



MINUTES

Friends of Marus Bridge Association

Date | time 12/11/25 | 18:00 | Meeting called to order by Adam Jones (Chair)

Board

Adam Jones (Chair), Sarah Halsall (Vice Chair), Rebecca Jones (Treasurer) & Sarah Bentley (Secretary)

In Attendance

FOMBA board members, Alison Atkinson, Jacky Collier, Paul Rive, Janet Fulster, Liz Blagburn, Jodie Winstanley

Apologies: MH, KE, EB, FH

Introduction

Meeting agenda's circulated and meeting opened by Adam Jones. The main purpose of the meeting is to discuss this year's Christmas activities.

Approval of minutes

No issues raised after the previous minutes were shared with Committee members via Whatsapp and School SLT via email.

Finances

AJ provided an overview of the current FOMBA finances:

- £1000 currently in the bank reserved for Y6 leavers
- £169 out of £500 left in the hardship fund
- Available in the bank: Over £5000 (*Halloween disco ticket purchases not yet included)

Donations so far:

- £600 spent on the Kitt Medical Anaphylaxis Kit
- £500 for the MBPS Hardship Fund
- £364 for Forest School
- £102 for a school trip shortfall
- £1000 for the Artist visit/workshop
- £35 for a Forest school book
- £250 for the Wonder dome (Space week)

TOTAL: £2682

These figures don't include the funds raised from the Halloween disco.

Halloween Disco

The Halloween discos were a success and raised approximately £1600 – not yet received from the school (as tickets were purchased via ParentMail. Drinks, snacks and decorations cost approximately £450-£500, so funds raised will be circa £1000-£1100.

Great feedback was received about the discos on FOMBA social media posts and directly to school.

ACTION: RJ to check if there are any photos of during the discos that can be shared on social media.

Coop – Local Charity of the Year

This is a community initiative via the Coop for which AJ has registered FOMBA.

Participating charities are guaranteed £1000, but there's a pot for up to £3000 which is allocated based on the number of members that choose FOMBA for their funds.

Coop can support events in the community if we let them know in advance – they want to do a big drive for community efforts. AJ has asked RA for an overview of upcoming events so that we can try and engage them where appropriate.

All agreed that we need to do some comms on social media or ParentMail to keep promoting the Coop initiative (AJ has already scheduled some using resources they've provided), and we could potentially get some leaflets or a pull up poster to advertise it and request that people select FOMBA as their member charity and/or sign up to be a member.

One of the requirements to participate was to name what the funds would be used for - we have selected Forest school.

RA has put someone in touch with AJ for other potential Forest school funding – this has been done successfully by another school in Lowton and would hugely benefit the initiative.

Christmas Artwork

RJ explained that we've had a good order quantity this year at 20% commission to FOMBA. The shop will be reopening but with only a 10% commission.

RJ has reported no issues with the artwork supplier, apart from the duplicate cards not being created. Order has been larger, but we think this is because the teaching staff have worked hard with the children to improve the quality of the designs and FOMBA have promoted it much more than previous years on social media pages, and additional ParentMail and Seesaw messages have also been sent.

Details confirmed after meeting concluded: Christmas Artwork shop will reopen 21st November to 1st December.

ACTION: RJ to confirm final order quantities and do a comparison to last years' order.

Christmas Activities

This year, the school and FOMBA board have made the decision not to do a Christmas Fair/markets this time but are considering doing some smaller scale activities instead, as well as Elfridges which was hugely successful last year when done as part of the Christmas Fair.

In previous years, Sainsburys have declined having the choir singing to parents blocking the entrance. AJ has emailed the customer experience lady with a very nice email asking if we can please do it if we don't invite parents – the children have loved the experience previously and it raised significant funds. AJ is awaiting a response. Dates will be discussed once Sainsburys agree (hopefully). If not, other options are small Asda and Co-op at Winstanley. Discussed potential dates and AA advised w/c 8th December would be preferable for the school due to other commitments.

Elfridges

Friday 5th December will be the non-uniform/gift donation day – children will be invited to wear something festive in return for donating:

- EYFS – sweets, chocolates or biscuits
- Y1&2 – women's items
- Y3&4 – men's items
- Y5&6 – donation for the Brick (they have asked for hats, scarves and gloves to help the homeless this year)

We will print physical tickets, and these will be purchased through Parentmail for the Elfridges event on Monday 15th December. If we don't have enough items, we can purchase more items (funded by FOMBA). Tracy Heaton is going to do a combined Brick and Elfridges poster for ParentMail/Seesaw and we can share on the FOMBA social media pages as part of a reel.

Mrs Collier, Mrs Atkinson, RJ and AJ will help at the Elfridges event along with some Y6 children – 10 children per session and they'll choose, wrap and take home a gift for their chosen recipient. £3 per ticket, with separate tickets available to purchase for either 'men's gift' or 'women's gift' to allow us to plan for the number of gifts accordingly. Max. 2 tickets per child.

Discussed raffle and all agreed not to as we're already asking parents for donations for Elfridges and the Brick, as well as to purchase up to 2 tickets for Elfridges.

Details confirmed after meeting concluded: ParentMail cannot generate a discount for multiple ticket purchases so 2 for £5 is not an option. Tickets will be £3 each, capped at a maximum of 2 per child.

Other Christmas event opportunities

The following are Christmas events that parents are invited to which potentially offer an opportunity to sell hot drinks and festive treats (as with previous years):

- Y1 Christmas performance - Tues 16th Dec 09:15
- Y2 Christmas performance - Weds 17th Dec 09:15
- EYFS Christmas performance - Thurs 18th Dec 09:15

Discussed and all agreed that given the time and nature of performances – and the effort that goes in to planning, manning and delivering hot drinks for what is raised – FOMBA will not partake in any of these events this year, but will consider options for next year.

- Choir Carol Concert - 12th December – choir parents are being invited to watch in assembly in the hall (plan A) or straight after school (plan B)

Discussed and agreed that we'll need quite a few volunteers for the plan B option as it could get busy with school collection – which would be good for fundraising and supporting the choir. If we can get the volunteers, FOMBA will support the plan B option, if not, school can opt for plan A instead.

ACTION: RJ to try and get some photos from Elfridges last year for social media comms.

ACTION: SB to scope for volunteers for availability for plan B no later than Friday AM so that AA can make a decision on plan A/B and circulate information for parents and choir.

AOB

- FOMBA board have worked hard to improve comms and social media presence, which appears to be working. AJ reviewed the engagement stats and found that the reels generate much more engagement than the standard posts. The number of followers has also increased, and we need to focus on posts that show the results of the fundraising and donations e.g. the artist and bins.
- Need to start looking at colour run as companies get booked in advance

- Careers Fair at school on 31st March – could ask Coop if they can come
- Healthy Living Week will be summer 1 but dates TBC (after Easter)
- Teachers have asked if we can plan meetings further in advance so that they can plan to attend

ACTION: AA to try and send some photos of the bin reveal and the artist which was funded

ACTION: SB to do a reel and social media for “PTA at the pub” – if Carlsberg did PTA meetings theme

Next Meeting

Date | time Tuesday 20th January | 18:00 arrival for 18:15 start | *Location* Freemasons Pub, Clapgate Lane

Meeting concluded at 19:10

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Friday 12th December | 14:30 – 17:00 | Choir Carol Concert/FOMBA hot drinks & Festive treats (TBC)