



# MINUTES

## Friends of Marus Bridge Association

Date | time **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** | 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 Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, Liz Blagburn (LB), Janet Fulster (JF), Mrs Bower

Apologies: Ross Aldridge (Head Teacher), Alison Atkinson (Deputy Head), Rebecca Jones (Treasurer)

### Introduction

AJ opened the meeting and outlined that the purpose was to progress some decisions and planning for the upcoming Christmas Fair and to discuss some other events that the school have scheduled dates for.

### Approval of minutes

Meeting minutes from 07/10/24 were briefly discussed and agreed. A separate action tracker has been created due to the sheer volume of actions being generated – this will be periodically reviewed and updated by all Board members and is accessible via the FOMBA SHARE 2024.

### Finances

Finances were not discussed in depth at Rebecca Jones (Treasurer) was not present at the meeting. A full update on the current finances will be provided at the next meeting.

### Christmas Fair

All discussed the Christmas Fair which is scheduled for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 3:15pm and ending at approximately 6pm. The highlights of this discussion were:

- This will be a much smaller scale event compared to MB Fest
- There are significant space and time constraints, hence scaling down
- In order to manage footfall in the school hall, we need some methods of encouraging people to stay outside (unless the weather is particularly bad)
- The Choir are available and can hopefully perform outside (weather permitting) – the Choir have asked if they can have their own donation buckets outside as they are raising funds for a toilet twinning project and need £120

- There will be a raffle which can potentially be drawn/winners announced outside – the plan is for all prizes to come from local business donations or purchased, but Mrs Bower suggested asking the school staff to donate items to form a “luxury hamper” as this has previously been popular. The raffle ticket books will be sent home with students before the Christmas Fair (we have a license that enables this) to maximise sales
- Consideration was given to a bouncy castle, but this is likely impractical due to limitations with lighting and the potential for bad weather
- Consideration was given to selling hot dogs, which could be cooked in slow cookers and served outside as required, the group agreed that this option should be explored further
- Ice cream van attendance is also an option for “outside attractions”, but again might be restrictive if the weather is bad
- The Rotary club have advised AJ that Santa is unlikely to be available, but that Mrs Claus may be an option
- Discussed the potential to have someone dressed as Santa outside (no gifts or grotto) that can offer “Santa Selfies” to encourage people to stay outside and reduce traffic in the hall.

*ACTION: AJ to establish price and potential for hot dog sales*

*ACTION: AJ to check availability of ice cream van*

*ACTION: AJ to confirm availability of Rotary Club/Mrs Claus and establish time/duration*

*ACTION: AJ to ask Gareth if he will dress up as Santa for a selfie point*

*ACTION: AJ to check if we can buy a MBPS/FOMBA “selfie square” for Santa pics*

*ACTION: LB to check size of Santa suit*

*ACTION: AJ to order raffle ticket books for Christmas Fair raffle*

*ACTION: AJ to create Facebook post for local businesses requesting donations for raffle*

*ACTION: SB to email ParentKind business list with requests for raffle prize donations*

*ACTION: AJ to ask if school staff will combine efforts to make a luxury hamper for the raffle*

*ACTION: ALL To ask friends and local businesses for raffle donations*

*ACTION: RJ to ask if school staff will combine efforts to make a luxury hamper for the raffle*

### Summary of the plans so far:

#### **School Stalls**

- The school will have several stalls themselves including the Tombola and Elfridges
- These will be managed by staff that have volunteered – Mrs Miller, Mrs Riley, Miss Lloyd and Mrs Hemingway
- The Elfridges activity is likely to be in the Y2 classroom

#### **FOMBA Stalls**

- Festive food and drink – tea, coffee, hot chocolate, mince pies and possibly hot dogs
- Festive treats – things that can be made/bought and then sold for a small profit E.G. Christmas themed marshmallow snowmen, wrapped chocolate bars
- Basketball game
- Whack a Sprout game
- FOMBA main – lotto sign ups, school bobble and potentially uniform with a donation bucket

## External Business Stalls

- There is space for 2-6 business stalls
- They must be selling items related to Christmas
- Only one stall per “type of item” due to space limits
- Stalls will cost £10 and will need to set up between 2pm and 3pm

*ACTION: AJ to convert whack a rat into whack a sprout*

*ACTION: SB to allocate set tasks for Christmas Fair (on availability spreadsheet)*

*ACTION: AJ to purchase mince pies, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, cream, marshmallows, cold drinks and snack alternatives, cups, lids etc.*

*ACTION: AJ to look at outside power and lighting options for Christmas Fair*

*ACTION: AJ to look at all other food and drink options for the Christmas Fair e.g. hot dogs*

*ACTION: RJ to message potential stallholders for the Christmas Fair to confirm interest/reserve space*

*ACTION: SB to look at tartan blue fabric for making school bobbles to sell*

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## EY Reading Shed & Bike Sheds

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The EY Reading Shed is now completed, we have requested photos that can be used for Comms to promote FOMBA and demonstrate where the money has been spent.

The Bike Sheds are now ordered and scheduled for fitting during the second week of December. AJ explained that the funding grant was actually increased so there are now 3 locations on site that will have suitable storage for bikes and scooters.

*ACTION: RJ or AA to obtain photos of the EY Reading Shed being used*

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## Christmas Events at School

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A Whatsapp Poll was created earlier in the day to scope volunteer availability to sell drinks and treats at some of the Christmas Events at school, as well as for the Christmas Fair date. SB explained that we didn't include the dates of EYFS Christmas performance or the KS1 performances because these are less likely to have people moving around. Instead, we are focussing on the quiz events (all dates are on last week's ParentMail newsletter and the Whatsapp poll. Discussion around practicality and the group agreed that we need at least 3 volunteers at each event to manage making the drinks etc. and that having hot drinks in thermal jugs would make it easier.

*ACTION: ALL to provide availability via the Whatsapp poll if not already done*

*ACTION: AJ to do Facebook post and draft ParentMail message requesting support from any Grandparents that may be available during school hours*

*ACTION: AJ to look at thermal jugs for hot drinks to be premade (or bowser)*

*ACTION: RJ to check current quantities of lids, cups & stirrers in school*

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## Funding request from The Planet Protectors

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Mrs Bower explained that The Planet Protectors have requested funding for a number of child-friendly bins to be put on the school playground in a bid to reduce litter. The current bins are tired and in need of replacement. All in attendance agreed that this kind of funding is exactly what we want to be able to approve as they are physical items that can be seen by everyone.

Mrs Bower provided a letter written by one of the Y3 children, which explained the reasoning and requests the funding. AJ explained that we are enabling all FOMBA Committee members to vote for funding requests (rather than just the Board members) and he would share the letter and advise the outcome of the vote. The bins are expensive, but a quick Google search suggested that the price/type requested is standard. Additionally, Mrs Bower explained that the Gardening Club are keen to have greenhouse and some raised beds, which also aligns to the FOMBA goals.

*ACTION: AJ to add photo of the Planet Protectors letter to Whatsapp group with poll for funding request, and then let Mrs Bower know*

*ACTION: SH to look at any funding streams for Gardening Club greenhouse and raised beds (similar to Bike Shed project work)*

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## AOB

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Following a vote on the Committee Whatsapp, we have agreed to fund the difference for the Pantomime drinks and snacks that are being provided by School.

*ACTION: RJ to confirm whether school are providing alternatives for children with allergies, or whether FOMBA will provide them as normal (list required in advance)*

*ACTION: RJ or AA to obtain photos taken on the iPads at the Schools Out Discos that can be used for Comms/promotion*

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## Next Meeting

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*Date | time TBC | Location TBC*

Meeting concluded at 19:30.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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*Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December | 14:00 – 15:00 | EYFS Craft Afternoon (Hot drinks & mince pie sales TBC pending volunteer availability)*

*Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December | 10:00 – 11:30 | Y4 Quiz (Hot drinks & mince pie sales TBC pending volunteer availability)*

*Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December | 15:00 onwards (set up from 13:30) | Christmas Fair*

*Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December | 13:45 – 15:15 | Y5 Quiz (Hot drinks & mince pie sales TBC pending volunteer availability)*

*Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December | 13:45 – 15:15 | Y6 Quiz (Hot drinks & mince pie sales TBC pending volunteer availability)*

*Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December | 13:45 – 15:15 | Y3 Quiz (Hot drinks & mince pie sales TBC pending volunteer availability)*