



Minutes of the Meeting for  
**the Forest School Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
 held Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 1:00pm, via Zoom

Present	Apologies
Sarah Lawfull (SL) - Chair and Trustee	Sara Collins – Deputy Chair
Gareth Wyn Davies (GWD) - Chief Executive	Lily Horseman - Trustee
Geoff Mason (GM) - Company Secretary and Trustee	Matt Harder - Trustee
Jon Cree (JC) - Company Treasurer and Trustee	Froo Signore – Trustee
Jo Phillips (JC) - Trustee	Sarah Walker - Member
Louise Ambrose (LA) - Trustee	
Nic Harding (NH) - Projects Officer	
Nell Seal (NS) – Endorsed Providers / Trainers Coordinator	
Megan Boyle (MB) - Governance Officer	

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>Sarah Lawfull (SL) Trustee, and Chair welcomed those present to the annual general meeting (AGM).</p> <p>Apologies received from Sara Collins (Deputy Chair), Matt Harder (Trustee), Froo Signore (Trustee), Lily Horseman (Trustee) and Sarah Walker (Member).</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>AGM Report Summary</b></p> <p>SL informed those present that the Forest School Association (FSA) has now been established for 10 years, and that this is the organisation’s 9<sup>th</sup> AGM.</p> <p>SL noted that Jon Cree (JC), Trustee and Company Treasurer, will be stepping down from his role, however acknowledged that he will continue to act as an ambassador for the FSA. SL explained that JC is the longest serving Trustee and thanked him for all his, passion, commitment, and years of service that he has given to the FSA.</p> <p>JC thanked the Trustees, FSA staff, members, and volunteers, for their passion and dedication in growing the forest school community.</p> <p>SL provided a verbal summary of the FSA report that was circulated prior to the meeting, key points of note include:</p>

### Governance

Those present were informed that the Trustees continue to focus on strategy and good governance as a priority, ensuring that all the association's activity is aligned with the vision and values of the FSA.

SL drew attention to the FSA's values, including, professionalism and quality, effectivity, and sustainability.

SL advised that a survey focused on equality, diversity and inclusion has been sent to all members and explained that the Association is currently reviewing ways to ensure that diversity can be welcomed and brought into the organisation.

### Membership

Those present were informed that membership levels decreased slightly over the recent Coronavirus pandemic, however advised that this has since increased with just under 1500 members.

### FSA Book Sales and App

Nic Harding (NH), Project Officer advised that feedback from the most recent FSA book, 'Growing a Forest School – from the roots up' continues to be effective and positive. NH informed that a draft of the new FSA app has been reviewed and explained that the app will help educators and forest school leaders to observe and record the positive affect and impact that forest school has on its participants.

### Conference

SL advised that over 300 individuals attended the FSA conference held at Hill End in Oxfordshire and that the conference explored how forest school can impact environmental issues and sustainability.

SL informed that the next conference is due to be held at Danbury Outdoor Centre in Essex and explained that the FSA will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> year as an organisation, and 30 years of forest school in the United Kingdom. SL noted that NH is working collaboratively with the local Essex FSA networking group in organising the event.

### Trainers Quality Scheme

Nell Seal (NS) advised that there are currently 12 endorsed trainers, and 5 individuals who are currently completing the scheme. NS explained that the endorsed trainers recently met for the first time in 5 months to explore ways in which the qualification programme can be reviewed.

Those present were informed that individuals of the recognised provider scheme have been working collaboratively to demonstrate and evidence the principles of forest school and are currently reflecting ways in which to develop practices within FS settings.

### Webinars

SL invited JC and Louise Ambrose (LA), Trustee, to provide a brief overview of the FSA webinars.

JC noted that the webinars have been well attended with between 60-200 participants at each session. JC explained that the webinar topics have varied and have been chosen using the outcome of a recent members survey.

LA highlighted the value of the webinars supporting the strategy of the FSA and how they can be used to bring individuals into the FS community and membership.

#### Local Groups

LA thanked members and volunteers who help contribute to the running and organisation of the local affiliated groups and informed those present of 2 new potential groups in Cambridge and London.

#### DBS System

Geoff Mason (GM), Trustee and Company Secretary, provided an overview of the organisations DBS system. GM explained that the system offers independent practitioners a way of obtaining a DBS certificate and advised of how the checks are carried out depending on the individual's employment status.

#### Nature Premium

Jo Phillips (JP), Trustee, provided an update in relation to the Nature Premium campaign including the development of a steering group with Ashden Trust, Richard Dunne (Harmony Project), and other organisations. The Ministry of Eco-Education may help with the development of funding pilots. JP advised that the campaign continues to be well supported by FSA members, organisations, and individuals endorsing the vision and values of Nature Premium.

#### Accounts

Gareth Wyn Davies (GWD) Chief Executive thanked those present for attending the AGM and noted his appreciation to JC for his many years of service and contribution to the FSA.

GWD described the challenges that the organisation has experienced during the last 2 years during the Coronavirus pandemic, and how the FSA responded to the crisis by increasing their offer to individuals within the forest school community, including the implementation of webinars.

GWD advised that membership levels are now back to where they were prior to the pandemic. GWD explained that the organisation is at a level of financial comfort and is now able to invest in the future growth of the organisation. Those present were informed of a new staff appointment, Megan Boyle (MB), Governance Officer, who will be working alongside GWD and Trustees in relation to governance and compliance matters.

GWD drew attention to the FSA's constitution and highlighted the election process for new Trustees.

GWD thanked SL for her chairmanship and leadership within the FSA and noted thanks to all the Trustees for their continued engagement and contribution to the organisation.

SL welcomed any questions from those present.

*There were none.*

*Meeting closed 2:15pm*