The Friends of St Paul's School

Registered charity number 311003

AGM MINUTES

Wednesday 1st October 2025 @ 7.30pm in hall

Present: Attendees: Miss Cohen, Mrs Clifford, Mrs Ashley, Debbie Rogers, Abi Bennett, Debbie Ashby, Nicola Bone, Lou Ellis, Trina Edwards, Sarah Carter-Bunce, Danielle Hughes, Jo Wingfield, Sally Murdock, Hannah Dodwell

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
1.	Apologies for Absence	
	Sarah Thomas, Hannah Willis, Kelly Weiner, Neema Morel, Michelle Holley, Tracey Christou	
2.	Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 2nd October 2024	
	2024/2025 AGM Minutes approved. SM agreed and HD seconded	
3.	Matters arising from the Minutes	
	AGM to change constitution Parentkind main action point. This has now happened.	
4.	Chairs Report for 2024/25	
	Over the last school year, we have yet again exceeded our expectations with how much our fundraising has raised and what the Friends have been able to support the school to buy to help enhance our children's learning experience. This year, we tried some new events in amongst our existing events and are very appreciative of the school and parents for embracing them. We reduced the number of discos we had this year in order to try an evening of bingo on a Friday evening after school. It was held in the Spring term and we ran two bingo sessions which included music. Here I'd like to say a special thank you to Vince McLaughlin for being on the music buttons, ready for the "special" numbers to be called. We supplied snacks and hot dogs to buy. As it was a new event, we weren't sure how many we would have attending but were thrilled with the amount that came and how much we were able to raise. We have been asked by parents to run this event again and are considering other times including a weekend. Our Advent Market was a great success again. The community feel within the hall and around the school has been spoken about by parents ever since. We had our	

wonderful choir open the event and each class performed a Christmas number to help create the festive spirit.

Last year, we ran an Advent Market alongside the church; this year, we ran it just for the school community and didn't include having external stalls but instead invited parents and children to run their own if they wanted. We are looking to do something similar this year and are holding our first meeting in a couple of weeks.

Our annual quiz, while having fewer attending than we would have hoped, was received really well by those who came and we will be running it again in order to see who will win the world's smallest trophy! Please do spread the word to your classes about the quiz as it really is a fun night.

Thanks to Mr Gunning for being our Quizmaster last year, and we look forward to it at the start of next year.

One new fundraiser we ran this year was Penny Wars. When in the planning sessions, it felt like it may be too complicated to explain to the children. However, they and parents and teachers all ran with the idea and feedback that we have received is that it was great fun. We are hoping to run this event again this year, tightening up the rules so sabotage happens later in the week. Thank you to all those who came to help count — there were a lot of coins there! A special and huge thank you to Trina for counting the majority of it and facing the embarrassment of taking it to the bank!

Sadly, we had to cancel our wreath-making evening due to low take-up. We were very lucky to have a parent who was willing to run this event. However, we did not have enough people signed up. Unfortunately, we had applied for a TENS licence for this event so that we could serve alcohol, so when we cancelled the event, we sadly lost some money also. We have heard from parents that they would like to attend a wreath-making evening and would be happy to look into options again. But we would need to know when would be suitable and where before we look at trying to put this on again.

Last year we found the sale of hot chocolate didn't go down as well as previous years during the winter months. So we decided to trial a tuck shop. Thanks to Sarah Carter-Bunce, we had a range of items for sale on a Friday after school. These were both treats and also included fruit and breadsticks for those who were sugar free. This has been received really well by the parents of St Paul's and a huge thank you to Sarah as she has agreed to continue this this year.

I would like to say thank you to Jo Wingfield for being our supplier of Frozen Friday each week!

Thank you to Debbie Ashby for being the lead for our Mother's and Father's Day sales.

Thank you to Sarah Thomas for wrapping hundreds of presents up for Christmas and Father's Day and also for the Christmas bauble sale last year.

Thank you to Mr Butcher for taking the photos for the Nativities.

Thank you to everyone who has given up their time to sort uniform, help with pancake flip, bake a cake for a cake sale, sell photos at the Nativity and attended our events. You will hear from Trina just why we are so thankful

The big event was St Paul's Fest. We and the school decided it would be interesting to try an event after school, slightly later in the year than the May Fair has run. We had previously also spoken about running a talent contest but weren't quite sure how to do this logistically. Ms Cohen suggested that we combine the talent contest with House Festivals Week and have the grand finale of St Paul's Has Got Talent during our St Paul's Fest.

It was an amazing event. The children really did get stuck in with their different talents. We are really thankful for how school and parents went along with this. A huge thank you to all the Taylor Swifts that appeared that evening on stage.

Having the staff at our events is really appreciated by the children. We as the Friends really appreciate it and fully understand that they are giving up their weekend family time to support us. We are so thankful for this.

The last event of the year was our last disco. It really felt like they went out of the school year with a bang. There was lots of dancing!

From a personal note, as you know I had a wobble earlier in the summer term. This was due to all the events that we had coming up and I wasn't sure how we would manage to do it all with the help that we were getting.

I decided at the time that I would need to stand down at this next AGM. However, I never felt easy with this decision. After St Paul's Fest and after a meeting with the school to see where the money raised was going to be spent, I realised that our wonderful community at St Paul's really does pull together when it matters to make sure we can give the children in the school as much as possible.

This was when I decided I would like to put myself up for nomination to be Chair again this year.

The last thing I would like to say is a huge thank you to Miss Cohen for supporting absolutely every idea we put forward, always with a smile, even if, and in the case of Penny Wars, she didn't quite get what I was trying to explain. (Nor did I at one stage!)

A huge thank you to Mrs Clifford for attending all of our meetings and being a constant go-between for the Friends and school.

And finally, there is one person I literally could not have done this last year without and that is Trina. Even though she is a Treasurer she has also been chief

	sweet buyer, craft maker, general organiser, printer, laminator — all of the above. And I could not have done it without her, so I personally would like to say a huge thank you to Trina for that. This year, we have a calendar of events that we have already put together. I am thrilled to say I have been approached by a group of parents who have offered to take on the mighty role of purchasing for the Friends. This includes drinks and food for our events, things for us to sell during our pop up shops, and generally taking all of the burden off for me. This will be led by Danielle Hughes and her great team. We do appreciate that everyone has busier lives now. We all have our jobs that we have to find time around to help with the Friends. And we do understand that time is precious. So a huge thank you to everyone. And we look forward to the next year and hoping we can raise as much money as we possibly can for the children at the school. Thank you. At the conclusion of the Chair's report, Miss Cohen thanked everyone for efforts in raising money. When in a crisis we pull together as a community. Everything we are doing makes a massive difference. Not easy being in charge so particular thanks to Lou and Trina.	
5.	Treasurers Report	
	Lasts years accounts • Raised a total profit of £16,514.47 • Mother's Day and Father's Day was a profit this year so that's an improvement to last year. • We received an outstanding donation of £1050 through 'Charities Trust' which is Match funding from parent's places of work. • Last year we spent money on, - Author visit - Now Press Play - School Trips - This has been proven to be continuing help - KS2 reading books & YOTO Minis for reading - Art & DT resources - Black History resources - Lotc resources - 65" Promethean touch boards (x5)	KE

	- Year 6 leavers. And more. •We currently have £27321.05 in the bank. So far we have raised £3,145.59 this accounting year - £155.06 Coffee Afternoons - £90.94 Easy Fundraising - £1350 from Match funding for summer fare from 3 people (500x2 & 350) - £30.05 Frozen Friday - £17.75 Textile recycling (£75.75 last year) - £109.60 Your School Lottery. - Panto - £132.50 profit this year • NatWest gave £200 compensation last year but still haven't fully sorted our accounts. However, I did manage to transfer £15,000 to savings. 10k to 90day and 5k to 30day accounts this has accumulated 236.42 interest in 7months. •Match funding needs to be bought to everyone's attention again, as we currently have 3 parents in the school signed up for this. 1 who can claim 4 times a year and 2 who are able request an amount once a year. However, this is such an outstanding amount from these Parent's and their place of work alone, so a big thank you to them! This year's spending is going towards - Theme day, this will be based around STEM/Maths I believe - Gardening Club - Year 6 leavers hoodies this has been reviewed as per comments last year - Now Press Play for 3 years - Little Wandle reading books - Lotc - Take One Picture Week – Arts - SEN resources - Foundations Stage - Whole School Trip to the theatre - Opal – Stage - Ipads	
6.	Election of Committee Members	

6.	Lou explained to those present that elected committee members are those who have named roles (eg Chair, Treasurer who are also Charity Trustees). In order to continue running, the Friends needs to have a minimum of 2 elected members (one of which has to be the Treasurer) Chair: Lou Ellis. Approved by Debbie Ashby. Seconded by Abi Bennett. Treasurer: Katrina stated that she will be standing down due to other commitments. During discussion she agreed to continue within the role with the understanding that she will not be able to do others things that are not part of the role anymore. Katrina was approved by Nicola Bone and seconded by Lou Ellis. Katrina will liaise with volunteers who have said that they may be able to assist her in the role. No one came forward as Secretary. This is a role that needs to be filled in order to assist the committee. Friends Reps for each year were confirmed: Nursery: Jade Window and Neema Morel Reception: Sally Murdock & Kelly Weiner Year 1: Hannah Dodwell, Tracey Christou Year 2: Hannah Willis – 2nd rep not confirmed Year 3: Michelle Holley, Jo Wingfield Year 4: Nicole Bone, Danielle Hughes Year 5: Sarah Bunce, Sarah Thomas Year 6: Debbie Rogers, Abi Bennett	LE to send out a plea for a Secretary. LE to chase name of 2nd rep for Yr 2
8.	AOB	
	Advent Market meeting 10th October @ Shermans Coffee shop after drop off. Reps next meeting 15th October @ 7pm	

Next AGM – 30th September 2025