

# Friends of Fishergate

Minutes held on Thursday 4th September 2025 in Busk Coffee Shop, Fishergate at 9:00am

Attendees: TW, FM, AB, HF, GJ, BS, Rose, Jessica, Jordi

Absentees: none

Matters Arising		
Item	Notes	Actions
Finances	<p>Francesca</p> <p>Accounts from 2024-2025 have been finalised and we raised £7,600.47 over the year.</p> <p>Awaiting bouncy castle invoice.</p> <p>We are also waiting on 2 coach invoices and have £1,000 and £334.50 to pay towards these.</p> <p>We raised £883.00 from last year's cake sales which is why we are dropping the allocation to £1,000, rather than the £1,600 we offered last year.</p> <p>Future payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Library shelves - £109</li><li>-Askham Bryan Visit - We are waiting to hear what it will cost for someone from Askham Bryan to come in and talk to the children, as a follow on from the class pets that FoF sponsored at the end of the last academic year</li><li>-£500 ringfenced for arts (or science)</li><li>-ParentKind fees - £168</li></ul> <p>We have £4,000 pounds currently to play with. In the past, the school wanted the money to go towards school trips (coaches mainly). FoF hasn't asked the school about plans for this year yet.</p>	<p>Pantomime for school:</p> <p>Offer £3,500 to cover panto trip for school (instead of paying for coaches this year)</p> <p>If not wanted, maybe we can bring a panto troupe into school</p> <p>Gayle - if it plays out this way, contact local businesses about funding panto trip for children this year</p>
New starters information	<p>Andrea</p> <p>Would like to get off on the right foot and keep communication clear and open this year. Send message to all parents with FoF 'welcome pack'</p>	<p>Andrea - send draft to everyone for review. Figure out best way to share with parents.</p> <p>Heidi - offered to set up uniform stall with Early Years sizes only and pass out FoF welcome pack / flyer</p>
Events planning	<p>Andrea</p> <p>Would like to send 'Dates for your Diary' to parents ASAP so they can save dates and plan for costs</p>	<p>Andrea - prepare 'dates for your diary' for Tina's newsletter</p> <p>Francesca - check on stock battery-powered lights for pumpkin trail</p>

	<p><b>Event dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-loved uniforms: Mon 15th Sep, Mon 13th Oct, Tue 18th Nov</li> <li>• Halloween disco &amp; pumpkin competition: 17th Oct</li> <li>• Donations day: 3rd Dec</li> <li>• Christmas fair: 5th Dec</li> <li>• Christmas shop - w/c 8th Dec</li> <li>• Visit from Santa (plan to spend £1.00 - £2.50 per child (part timers and rest of student body)</li> <li>• Coffee mornings (these are no longer happening, no one available to run it)</li> </ul> <p><b>Bake Sales:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change bake sales to Mondays</li> <li>• And instead of Cake Sales, have Bake Sales, this is to tie into the healthier eating stance the school is taking. Families can bring cakes, savouries, etc. Bringing fruit is an alternative.</li> <li>• Homemade baking is great, store-bought items are greatly appreciated as well!</li> <li>• Concerns about hygiene (gloves, serveware). Nut-free reminders.</li> </ul> <p><u>Bake Sale dates:</u>  Monday 22nd September - Year 5/6  Monday 6th October - Year 3/4  Monday 10th November - Year 1/2  Monday 1st December - Early Years</p>	<p>Buy prizes for Pumpkin Contest</p> <p>Pumpkin Contest - bring pens, check names and years are marked  Healthier options at events - check on apples available from people's trees, Abundance York, Edible York</p> <p>Tamsin - ask Heidi about Greg being Santa, dates?</p> <p>Gifts from Santa - Plan gifts for students and part-timers - - have stamp/sticker for book inscription for children instead of wrapping</p> <p>Andrea - create shared file where we can log Christmas Shop stock as items are bought</p> <p>Andrea - ask about using the library for Christmas Shop instead of cabin (class performance conflicts?)</p> <p>Andrea - research alternate art card vendors and send to FoF for review</p>
Build our volunteer base!	<p>Andrea</p> <p>How to engage volunteers earlier in the year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to send out communication for general interest (note general volunteering roles and determine where interests lie)</li> <li>• Asked about giving children house/table points if the child's parent volunteers - this idea doesn't work</li> </ul>	<p>Andrea - contact parents with email directly from FoF to engage early</p>
Fundraising & donation resources	<p>Gayle -</p> <p>External funding!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awaiting word from Bupa - "growing together" raised beds in the school garden. Grow foods to be used in school. Will need to organise a long-term team of gardeners to support this.</li> <li>- Ward funding - could be tricky to obtain - really need to push inclusivity, healthy eating for children - OR! Could bid for pre-loved uniform shelter and support as it's more community support-based per their criteria</li> </ul>	<p>Gayle - ask Debbie when Opal are coming to school to review play equipment and make suggestions.  Concerned that this is dragging out too long, needs chasing up.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tesco Stronger Starts - healthy living for children! A group would come to school and assess play equipment</li> </ul> <p>Help secured for Fishergate!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portakabin volunteers coming during October half term to paint</li> <li>• York Cares is sending reading volunteers for KeyStage 1</li> </ul> <p>Andrea</p> <p>Hollywood Bowl offered to set up pop-up mini golf last year at our Christmas Fair, charge for play and donate money back to school.</p> <p>On Ali's advice, Andrea did some digging in the PTA Ideas Exchange Facebook group and is now compiling resources for our events (to view, visit: <a href="#">Google Drive &gt; Important Documents &amp; Files &gt; FoF Contacts &amp; Resources</a>)</p> <p>Resource examples found already:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warburtons - with 3 weeks advance notice, they will donate 20 packs of products for an event (hot dog buns, sandwich thins, bagels, etc.)</li> <li>• Morrisons - provides strawberries and squirty cream to schools for Sports Day refreshments</li> <li>• Tesco - provides mulled wine and mince pies for Christmas events</li> <li>• McDonalds - hot drinks cup and lids</li> <li>• More raffle prize sources - Lakeland, The Entertainer, Body Shop, Boden, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Gayle - ward funding -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use towards uniform donation drop-point</li> </ul> <p>OR, possibly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shade structure for hot days / fairs</li> </ul> <p>Andrea - ask Hollywood Bowl if they can help with fundraising at our Christmas Fair</p> <p>Andrea - share resources with FoF (<a href="#">Google Drive &gt; Important Documents &amp; Files &gt; FoF Contacts &amp; Resources</a>)</p>
Dyslexia pens	<p>Heidi Fox</p> <p>Purchasing a specialised pen to help dyslexic students with exams and classwork at school was brought up during the Annual General Meeting in July 2025. (Pen: C-Pen Exam Reader 2)</p> <p>Progress: Debbie Waters has purchased the pen already.</p>	<p>Heidi - ask Ms Rees about management of the pen in the school. How it will be used when needed and tracked. Would like this tested with a student now.</p>
Pre-loved uniform stalls	<p>Joanne</p>	<p>Dates all set for this term!</p> <p>Decide when to open the stall for coats and shoes donations</p> <p>Ask school (Mick and front office) about a uniform donation bin that is always there. Maybe a compost bin.</p>
Teacher Wishlist	<p>Gayle and Tamsin</p> <p>Need to connect with teachers to discuss prioritised needs the school has. Open up communication so we can better help the school.</p>	<p>Gayle's husband (Rich) working towards a slot at governor's meeting for Tamsin to represent FoF. Rich will follow up with her.</p>
Art cards	<p>Need to find a new supplier? This sounds like this starts very early on in order for cards to be delivered back to students by December.</p>	<p>Andrea - research vendors and present to group to move forward</p>

## Any Other Business

Item	Notes	Actions
Year 6 Hoodies	<p>Tina would like to get this going early.</p> <p>Get a Year 6 parent to head this up (see what Banana Moon can manage as well)</p> <p>This needs to make £350.00 to cover the bowling treat at the end of school year.</p>	<p>Francesca - follow up with hoodie supplier about new feature for ease of ordering</p> <p>Goal! Have hoodies delivered by Dec</p>
Succession planning	Someone needs to shadow Francesca for her final year before they take over the role	Find numbers person to shadow Francesca and take over role
Contacts in each year group	<p>Early Years - Jessica</p> <p>Year 1 - Gayle</p> <p>Year 3 - Tamsin</p> <p>Year 4 - Laura (Hester's mum)</p> <p>Year 5 - Francesca</p> <p>Year 6 - Andrea / Heidi</p> <p>We have no Year 2 rep at the moment.</p>	
No Cold Child	Secretary, Chair and Treasurer to liaise with the school	Francesca - follow up on how FoF can get involved
	Next meeting set for Friday 3rd October (Halloween Disco and Pumpkin Competition planning, etc.). Tamsin closed the meeting out.	