

## **Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Chestnut Grove, 25 February 2021**

**Present:** Loné Olsen (LO); Damien Austin-Walker (DAW); Kathy Walker (KW); Lorna Moxham (LM); Mike Howard (MH); Fritha Flint (FF); Catherine Farror (CF); Matthew Cowley (MC); Kristina Roszynski (KR); Tracey Preston (TP); Kevin Keenoy (KK); Emily MacDonald (EM); Sharon Noble (SN); Noga Verber (NV), Debby Sinarahua Nelmes (DSN); Alison Stewart-Paterson (ASP); Tania Ray (TR); Susi Simon (SS); Maria Athini (MA), Mary Shipley (MS); Rachael Mangham (RM)

(Plus 3 SLT CG staff for voting)

**Apologies:** Christian Kingsley, Richard Williams

- 1. The minutes of the last AGM, 12 November 2019, were approved**
- 2. Chair's Report** – circulated prior to meeting and was approved at the meeting
- 3. Treasurer's Report** – circulated prior to meeting and was approved at the meeting. We brought in around £34,000 during the year and almost all went back to the school to help with home learning and funding of a school counsellor for those students in need.

Chair thanks Treasurer Kathy, who is stepping down, for all her hard work over the last seven years.

#### **4. Sharon Noble – Fundraising Report**

- A total of 320 laptops were purchased for use by school students
- BBC's Children in Need allowed the school to reallocate funding to some of the work for young people in counselling and vouchers help and assistance
- Tesco and Lidl chains provided help for families
- A small £250 grant was secured for A-level field trip in the summer
- London Marathon charitable trust provided a top-up of £15k and asked for more proposals; the school has proposed funding for a new gym in the sixth form centre and an outdoor gym.
- The school is at the second stage of a Wolfson Foundation grant for £25k for an IT suite in the new sixth form building to replace some of the DT laptops that need high level programs. This will allow the school to offer more computer science and even T Levels going forward.
- Thank you to the Friends of Chestnut Grove for the energy put into helping with the laptops and fundraising over the last year – the legacy of the counsellor until July is something that is hugely appreciated.

Noga Verber said the pandemic has provided the school with insight into family lives that they never get when children are in school, including some hard-hitting truths. The funds from Sharon's work, the FoCG and the community have made a real difference and allowed the school to support families with serious issues in coping with the day-to-day.

## **5. AGM Voting:**

Co-Chairs re-standing: Loné Olsen/Damien Austin-Walker

Sharon seconded

Unanimous

Treasurer – Debby Sinarahua Nelmes (new committee member)

Loné proposed

Kevin seconded

14 votes

Secretary - Matthew Cowley

Loné proposed

Sharon seconded

13 votes

Committee members:

Lorna Moxham

Richard Williams

Emily Macdonald

Tracey Preston

Kevin Keenoy

Kristina Roszynski

Catherine Farror

Fritha Flint

Mike Howard

Sharon proposed

Loné seconded

16 Votes

Loné will circulate a Trustee Declaration Form for the Charities Commission to be completed by all committee members which should be returned to her as soon as possible.

## **6. Date of next meeting**

Due to Covid-19 no meeting date was set but it was suggested that the new committee meet in May 2021

## **7. Any other business**

Catherine asked about success exploring free counselling options: Sharon confirmed that there was no progress yet but will chase again as it will be needed in coming months.