

Friends of Downs Infants School (FoDIS)
Annual General Meeting
30 September 2008 - minutes

Introductions

The Chair introduced herself and invited all committee members and other people attending the meeting to introduce themselves

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the last AGM on 4 October 2007 were approved.

Yearly overview

Caroline Childerley presented the Chair's report, outlining the aims and activities of FoDIS, and describing major fundraising activities and expenditure.

Financial report and Year's spending projects

Jo Rees (Treasurer) presented a summary of the financial records. Net income was £7671, net expenditure was £8533, with an overall deficit of £862. The current FoDIS account balance is £2175.

As in previous years, major income generators were the Hallowe'en Disco, Christmas Fair, Easter Disco and Summer Fair. Income generated by these events was lower than in the previous year, due to two major factors: (1) less sponsorship and fewer donations for auctions from local businesses; (2) greater expenditure on better quality food at these events.

The major expenditure items related to improving the physical environment of the school - e.g. wet pour surface around the boat, planting, painting, etc.

Committee resignation

Caroline Childerley thanked the committee for their contributions in the past year. Special thanks were given to Caroline Booker for her work as environmental lead, Paolo Oprandi for his work on the FoDIS website, and Eloise Woodman for organizing work parties from American Express. On behalf of the school, Regine Kruger thanked the FoDIS Chair, the committee, and everyone who had helped with activities during the year.

Election of new committee

Elections were held for the new committee. The following were nominated, seconded, and elected unopposed to the new committee

Chair	Caroline Childerley
Vice-chair	Nick Mills
Secretary	Deborah Gellner
Treasurer	Jo Rees
Project Officers	Adey Blackwell, Rosaleen Cunningham, Shanti Mahendra, James Vallis
Head Teacher	Regine Kruger
Staff Representative	Liz Ferber

Three Project Officers were co-opted to the committee: Jo Darlison, Eloise Woodman (eyepoppers), Paolo Oprandi (website).

In addition, several Class Representatives were identified: Karen Amsden, Helen Gould, Liz Remande-Guyard, Karen Vallis, Alice Wenban-Smith

There was some discussion of how to increase parents' engagement with, and involvement in FoDIS.

- We will seek and encourage Class Representatives from each class to keep people informed about FoDIS activities, and to recruit helpers for events.
- Circulating the dates of events sooner to increase the likelihood that people will be able to attend, and to increase the likelihood that people will volunteer to help run events.

New spending aims

Four targets for spending of funds raised during the coming year were identified:

- 1 Development of the quiet area according to the plan developed last year by "Learning Through Landscapes"
- 2 Resurfacing of the lobster in the top playground
- 3 Occasional gardener to develop and maintain green spaces
- 4 Subsidising theatre/music events for Reception and Year 1 as per current funding of "Mexiclore" for Year 2.
- 5 The school has an aim of achieving an ecological sustainability award. Some funds may be useful to support these activities in addition to funding available via Hollingdean cluster of schools

Parents will be asked for additional ideas for how to spend funds.

Fundraising events and activities

Most of the activities run in the last year will be run again

- Hallowe'en Disco 24 October
- Christmas Fair 30 November
- Quiz night 30 January
- Easter Disco (R + y1) 3 April
- Summer Fair 21 June

Other activities were discussed:

- We may organise a film night for year 2 children only
- It was suggested that we could develop a recipe or lunchbox "cookbook" based on parents' contributions
- Suttons Seeds will be run again, but earlier to broaden appeal and sales
- It may not be feasible to run Yellow Moon again due to low returns on effort

The first committee meeting will be held at a time and date to be advised