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Registered Charity No: 1161701

Bishop Sutton Pre-School and Forest Club

Annual General Meeting

8.00pm Tuesday, 4th July 2017
The Old School Room, The Link, The Street

Minutes

1. Apologies

Louise Emery

2. Approval of minutes from last AGM (28th June 2016)

Approved

3. Chairman's report

Good evening everyone, thank you all for coming tonight. This is my annual report to summarise our achievements for the year and thank everyone for making our preschool and forest club such a fantastic place for our children.

This has been my first year in the role of chair and I've been struck by the immense dedication and sheer number of hours put in by both staff and committee to keep us in operation. I'm eternally grateful to everyone because it is a true team effort!

It's been another great year, the children are thriving, we are in good financial shape and our wonderful staff are continuing to maintain our well deserved ofsted outstanding status. We are an asset to the village and this is largely due to Lin, Julie and their team. Our reputation in the valley is reflected in our long waiting list, with nearly all available places filled for next year already. This popularity in itself could prove a problem in future years. While we aim to provide every child in the village with a place, we already find ourselves unable to offer more than 15 funded hours per child.

Last year's very successful fundraising provided us with a new Home Corner, a range of other equipment plus new waterproof clothing and backpacks for forest club. All of which have immediately benefited the children in our care. This year's fundraising has included the Christmas Fayre, half term parties, Film Club, and the 10km race catering. On top of this, we have had some incredibly generous private donations. All of this has helped us

exceed our fundraising target, and Lin and Julie's wish list will be purchased in the next few weeks.

I would like to thank all of the committee and their long suffering spouses for their tremendous hard work regarding both the fundraising and the day to day operations of preschool. I know that everyone has busy lives, especially with young growing families to care for. So I'm incredibly grateful to everyone for freely giving all your energies and skills.

In particular I'd like to thank Claire, our long suffering treasurer, who has done a great job in looking after the finances. After 2 years in the role, she is stepping down tonight, but with her tight management, the long awaited increase in government funding, plus the minor fee restructuring we are in good financial shape for the coming year.

This spring, we halted the change of the charity structure from a charity to a charitable incorporated organisation in order to preserve the ofsted outstanding status and heritage of preschool which is approaching its 50th birthday. Going forward, in order to protect the committee from any financial liability we are confident that appropriate measures have been put in place and we have a fund to cover any redundancies. We now use a professional payroll service, a local company will be auditing our annual accounts and we use the online banking for day to day transactions. Further work is needed to produce a water tight payment policy with a clear protocol in case of late payees.

Going forward, we've already got some cracking fundraisers in the pipeline for next year, of which Phil Hammond's homecoming should be a highlight. I'm excited about working with everyone for another year and look forward to welcoming some new parents onto the committee.

4. Treasurer's report

Overall good financial situation, and Lin and Julie's wish list will be agreed and spent by the end of term. Invoices all paid up so far (term 6 still outstanding). 1 long term debtor AS dealing with. Two families late payees have end of this week to pay or risk losing their places at pre school. Waiting on details of one committee member to change bank details to a new account for the new status.

5. Leader's report

After our setting in fortnight, we started the school year off with a theme all about Farms, as this was a very popular interest of many of the children at the time. Julie and I looked for a fun farm story but to no avail and we so set about writing our own !! We created the wonderful character; 'Taurus Boarius The Bad Tempered Bull' and the loveable animals that also lived on the farm – Cheval the 'dandy' horse, Muc the 'cool' pig and Kenickie the 'vain and self-absorbed' Cockerel. The children learnt the story amazingly well and we all became very attached to them.

Our next Story Making story was the wonderful 'Grumpy Inn Keeper' – this was performed by the children in the chapel dressed in Nativity costume. After this came 'Cinderella' – as part of this we had a stage were lots of the children dressed up in fairy tale costumes and played instruments – entertainment at 'The Ball'

Time then to write another story (this had to follow Taurus Boarius!) So based on 'Little Rabbit Foo Foo', 'How the dinosaurs died out' was born. The children amazed us yet again, getting their mouths around such large words as, Vern Velociraptor, Beryl Brontosaurus, Donna Dackosaurus, Tony Pterodactyl, herbivore, carnivore and extinction!

All of the stories had lots of lovely repetition, and story maps take home to share, where the children could 'read' the pictures (just like the Egyptians!)

So this term's story was to be 'Jack and the Beanstalk' with a rule of three (he chopped and he chopped and he chopped) but not much repetition. But wow these children have yet again learnt it so well!

We chose this story as we wanted to spend lots of time creating and enjoying our garden, planting and caring for plants.

Forest Club has yet again been a joy. The children settled so quickly and became very confident in 'their' forest, understanding and implementing the forest club rules. (And believe it or not have developed great dressing skills – which they may choose not to show you at home!) Those of you who visited the forest last week, I hope you were suitably impressed with their amazing behaviour and confidence amongst the trees. We are so lucky to have this morning where the children are introduced to so many wonderful experiences – Fire! Treasure Map reading, Bug hunts, Observing pond life, Real tools, physics! Pulleys - lifting a log into a tree with a long rope by many children – learning the art of pulling together!!!, eating outdoors including hot dogs, soup, hot chocolate, apple crumble (made by the children at Pre-school) and toasting hot cross buns.

None of this would be possible without a committed committee behind us and the hard work that goes into the fundraising to keep us alive and the admin and bookwork that you do. We can't thank you enough and can't show our appreciation enough. So thank you all so so much. You know and have witnessed how passionate we all are about our wonderful Pre-school and Forest Club.

And now on to the staff – well we are the luckiest Pre-school in the land. We have the most wonderful staff (all a bit crazy, well that is part of the job description!!!) and as Becca always says, we are a family, and we truly are! They put their everything in to support Julie and I and to give your children so much fun and respect during their play and learning when with us, we simply couldn't do it without them. All of their work at home is unpaid - planning, prep and the amazing Learning Diaries. And we thank them so much for continued commitment - it's not for the money, its for the love!

And Julie, my partner in crime! For the past 24 years (A year to save up for our Rolex watches)- I couldn't do it without her! We compliment each other and I'm sure sometimes annoy each other – but she's my crazy rock!

We wish all of you who are moving on to big school, lots of luck in your new adventure – Children and Mums and Dads! And look forward to meeting up with our new and old families in September.

The end!

6. Election of committee

Done – see page

7. Re-adoption/ approval of policies

Approved by Annabelle

8. Date of next committee meeting – 4th July 2017!

9. AOB