

Friends of Halstow AGM & AUTUMN COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 10 October

Time: 8pm

Location: Halstow Primary School staff room & Zoom

Attendees: Jennie Marsh, Sasha Harker, Natasha Tilley, Mary Anne Moffatt, Katherine Kennedy, Vanessa Hodgins, Bryony Jones (minutes), Claire Tugwell (via Zoom) Gemma Watson, Gayle Issa, Valentina (via Zoom)

Apologies for absence: N/A

Headteacher's update from Natasha Tilley

- Thank you to Friends of Halstow (FoH) for funding The Tempest project (Unicorn Theatre trip for Years 3-6, and in-school workshops for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). This was a great way to kick off the school year. The show was brilliant, and the one-woman workshops for younger children were so engaging – the kids loved them. The resulting Tempest-themed work displays will go up around the school after half term.
We would like to do something similar next year and will look out for other shows at the Unicorn Theatre in future.
- Update on the Bell House Garden project and plans for the playground.
We are waiting to hear back from the neighbours before proceeding with work to remove ivy, take down the pavilion etc. Letters have been sent; a second set will be sent soon.
A fire risk assessment will be carried out shortly which may mean the gate at the bottom of the playground can be removed, allowing for further changes; this and the removal of the pavilion would involve lots of work and so are likely to happen in the next summer holidays.
In the meantime, Miss Tilley is working with the children on “zoning” the playground to allow for both sports activities and quiet areas for those who need them.
Some work on the Bell House Garden can continue before the pavilion is taken down – a shed will be removed and the area near the blue gate will be cleared.
Eventually the plan is to install double doors into the garden from the ground floor of the Bell House.
- Update on Premises Manager vacancy. A new Premises Manager, Mark, has now been appointed. He is due to start in the post in November.
- Update on the school budget. Once all essentials have been paid for, Miss Tilley has less than £500 left in the budget for the whole year. This is where Friends of Halstow comes in!

Funding requests update from co-chair Jennie Marsh

- Amazon wishlists are being compiled for each class, so families can help to buy supplies for their children's classes, if they are able and would like to do so. Lucie

Murphy is helping to set these up; once they are ready, FoH will send links to the class WhatsApp groups.

- Playground equipment – this is an ongoing request, so that items can be renewed as needed. The plan is to colour-code equipment according to year group so it is shared out appropriately.
- Bell House Garden project – standing request to help with and fund the renovation work.
- Audiovisual equipment (screens and projectors) for the two halls which don't have it yet. Seeking quotes for this.
- Christmas pantomime (in school). Seeking quotes for this.
- Workshops (Diwali, anti-bullying, etc)
- School sports day at Sutcliffe Park (park hire and coaches to transport younger classes)
- Banner or sign for Young Voices show at the O2
- New percussion instruments for the music room

Upcoming Events update from Co-Chairs Sasha Harker and Jennie Marsh

- Halloween Disco – being organised by Valentina
We've sold 500 tickets, but only have 26 volunteers so far – we need to make clear that these events can only take place if we have enough volunteers to help run them. Following feedback on last year's event, attendees will enter through the office door, queuing across the playground rather than along the street; the tuck shop, bar and face painting will be on the ground floor, with the disco itself upstairs and a one-way system in place on the stairs.
- Beauty event in November – date and details TBD
- Wine Tasting – 24 November
- Christmas Event – details TBD, but likely 7 December
- The children's Christmas card designs are being completed in class this week – profits from the sale of cards and related products will fund the Christmas event
- We have lots of other events under discussion for next year – details TBD

Election of Officers and Trustees of the Committee

- The new committee has been elected unanimously as follows:

Co-Chairs – Sasha Harker and Jennie Marsh

Vice-Chair – Katharine Jenedy

Treasurer – Mary Anne Moffatt

Co-Secretaries – Vanessa Hodgins and Bryony Jones

Treasurer's Report from Mary Anne Moffatt

- Mary Anne gave a brief overview of the FoH accounts, which are in a healthy position; several successful fundraising events over the past year have brought in significant revenue to help support the school's activities
- We currently have £46,000 in the FoH account; last year we spent £17,500, and we have a projected spend of around £30,000.
- We have ringfenced money for several projects, including £15,000 which has been earmarked for the playground refurbishment
- We are awaiting invoices for a number of items – Miss Tilley offered to help chase those up so they can be paid as soon as possible

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 November at 7.45pm (for an 8pm start).

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm.