

Minutes for The Friends of Thomas Mills High School

Annual General Meeting 14 September 2020

Present: Philip Hurst, Mark Wheeler, Martin Churchill, Melanie Chew, Linda Mitchell, Vicki Langford, Mark Mugliston, Fiona Langdon-Morris, Kate Archer, Heidi Finbow, Suzy Bailey, Katherine Gray, Louise Armes, Andrew Cann, Marta Camus-Heras, Kathy Carter

Apologies: Lucy Proudfoot, Tim Fitz-Higham

1. Welcome from Mr Hurst and his thank you to all staff and members of the Friends for their input over the year.
2. Introduction of the key members of Friends to anyone who doesn't know us!
3. Election of Officers – agreed that everybody will continue as they are. Martin Churchill and Melanie Chew as Co Chairs, Linda Mitchell as Treasurer and Kathy Carter as Secretary
4. Mark Wheeler to share any photos with Heidi for the Facebook page
5. Martin mentioned involving the Sixth Form in fund raising activities. Mr Cann acknowledged that whilst it would be good for students to be involved in events they do not need to attend meetings. Agreed. Mr Cann will mention in the Sixth Form forum at it's next meeting.
6. Chairs Report – Melanie thanked all the staff for their continuing support of Friends events especially Mr Wheeler and Linda Mitchell. (please see report below)
7. Treasurers Report – figures included in the Chairs Report. Linda mentioned the new minibus lease for the next five years. Linda and Mark Mugliston are meeting to separate any monies being co mingled between the Friends accounts and the school. A high interest account was mentioned with a balance of almost £3k, allocated as the Friends reserve. The unallocated amount will then be calculated.
8. Fab Labs – how much money are the Friends giving towards the refurbishment? Melanie mentioned the Mills Charity and Martin is providing Mark Mugliston with Karen Pipers email address to get this donation finalised. It was agreed from the 2019 Minutes that £250k was an overestimate as to how much money is needed to refurbish all the Labs. This will be discussed at the Income Generating Group (next meeting 18 September) which includes Martin Churchill and Mark Mugliston. Roughly £50k has been spent on N4.
9. Mr Hurst mentioned the school has to prioritise events eg the Open Day will become a virtual event

10. Fund Raising – agreed that due to COVID-19 there will be no events for the foreseeable future. This includes the Summer Festival and organising a 3 Peaks Challenge. Heidi has some ideas which Martin will share with us all.
11. 750 Club – Kathy keen to relaunch the 750 club with a friendly marketing campaign. It was discussed that perhaps this would clash with the newly launched School Fund account. Mark Mugliston advised that currently approximately £75 a month is currently being paid in but the plan is to relaunch this. Not sure what happens next?
12. Welcome Letter – Kathy is drafting a welcome letter for new parents as the year 7 Meet the Tutor evening will not go ahead.
13. Any Other Business
 - Melanie asked what we could buy/hire to assist in these COVID times, perhaps a marquee or shelter of some description. Mark Mugliston is talking to several companies re this subject.
 - Kathy mentioned the Friends page of the website is out of date. Mark Wheeler will update if something is sent to him. Kathy will do this.
 - Boys loos – mentioned that this will be finished very soon
 - Kathy asked new parents to share their email addresses with her.

Date of next meeting via Zoom: Monday 19th October at 18:30 (Mark Wheeler to send Kathy invitation so she can share with Friends)

Please see Chair's Report below:

Friends of Thomas Mills High School – registered charity number 298599 – Annual Report 2019-20

The aim of the Friends Group is to support the School through fundraising. The Group also enables parents to meet and get to know each other, as well as getting to know senior staff of the School. We are grateful for support from staff, including Mr Hurst and Miss Armes, and we are especially grateful for the support provided by Mr Wheeler who had chaired the Group for some time, as well as providing an essential liaison role. We pay especial thanks to Mrs Mitchell in the School's Finance Office, who acts as the Group's Treasurer, and to Kathy Carter, who acts as the Group's Secretary.

In September 2019 Mr Wheeler stepped down from his role as Chair, and the role is currently shared between myself and my co-Chair, Martin Churchill.

We began the year with agreement to continue our fundraising efforts for the Fab Labs Appeal – the campaign to raise sufficient funds to refurbish the science laboratories. Our main method of fundraising is to provide refreshments at existing school events, as well as organising a number of events throughout the year ourselves, including a well-attended and enjoyable Space Talk. Our biggest event of the year was the Quiz Night, thanks to the sterling efforts of Mr Chittock, our esteemed Quizmaster. It was the second year that we held a quiz night in this format, and it has proved to be very popular amongst parents.

We trialled a Casino Night event for the first time, and will do so again when we can return to events, as the format was much enjoyed by those who attended. We also supported the wonderful school production of 'Les Misérables' by running an interval bar and raffle, and did similarly for the magnificent Christmas Concert. Our congratulations to all students and staff involved in these productions; they make us very proud to be parents at Thomas Mills.

When the lockdown began in late March we were then unable to continue with our planned events. We will look forward to the time when more events can take place again, and the Friends will be pleased to step up once again.

If any new parents would like to join us, or just offer occasional events support, then please contact us through the School Office: you will be very welcome.

Melanie Chew, Co-Chair.

The following financial information is compiled by the Group's Treasurer, Mrs Linda Mitchell:

Thomas Mills Community Account

Start Balance 31st August 2019 £32475.54

Balance as of the 31st July 2020 £29573.06

Income

Casino Night £671.00

Quiz Night £948.96

Les Mis Bar and Raffle £936.00

Christmas Concert £379.00

Expenses August 2019- August 2020

Minibus £6591.60 paid to TMHS on 15/1/2020

Refreshments for fundraising events £742.28

Awards evening refreshments £94.20

Refreshments for Christmas concert £127.50

750 club winner Spring Term 2020 £250.00

Suffolk Coastal Bar licence fees £80.00

Total expenses £7885.58