

Friends of Great Rollright School
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Friday 4 November 2022

1. Attendance and Regrets

Present: Martene Midwood (Chair), Kate Drake (Treasurer), Charlotte Gasson (Secretary), Rachel Keenan (Trustee), Hayley Timms, Michelle Hastings (Head), Sam Wood, Duncan Midwood, Martha Simpson, Karina Jacoby, Asia Kaszuba, Magda Swietek, Laura McIlroy

Apologies: Rebecca MacRae (Trustee), Kate Wood (Trustee), Sarah Edmundson, Sam Thorburn, Amy Spicer

2. Confirmation of Quorum

Confirmed.

3. Approval of Minutes

Members approved the minutes from the 2021/22 AGM.

4. Chair's Report

Martene Midwood gave a report on the Friends' activities and achievements in the past year. Her report is attached.

She gave particular thanks to all the members who have volunteered, baked, manned stalls, made donations and contributed in other ways in the past year.

5. Treasurer's Report

Kate Drake gave a report on Friends' income and expenditure in the past year. Her report is attached.

Kate confirmed that the accounts have been audited and approved by Tom Gormley, as Independent Examiner.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner for the coming year has not yet been confirmed. Members were asked to make a recommendation if they know somebody suitable.

7. A word from Michelle Hastings, Headteacher

Michelle Hastings expressed thanks to the Friends from all the teachers for all their hard work in raising funds for the school. She remarked that she is in awe of the work the Friends do to raise money for the school

Michelle stressed that the money the Friends raise is essential, as the school budget only covers staffing. She commented that the equipment and activities that the Friends pay for are the ones that make the school stand out. When new parents look around the school, it is the yoga classes,

brass lessons and the amazing early years outdoor area that they are most attracted to. In this way, the Friends' fundraising not only makes a difference to the children currently at the school, but also helps to sustain the next generation of children applying to the school.

8. Election of officers

Kate Drake stepped down as Treasurer for the coming year.

There were 3 nominations, one for each position. The following members were voted into post:

Martene Midwood - Chair
Rebecca Coolin - Treasurer
Charlotte Gasson - Secretary

9. Election of Trustees

There were four nominations for Trustee for the coming year. The following members were voted onto the committee as Trustee:

Rebecca MacRae
Rachel Keenan
Kate Wood
Kate Drake
Hayley Timms

In addition, Karina Jacoby and Asia Kaszuba confirmed that they would support activities as general committee members. Amy Spicer sent a message in advance of the meeting to confirm the same.

10. Open discussion: a chance for those attending to ask questions or comment

Martene confirmed that the committee has already been working on a number of ideas for events in the coming months, including wreath making workshop, Christmas market, Christmas cards, end of term cake sales, comedy night.

Karina Jacoby suggested a craft morning in the village hall during February half term or the Easter break. She would be happy to lead this.

Duncan Midwood talked about the Great Rollright BINGO nights, which generate funds for Friends and the village hall. Proceeds are split three ways: the school, the village hall and a local project. He said that he will consider making the new playground equipment the local project for the coming year.

Michelle Hastings elaborated on the playground project. There are a number of wooden structures in the playground that are now broken or coming to the end of their life. The intention is to replace two wooden bridges with four structures that will appeal to both the younger children and the older ones. This will enhance enjoyment of playtimes and therefore benefit the school day.

Kate Wood has previously suggested having a thermometer to show progress in raising funds for the playground equipment. Everybody agreed that this is a good idea.

It was suggested that a silent auction could be a good way to raise money.

Other feedback:

Some parents do not understand what the 100 club is and therefore do not join in. We need to find a better way to publicise this (Rachel and Kate D are already working on this).

It would be good to have a Rep at the bus stop so that parents who do not come into school know what's going on.

It is important to share what Friends' spend money on, as this is not clear to parents. For example, parents do not realise that Friends' pay for yoga.

There is a lot going on, and parents have a lot of other commitments. Perhaps Friends' should concentrate on having fewer bigger events, rather than lots of small ones.

It might be a good idea to hold the AGM in the break of another event – e.g. during a quiz or curry night.

11. Date of first meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on 7 December 2022. Everybody is welcome.