

Friends@Belmont

Minutes of F@B AGM – 12th March 2021

Present

Carolyn Jones, Sarah Diamond, Jan Tee, Nikki McLean, Sue Hunt, Andrea Causon, Kevin Day, Michael Bell, Dawn Davies

NB: the meeting was held over Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Apologies

Jenny Maunder

Chair: Carolyn Jones **Minutes taken by:** Sarah Diamond

Matters arising from minutes of AGM 14th February 2020

No matters arising. Carolyn signed the minutes off.

Chair's & Treasurer's reports

These have already been circulated by email and there have been copies available for general viewing for the last month. No amendments are needed. Carolyn commented that we are in very good financial shape, despite lack of active fund raising in the past year.

Election of Officers and Trustees of the Committee

Unfortunately, we are still short a Chair following Sue Newport's departure last year. Carolyn and Jan have been doing a fantastic job, keeping things ticking over, and will continue to do so for the time being, but the current situation is unsustainable long term.

We discussed the ongoing problem of getting more people interested in joining F@B, and Carolyn suggested that we do a mail out to the local community. Kevin and Carolyn will draft a letter. It was also suggested that we ask the governors if they know anyone who might be interested. Andrea commented that we might get some more interest from parents/guardians when things get back to normal after lockdown. Kevin wondered if we should continue to have meetings over Zoom once lockdown is over, as it may make it easier for some people to attend. We agreed this was a good idea.

For the present, Sarah Diamond will remain as secretary and Carolyn Jones as treasurer. There are no other officers and anyone associated with F@B is an ordinary member.

Special business

We discussed F@B's role in raising funds for the school's Access 4 All development and using our charity status to apply for grants etc on the school's behalf. Carolyn reiterated that this will require a separate bank account to be set up and there may be some additional compliance issues involved. Carolyn and Kevin will consult with SANDMAT on the legal issues, including making sure we don't do anything which could compromise our charitable status.

Kevin explained that the project will be phased depending on funds available. The school currently have around £50,000 but this is only about 5% of what is needed for the long-term project. The next project meeting will look at phase 1, a small running track surrounding a recreational area, which will be the most expensive phase. The project group will need to make sure they have a robust plan and are sure of obtaining planning permission before applying to charities for donations.

Other business

We all wish to send our best wishes to Jenny who is still suffering from the after-effects of Covid. Also, many thanks to Nikki for attending the AGM, as she had to slot us into a very busy schedule. And finally, a huge thank you to Jan and Carolyn for keeping F@B running in the absence of a permanent Chair.