FRIENDS OF DIPTFORD SCHOOL COMITTEE.

Wednesday 15th September 2021 @ 19.30

AGM Minutes.

1. Present:

Jo Palmer (Chair), Roger Knight (Treasurer), Amy Lethbridge (Secretary), Kim Woodley (Committee Member), Eleanor Barnes (Committee Member), Jodie Churchward.

1. Apologies:

Cheryl Mathieson.

1. Minutes from last AGM signed and already on WordPress.
2. Chairs Report:

It’s been a strange year for us all and fundraising has been slightly trickier. However, with a great committee and parents supporting us we have achieved some really great things.

Reinstallations have been completed, with the stage and new play equipment in October and the steps in March. A huge thanks goes to the Woodley family and Colin Barons for sourcing the materials and installing the stage and steps for free, and thanks also to Chris Talbot for doing the groundworks for the play area. We also managed to sell the old sails and buy some new gazebo’s in time for the sports day.

At the start of the year FODs were set a target from school to raise funds towards a covered area for the lower years playground and covered seating area for the field. We decided the lower years cover should be a priority.

We put our heads together and came up with some virtual fundraising ideas including the Duck Race, Easter Quiz and Teresa’s Body shop grid raffle. These events were supported well and gave everyone something to look forward too. Hopefully next year we can do these events in person and make more of a social event of them.

Into the winter months and the traditional Christmas activities were arranged including selling Christmas cards, tea towels and coasters, as well as organising the Christmas craft day. Although parents were unable to go into the school to help we still managed to provide the children with some lovely crafts to do throughout the day. Father Christmas was also unable to visit in person, but Clare Moorman very kindly organised personalised messages to be recorded by Santa himself and the children loved it, so thank you Clare.

Other fundraising along the way have included 100 club, bags2school, a second hand uniform sale, film day and amazonsmile.

The annual school tidy up was held at the end of the summer holidays. Families met at the school and did a number of jobs including, strimming, painting sheds and fences, making a temporary seating area, sweeping and washing down buildings. We were also lucky enough to have Matt Matthew join us, who took on the mammoth task of painting the outside of the school. Thank you to everyone who popped in, for no matter how long, everyone made a difference!

Upcoming events include Diptfest and the Totnes Raft Race; where 8 Diptford dads are getting together to race down the River Dart to raise additional funds for the school! These kind of events are not only to raise funds for the school but as social events for parents to meet other parents.

As ever none of this could happen without the great efforts of the committee, I would like to personally thank Elle Barnes, Kim Woodley, Roger Knight and Amy Lethbridge for their invaluable support to me this year. And also to Jodie and Rachael for being at the end of the phone!

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all of our supporters in the school and all our supporters amongst the parents and community.

This next year will hopefully be less challenging for us all. We are hoping to run some events which have been greatly missed, such as the school disco’s, parents Christmas lunch and pub quiz! We hope you can all join us.

1. Treasurers Report.

Subject to the committee’s approval of this report, we are now in a position to complete our annual filing with the Charity Commissioners.

Details of grants and donations received, the proceeds and costs of fund raising activities, and disbursements are set out in the attachment to this note.

The highlight figures are:

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| --- | --- |
|  | GBP |
| Opening cash | 8333 |
| Total receipts | 19351 |
| Total payments | 19519 |
| Closing cash | 8165 |
|  |  |

Payments include distributions of GBP 17275, comprising:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | GBP |
| Playground equipment, interim payments | 14620 |
| Playground stage | 1739 |
| Review and repair of pond | 250 |
| Christmas crafts, 2019 | 204 |
| Christmas crafts, 2020 | 168 |
| Christmas books, 2019 and 2020 | 116 |
| Year 6 yearbooks | 95 |
| Phonics aids (accelerated reading) | 61 |
| Easter eggs | 23 |
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|  |  |

At the year-end our cash on hand, excluding petty cash and uniform floats, amounted to 8165. This included funds held for designated purposes totalling 5362 (library books and accelerated reading scheme 339 and playground equipment 5023), leaving ‘free’ cash of 2803.

It was a strange year with most of our usual fundraising activities curtailed by Covid. Nonetheless we had a remarkably successful year in raising funds for the playground equipment and in completing the new outdoor stage. Just how different a year it was can be seen from a comparison of the more detailed figures with those for 2018/19, which I have also attached.

During the year we raised 15092 towards the playground equipment fund, and many thanks are due to Louise Lethbridge who was instrumental in securing a number of significant grants or donations (as well as being the driving force behind the selection of equipment and liaison with the suppliers/installers). Added to these funds were 1320 raised in 2018/19 (remember our quiz, when we were able to meet in a pub), 2250 which we agreed early on to allocate from General Funds, 681 transferred from the Early Learning Space fund with the agreement of the donor, and 300 from new sales of 100 Club annual memberships, making 19643 (hugely in excess of the 10000 which was our original target). The expected final cost of supply and installation is 18199 (including matting) leaving 1444 towards the cost of the steps from the main playground to the play equipment area.

The cost of the outdoor staging area was 1739, of which 500 represented a grant of 500 with 1239 coming from General Funds. Thanks to the Woodley family for the organisation and the donation of labour.

At 31 January 2021 our cash on hand amounted to 8510. This again included funds held for designated purposes of 5362, as above. Net liabilities (principally for unpaid 100 Club prizes) amounted to approximately 70, leaving ‘free’ cash of the order of 3078.

Our funds are low in comparison to where we have been in recent years, but we have achieved a great deal. However, the 100 Club position (with 49 subscribed balls now, compared to only 31 in June 2020) is relatively healthy, generating almost 160 monthly now.

1. Election of new committee:

We all collectively stood down and offered up our services for another year. With a short vote this was agreed. We retain our roles from the previous year but it was decided that Elle would become “Deputy Chair” in recognition of all her hard work and invested time to date. This will ease the pressure on the Chair and allow a smoother running of FODS. Roger is happy to remain as Treasurer this year with us actively looking for someone to shadow him and take over at the next AGM.

1. A.O.B:

We are always looking for more parent helpers and fresh ideas, if you could spare some time to help with FODS please let us know, everyone is welcome!

In particular we are looking for someone to shadow Roger Knight, as treasurer, for the next 12 months before he stands down. If you would be interested in this role please let one of the FODS team know.