

FoM Minutes

Present

Sara Fletcher, Jane Parker, Michelle Fletcher, Sue Morris, Melanie Mather, Lisa Chalmers, Nicola Riding, Claire Gill, Sue Crowther, Helen Frost, Helen Hewetson, Jacqui Berry, Rebecca Botterman, Pippa Burnett, Laura Halls, Jane Lambe, Liz Hannaford

Apologies

Anne Ryan, Julia Dow

Item 1 - Welcome and introductions

Item 2 - Recruitment

- It was decided that we needed to formalise the structure of FoM to a certain extent to enable it to run more efficiently. As a result, the following roles have been filled:-

CHAIR - Sara Fletcher

VICE-CHAIR - Laura Halls

SECRETARY - Liz Hannaford

TREASURER - Helen Hewetson

- With sixteen people present at the meeting - including many new faces - it was decided that the recruitment drive had been a success.
- We've been informed by the school office that FoM cannot send emails directly to parents but we need to go via the office. This means that parents won't simply be able to hit Reply to respond back to our email address. However, we could get the school office to CC Friendsofmellor@gmail.com which would also enable parents to just hit one button to reply. Liz said there had been no emails to the account so far (UPDATE: Liz has just checked the account, and two emails came in this week!)
- Laura collected the FoM post from the office and offered to check regularly. The post contained a cheque which has now been passed on to the Treasurer. There were also offers to volunteer for FoM. Those people have now been contacted and were present at the meeting. There was a lot of post about fundraising most of which was of no interest. However, there was some potentially useful information about Diamond Jubilee merchandise.

Item 3 - Feedback from Recent Events

- Film Night - Seemed to be successful with £65 raised. It was noted that mainly infant children attended and that they had become a bit restless in the hall! We discussed the possibility of splitting infant/junior film nights to give us more flexibility with the choice of film. Thursday was thought to be a better day. We decided to turn it into a Film Club held regularly. Helen Frost volunteered to be in charge of organising the Film Club with assistance from Lisa.

- Libby's Taster Night - 42 people came and we've had very good feedback. A good mix of school staff and parents. (Liz has since given Dermot an official thank-you card from FoM thanking him for the delicious food and relaxed atmosphere. It is on display behind the counter!) Should we plan another one next term? No decision made.

Item 4 - FoM funds/approach from Governors

- Liz explained that the Chair of Governors had called her earlier in the week requesting a meeting to discuss how FoM funds could be used to help the school pay for a new teacher in the short term.
- Jim Nicholson attended at this point to explain how using FoM fundraising could - on a temporary basis - enable him to free up money now to recruit a part-time teacher which would mean single-age classes in Juniors (in the morning only for Maths and English, initially). Eventually, this would become a full-time teacher and four straight classes in Juniors. Various people raised concerns about this proposal and sought reassurance that this would be a temporary use of FoM funds rather than ongoing. Mr Nicholson explained that the extra teacher would be self-sustainable in three years time because of the extra income the school would receive as a result of moving to a 30-pupil intake (currently a 22-pupil intake). But for the next two years he would need to access £8000/annum of money raised by FoM to free up school funds for the extra part-time junior teacher.

VOTE - Should FoM funds be used in this way for next 2 years to support the recruitment of a new, part time junior teacher?

IN FAVOUR - unanimous

It was decided to keep some money in reserve in a risk pool. Any spare money left over would be spent on "extras." In this event, the teaching staff would recommend a list of items they would like to purchase for the school. FoM would then make the final decision.

- Helen F. suggested we have a totaliser of some sort on display in the school showing how much we've raised towards the target.

Item 5 - Next Newsletter

- The February Newsletter relaunching FoM seemed to have been well received so we'll aim to do them fairly regularly although not on a fixed date since we need to make sure we have something new to say each time. Liz will start work on the next Newsletter.
- The next Newsletter needs to include the following items:- an article explaining why FoM supports the school's plan to use FoM fundraising to free up money for a part-time junior teacher; review of recent events; dates of forthcoming events; photo of core FoM team.

Item 6 - Easter Egg Hunt

- Laura and Jane explained the route and the questions. We need to remind people to bring pencils to complete their question sheets.
- It was felt a £2 donation/per child would be reasonable.
- Children will need to arrive between 2pm and 2.30pm allowing us to finish the event by 4pm.

- Set-up will take place between 1pm and 2pm. Liz, Lisa and Clare volunteered for this. It involves setting up table and chairs in the hall and receiving cakes etc for post-egg hunt refreshments.
- We will also organise an Easter Egg colouring competition in the hall after the egg hunt. Jacqui will print out appropriate pictures for children to colour.
- Bex offered to design the poster and flyer for the event. Laura to email Bex the appropriate wording.
- Laura will email the school office with details about the egg hunt to be included in the school Newsletter. She'll also ask for volunteers to help us out.

Item 7 - Camping Trip

- There has been a lot of enthusiasm for this event with 11 families confirming their participation even before we've started promoting it properly.
- Jane explained that the camp site owners have promised us the use of the flat - as opposed to sloping - field and it will be for the exclusive use of Mellor School.
- No deposit will be required. The cost is about £4.75/per person payable to the camp site owners.
- Graham will check if there's a maximum number of pitches allowed so that we can control numbers if needs be.

Item 8 - Photograph

- Liz to organise a date and time for taking the group photo.

Item 9 - Future events and assigning leads

- Spring Fair date is 11th May. Sara to double check this date with school. Sara, Liz, Anne, Helen F, Jacqui will be the co-ordinating group for the event. Could we have a table top sale at the Spring Fair? (UPDATE: Anne Donovan has said she'll run the kitchen again this year. Liz has texted her the date)
- Jubilee Disco date is 24th May. The co-ordinating group will consist of Nicola, Sue, Sara. The theme will be red, white and blue. Sara to book the DJ asap.
- Olympics Barbecue - 13th July. Lisa, Clare, Melanie, Laura, Shelley to organise (UPDATE: Melanie has since emailed to say the date clashes with a work commitment so she's no longer available to help with this event). We'd also like to hold a themed Olympics raffle which we could draw at the BBQ. We think it could be themed to different countries to be in keeping with the Olympic theme.
- Car Wash - Can we galvanise Dads to organise this on the Saturday morning before the BBQ? (Perhaps we could all ask around the playground to see who might be interested?)
- Curry and Quiz Night - There have been a few requests for us to repeat this event so we'll plan one for Autumn. Sue M's father-in-law might be able to set the questions for us. Shelley volunteered to be quiz master.
- Pampering evening for the Autumn.
- Mellor Christmas Pantomime. Shelley described how she'd organised this for the PTA at her son's previous school. She'd like to repeat it for Mellor. She explained that she's already got the

script - Alladin under the Sea - and would be able to hire Romiley Forum for the performance. The panto would be performed by parents and members of staff - no children. It was noted that there were a number of parents at Mellor with appropriate skills for this!!

Item 10 - AOB

- Mr Nicholson asked us to think seriously about making the FoM Facebook group a closed rather than open group because individual children are being named and this could cause problems. (UPDATE: Helen F. has now turned it into a closed group. This means it is searchable but people outside the group cannot see posts.)

Item 11 - Next Meeting

- The Spring Fair organising group will meet in the next week or so to start things moving.
- Next full FoM meeting will be on Thursday 26th April at 7.30pm at school.