the stall and the volunteers, checking existing stock levels, topping up stock, gathering necessary equipment, floats etc and setting up the stall. KF is happy to put together a checklist for each stall and support the leader.

Stock - The team also discussed having a stock level spreadsheet which is updated after each event to reduce visits to the FOSS store.

More accessible FOSS Meeting – Feedback is that more people, particularly new families, would find it easier to attend a FOSS meeting if it was held straight after school on a Friday and allow children to join. Miss Pearce has kindly agreed to let FOSS use the classroom for the meeting which will be arranged for the Friday after half term.

11. Closing

KF thanked the attendees of the meeting for coming along and expressed a special thank you to LS, EP, and EM for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.