

Thamesmead School
Friends of Thamesmead Parent Teacher Association
Registered Charity No. 282494
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 15 JANUARY 2025

Meeting: Thamesmead FOT Annual General Meeting
Date: 15 January 2025
Location: Board Room, Thamesmead School

Attendees: Fiona Fletcher, Chair
Garry Court - Treasurer
Phil Reeves - Headteacher
William Kerr – Chair of Governors
Nahbila Sher – Business Manager
Dhru Patel – Head of Year 11/PE Teacher/Governor
Kenni Rasmussen – Parent
Kaija Gosling – Parent
Stephanie Gerke- Parent
Irina Court – FOT Volunteer

Apologies : Mandy Irwin – Communications Manager
Caroline Foxhall - Secretary
Nikki Jenkins – School Governor

Owner: Garry Court
Recorded by: Irina Court

Topic **Discussion**

Welcome from the Chairperson

Matters arising from previous minutes:

Amendments to the constitution, mentioned in the minutes of 21/11/2023, have been done successfully.

Approval of minutes of AGM held on 21 November 2023:

Proposed by William Kerr. Seconded by Kaija Gosling

Introductions: see list of attendees above.

Fiona Fletcher and Garry Court have been the driving force behind the Committee and FOT activities.

Chair's Report 2023/24:

In terms of the FOT activities, last year was more successful than the year before, which had been affected by consequences of COVID.

FOT started seeing regular helpers at its events.

Last year, FOT got a better deal on the pitch at the Shepperton Fair, which helped to reduce the expenses, and doing Bacon Rolls from 9am to 12.00 helped to boost profit.

FOT has successfully run barbeque at the Rock Concert for two years in a row. Garry Stevenson and a few other helpers streamlined the food ordering system, which helped the BBQ run smoothly, and the volunteers (both parents and teachers) did a very good job serving food and drinks.

Matilda was a brilliant show. The new popcorn machine purchased by the FOT was successful: popcorn turned out very popular.

The pre-loved uniform sale has generated a good profit for FOT: as all the items had been donated, their sale was all profit. However, the sales figures may be unpredictable.

Easy Fundraising is also a very good source of income for FOT. Currently there are 235 people participating in the scheme, and the numbers are increasing.

Nikki Jenkins, one of the Governors, who had been the FOT Chairperson for many years, has been very active in helping during FOT events and last year she made a speech at the Parent Introduction Evening for the new Year 7s, encouraging the new Thamesmead parents to participate in FOT activities.

To involve more people in FOT activities, it is important to interact with the Thamesmead parent community. Fiona Fletcher (FF) is happy to engage with the new parent community to involve more helpers in FOT activities.

The 'Drinks Event' for the new Thamesmead parents, Yr 7. at the Red Lion in September was a very nice way to get the parents connected.

Meet the Tutor evening, where FOT set up a tea/coffee stall was successful from the point of view that the new Thamesmead parents had a face-to-face meeting with the FOT.

From the FOT perspective, we need to try to make ourselves more 'visible' on the day.

Phil Reeves (PR) suggested that next time FOT should think of a different space for the stall, to be more effective.

At every event there is a sign-up list where the parents who wish to help in carrying out PTA activities, can leave their contact details. If they wish, they can join the FOT WhatsApp group.

Currently, there are sixty people on the FOT WhatsApp group.

Kaija Gosling (KG) stated that many parents are reluctant to sign up at the school events because they do not want to be pulled into something they have to commit to.

Therefore, the FOT stall at such events is a 'safe space' to communicate with the parents and address their misconceptions regarding the PTA volunteering.

Fiona Fletcher (FF) The 'Printer Refill Scheme' (recycling printer cartridges), is already in place, but more thought is needed on how to advertise more.

Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31 August 2024:

Funds brought forward from last year	£6,036.09
Income	£13,443.71
Expenditure	£5,583.57
Profit	£7,860.24
Reserve Account	£1,893.44
Funds carried forward to 2024/2025	£13,896.52

Last Year's **Year 7 Disco** was a success; there were no problems at all. Mr. Cowley (Head of Year 7) was the event organiser. Now he is Head of Year 8.

Lauren has a contact for a local DJ if another disco is organised.

Last year's **Acoustic Night** had very low takings due to low attendance, hence, the profit was low. Besides, it was a midweek event where people don't tend to buy alcohol.

'**Matilda**' show was a great success: FOT made £1,086.31 in profit. There was a good turnout as there were many Years 7 parents.

Quiz Night was cancelled twice: first time because there were not enough people and second time due to a clash with a similar event at St Nicholas School.

Rock Concert was a very successful event. There was a good turnout, and the BBQ was very successful.

Pre-loved uniform sales: £2,158.72 profit.

Company Fund-Matching (Giving Force – BP Matching for Quiz 2023; rolled over from the previous year): £700.

Easy Fundraising (235 participants): £1,004.09

FOT purchased a few assets, among which was a **Popcorn machine** (£299) which has turned out to be very popular.

In the past few years, FOT has contributed towards the following projects:

Purchasing Hockey goal posts, etc.

Contributing to Minibus.

£10,000 for purchasing Mac computers for the Music Department 22/23.

£4,300 Contribution towards purchasing Chromebooks.

£2,095 Purchasing a printer for the Art Department 24/25.

Kaija Gosling (KG) suggested that there should be a photo of the items purchased by the FOT for the school in the Thamesmead Matters.

Nahbila Sher (NB) backed the suggestion and stated that there should be a separate newsletter mentioning FOT contribution to Thamesmead and featuring photos of the items FOT helped purchase for the school.

There should also be relevant posts on the social media.

Mandy Irwin could help put the letter together and make a link to it in the e-mail to the parents.

Ideas for Donation requests 24/25:

- Drama Department needs new stage weights.
- It has been seven years since the school purchased the minibus. It is now due for replacement.
- A few other projects.
- There was a request suggestion from the DofE department for equipment. However, it was felt that not all the students are involved in DofE.

Calendar of Events 2024/2025

The Open Evening

Thursday, 10th October

Presentation Evening	Thursday, 28 th November
Carols by Candlelight	Wednesday, 18 th December
AGM	Wednesday, 15 th January
Quiz Night	Friday, 7 th February
Shepperton Fair	Saturday, 7 th June
Rock Concert and BBQ	TBC
School Play	TBC – July 2025

It was asked if there was going to be a Year 7 Disco this year (a two-hour disco from 5 to 7 p.m.) Mr. Cowley has mentioned it to current Head of Yr 7 and other teachers to see if they are on board with this and are happy to help.

FOT would like to follow a new strategy regarding the school events (in the past, FOT had a few main events in their calendar and could add a few more events, if necessary). If parents suggest something and they agree to step forward and organise them, they can do that as it creates a more sense of community. If other people would like to join in carrying out those events, they would be most welcome.

Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts:

An independent examination is not required if a charity's gross income is below £25,000.

Election of FOT Committee:

Chairperson - Fiona Fletcher, proposer Kaija Gosling / seconder Stephanie Gerke

Treasurer – Garry Court, proposer Phil Reeves / seconder William Kerr

Secretary – the position will be advertised in the Newsletter (Thamesmead Matters), to see if a new candidate comes forward.

Mandy Irwin will also help advertise the position on social media.

Thamesmead parents need to know that everyone is welcome on the Committee if they wish to take part.

AOB:

Stephanie Gerke asked a question about the Summer Raffle. The last Summer Raffle raised £598.66. A Summer Raffle will go ahead again this year subject to availability of good prizes.

Fiona Fletcher thanked all the volunteers, Garry Court, Garry Stevenson, Nikki Jenkins, Mandy Irwin, Phil Reeves for their hard work in supporting FOT activities.

Nahbila Sher thanked Fiona Fletcher and Garry Court for being the 'driving force' behind the FOT activities and making a huge impact.

Fiona Fletcher and Phill Reeves thanked everyone for coming to the AGM.

Meeting closed 6.45pm