

## **Friends of Orton School Meeting**

10.02.26

### **Minutes**

Start time: 3:30pm

#### **Present:**

Joanna Hayward (Chair Person), Debra Capstick (Treasurer), Megan Cotton-Dew (Secretary), Hannah Lingwood, Amalia Williams, Charlotte Robinson, Emma Pomfret (Headteacher).

#### **Apologies:**

Vicki Capstick, Gemma Lewis, Becs Shelton, Brogan Blakey.

**Matters Arising:** none

#### **Financial Update:**

There is currently approx £12,500 in the bank.

The agreed expenditures budgeted for so far this year total £9,145

Breakdown =

Residentials: £2,000

Transport: £2,500

Bank charges: £80

FoOS expenses: £900

Parentkind subscription: £115 (paid)

Gambling License: £20

Classroom extras: £350 x 3 = £1050

ICT upgrade: £2,000 (paid) (possibly required again next year?)

Purple Mash: £500 (and again next year)

Cost for canopy?

The expenditures are slightly higher than last year due to the funding requested for a contribution to the ICT upgrade. This could be a recurrent request as the planned ICT upgrade will take a number of years.

Debra Capstick reported that FoOS have made approx. £4,000 this school year. The expenditures so far this year have totalled approx. £4,500.

The 'Bags to School' cheque is yet to arrive. Debra C will contact the company to chase it up.

#### **Planned Events:**

##### **March**

Farmers Market Stall – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at All Saints Church.

The bulbs are coming on well for the stall, thanks to Jo H and the children. A request for cakes will go out to the school community. Emma P will put a note in the newsletter. FoOS could also sell some good quality bric-a-brac. A small game for the children to play always goes down well – lucky dip or pick a stick. This will be decided upon, depending on what is

available in the FoOS shed, and what can be gathered and organised in time for the event. Suggestion to raffle a hamper as well.

World Book Day – Brogan B will lead this. More info to follow.

#### **April**

Movie Night – Hannah L?

#### **May**

Disco – Megan C-D to lead. Always a popular event with the children. There will be a tuck shop with bags of sweets and drinks. Megan C-D will contact Andrea M to decide on a suitable day when Andrea is available to be the DJ. Hannah L suggested that herself and Debra C will do face painting again.

#### **June**

Ice Cream Fridays – Amalia W will lead this. Amalia suggested she plans to approach local supermarkets to see if she can get the ice cream donated. This will allow more profit to be made. Jo H will provide Amalia W with the FoOS charity number.

#### **July**

Summer party – Jo H to lead.  
More details to follow.

#### **September**

Orton Fell Race Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September  
Jo H will lead. More details to follow.

#### **Alternative Ideas for Fundraising**

##### Auction of Promises.

Dent School make £10,000 when they run their AoP. This would be a great fundraiser for our school community. The committee discussed venue options, deciding that Orton Market Hall would be better than the school as the community would be more likely to attend an event at OMH, plus we could run a bar as it is a licensed premises. We would need to check capacity (100?). Running a bar would be beneficial and we could offer some simple food or snacks. Dent offer food for free, but we could charge a small fee for food, or ask for donations to save on costs. Ideal time would be in Autumn - October or November. Discussed the necessity to have a card machine – Debra C will look into this. The auction works by each person in attendance receiving a number, which is registered at the beginning. People then present this on lots they are interested in. Winning bids are logged on a computer. The money is collected at the end. The committee will think about the possibility of being able to run this fundraiser, which would require a sub-committee to organise and implement. To be discussed at the next meeting.

##### Scarecrow Week

Discussed possibility of utilising the event as it brings lots of extra people into the village. A fundraiser could be targeted at generating funds for the ICT upgrade. Debra C suggested a

wooden computer keyboard that could be on display outside school allowing people to sponsor a key. This will be thought about further. The theme for the Scarecrow week is All Creatures Great and Small.. could try and tie a fundraiser in with this theme? Potentially could have a stall over the weekend, staffed with some parents and children. Amalia W suggested having a few stalls on the school field, with games for the children to raise funds. To be discussed via WhatsApp and at the next meeting.

Tractor Run – could be a good fundraiser as lots of farming families. To be discussed further.

### **Ideas for Vegetable Garden**

The vegetable garden was damaged when it had to be dug up to fix the ground source heat pump. This necessary work has created an opportunity to revamp the garden. The four big vegetable beds will be repaired but the centre area needs to be completely replaced. A suggested idea was to create a circular bench area around a central round table. This would create an ideal area for the children to plant seeds and do some outdoor learning. The gravel needs to be topped up and the compost bins need to be replaced. There are plenty for grants to provide funding for gardens and outside spaces. A sub-committee will be formed to discuss ideas further and research available grants. A possible starting point is the Co-Op who offer a £5,000 grant.

### **Chair Update**

Jo H announced that she has come to the decision to step down as Chair in September 2026, after what will then be five years in the role. Jo will still take part in FoOS and would be happy to support a new Chair whilst they get to grips with the role. Emma P will put this announcement in the next newsletter to allow everyone from the school community time to think about whether they could commit to this vital role.

### **Any Other Business**

Emma P suggested the possibility of the school investing in a 3D printer. This is after she had a discussion with another local school who have purchased one. Emma P thinks the cost was approx. £350, but she will go back to her contact to ask what model they got and why. The committee agreed this could be a worthwhile investment. There may be grants that could help with this expenditure. There are also a few local people who could offer expertise on the different types of 3D printer available and how to set it all up. Emma P will report back to the committee with further info when she has it.

**Next meeting:** to be arranged.

Meeting concluded: 4.45pm