



# St. Mary's School Association AGM Minutes

Wednesday 21st October 2020 8pm via MS Teams

## **Attendees**

Liz Keenaghan – Clark (Chair), Krsna Denham - Vice Chair, Simone Legg – Secretary , Alison Cheshire - Vice Secretary, Phil Quelch – Treasurer, Mrs Osborne - Head Teacher, Owen Lewis - Chair of Governors, Sarah Jones - Committee Member, Amy Goss - Committee Member, Emily Street, Sarah Heal, Zoe Greenall.

## **Welcome by Headteacher & Chair of Governors**

Mrs Osborne opened the meeting by thanking the members for their hard work and enthusiasm since taking over their roles within the School Association especially during recent months with the challenges that Covid has brought.

Owen Lewis thanked all members for being an integral part of raising funds for the school and the outcomes achieved so far.

Minutes of previous meeting were agreed - no issues or queries.

## **Chair's Report**

Thank you all for attending this evening. This our first AGM as Chair and Co-Chair and my first using Microsoft Teams – but we have all had lots of firsts over the past eight months and I'm sure we'll have more to come in the year ahead!

It has been a strange year, and there is no doubt that Covid-19 has severely hampered our fundraising. This year we raised £10,744; including the swimming grant, £11,694. This is a significant decrease from 2019, which is unsurprising given we were unable to run any events for half the year and have had to cancel several events, including the summer fair and the circus, which were expected to raise a significant proportion of our income.

However, we were really touched by the way the school community swung behind the School Association back in March; volunteering to help us sell (and buying!) the Easter Quiz and Egg and making sure the children got to take flowers home to their Mums for Mother's Day, despite the Church service having to be cancelled.

The new social distancing restrictions mean we have had to think differently about our fund raising going forward, and we want to thank all the Committee members for the enthusiasm with which they have taken on this challenge. I particularly want to thank Simone, Alison, Phil, Emily and Sarah who have attended virtual meetings regularly, including through the summer holiday, to enable us to prepare for the start of the autumn term.

We have seen a big upswing in activity since the start of term and now have a busy forward calendar of events for both children and parents. We'd like to especially thank Mrs Osborne and all the school staff who are taking on additional activities to support the School Association and to allow events like Treat Friday and the Christmas raffle to continue. Mrs Osborne in particular has been a breath of fresh air and immensely positive and supportive of the School Association. And we could not function without the wonderful support we get from the school office staff. With such backing I'm confident that we'll have a successful year this year, which will allow us to continue supporting the school.

I do want to celebrate all the support we have been able to give the school over this year; with the biggest items being the provision of Jigsaw, which, with its focus on emotional welling and resilience, is particularly suited to PSHE provision in the times we find ourselves in, the Chromebook charging trolley and the £1,000 we gave the school towards Covid reopening costs. Before lockdown we contributed to a variety of school trips, the Christmas pantomime, workshops and O2 Young Voices. We also paid for Y6 to have a leavers lunch and activity in their bubble, given they were unable to go on their normal trip. We should all feel proud of how this, and the other funding we have provided, has enriched the children's time at school and their school environment.

Finally, we would like to end by particularly thanking Simone, Alison and Phil. They have worked tirelessly over the past year on behalf of the School Association and we wouldn't know what to do without them! However, we are, as ever, always in need of more support and would like to encourage more parents to join the committee or to volunteer on an ad hoc basis.

Liz Keenaghan-Clark and Krsna Denham

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Owen Lewis and Mrs Osborne thanked Liz for the comprehensive and informative summary. Due to Covid it has not been possible to involve the SA in the usual parent tours which take place. In order to continue to raise the profile of the School Association, encourage more members and increase support of the SA Mrs Osborne suggested the SA perhaps produced a leaflet with contact details which could be distributed to new parents

Alison updated the meeting on her involvement in getting the SA embedded in the new School website. Liz reiterated the request to have a link to the SA Calendar within this.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The meeting voted to accept the accounts with no comments.

Mrs Osborne enquired on the level of reserves needed. Phil stated it is recommended approximately 40-50% of funds are maintained and this is especially necessary this year as we have been unable to hold the usual Summer and Christmas Fayre.

## **Election of Officers**

The following roles have been reappointed following the nomination process:-

Chair: Liz Keenaghan-Clark  
Vice Chair: Krsna Denham  
Treasurer: Phil Quelch  
Secretary: Simone Legg  
Vice Secretary: Alison Cheshire

## **New Committee Members**

Emily Street, Sarah Heal, Sophie Clarke and Gemma Keen have newly joined the committee and will work alongside the existing members of Sarah Jones, Amy Goss, Heidi Bolwell, Sally Kindell and Julie Ann Turnham.

It is noted that although usually no more than 7 Committee Members are in post, the decision has been made to increase these numbers to maximise the impact we can have.

## **Forthcoming Events**

There are a number of activities planned for children and parents coming up which Liz outlined. These include:

- Pumpkin Trail
- Matchbox Challenge
- Treasure Trail
- Rex Cinema event
- Break the Rules Day
- Christmas Secret Room
- Christmas Jumper Swap
- Zoom calls with Santa with option of a personalised letter and gift
- Wine Tasting event
- Santa's Sleigh
- Xmas Raffle

Plus lots more in the pipeline for the new year!

## **AOB**

The refunds for the cancelled Circus will be collected and Mrs Osborne agreed can be stored in the school safe until these can be distributed

Alison asked whether a teacher would be attending the SA meetings in the future. Mrs Osborne is keen for this to happen - agreed forthcoming dates to be circulated.