

Minutes of the Aldryngton PTA meeting 4th October 2012

1. Present

Stephen Lea, Simon Feist, Claire Connell, Anna Neffendorf, Elaine Stewart, Julia Franks, Avril Kiff, Vicki Adams, Tony Hanson, Justine Bark, Louise Fisher, Alice Peacock, John Thompson, Sabine Bickle, Olga Jones

Apologies

Aldine Preisner, Raija Yessaad, Kirsty Scott, Sarah Hanson

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- Safeguarding subcommittee for PTA organised activities, **ongoing**
- HETCO monies to be allocated towards Thin Client project, HETCO to be notified of decision, **complete**.
- Tri-a-tri outstanding actions, **complete**.
- Step materials expenses to be submitted, **Simon F will not claim, complete**.

There were no other matters arising and the Minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting 4/10/12

3. Account signatories

It was agreed that Tanya Newell, Graham Begg and Simon Windisch should be removed as signatories to the bank account, Anna Neffendorf and Claire Connell to be added. **Action Claire.**

4. Online Payments task group

It was agreed that the PTA and the school need a better way to manage online payments. A working group was proposed, to be made up of Julia Franks, Claire Connell, Sabine Bickle, and Lyn Benham. This group will look at the options, to include those used by other Wokingham schools. Will it be possible for the PTA as a charity to also use the same method. **Action Julia.**

5. Treasurers report

The Annual Accounts for 2011-12 are now with the Independent Examiner, Alan Harland.

The treasurer's report was discussed and is available on the website at :

http://www.school-portal.co.uk/resource/4718138/40_21201237105908_45.pdf

(15 June – 31 August) and:

http://www.school-portal.co.uk/resource/4718142/61_21201238105408_12.pdf

(1 September – 30 September).

6. School Funding Partnership

- The payment for the curriculum resources list (requests nos. 13/05, 13/06, 13/08 – 13/13) at a cost of £2200 was **approved**.
- Swimming Pool maintenance: the Pool Subcommittee (Stephen, Kirsty S, Julia, George, possibly Ian Parsons) will meet to review and cost the works needed on the pool heating system etc. and report back to the next PTA meeting. **Action Stephen**. Payment for chemical spill trays and spill kit for the swimming pool (request no. 13/14), required for H & S compliance, around £300 was **approved**.
- A request for more cross country T-shirts (request no. 13/15), £104 was **approved**
- George needs a new strimmer and hedge trimmer at a total cost of approximately £600 (request no. 13/16). This funding decision is to be held over until the next meeting. In the meantime Tony is going to see if he can get a better price wholesale, and Julia is going to look into whether there is an inter schools loan option. **Ongoing**

7. Grounds Development Update

- The story chair is yet to be finished
- The volunteer group work which took place on Saturday 29th September had a pretty good turnout.
- News reporting of the story chair was unfortunate, although it was good to have the school on the front page of the paper. We hope that newspapers more local to the companies that donated to us will also report on the story. Thank you letters from School have gone out to the relevant donors.
- It was suggested that future fundraising could include a canopy to cover the story chair area, firstly to make it more useful in all weathers and secondly to protect it from bird mess from the trees above it. George is looking at cutting back some of the branches to reduce this.
- Thank you to George for working on sanding all the benches and log seating.
- There was some discussion of how to attract more people to the grounds working parties. It was pointed out that many families have sports clubs and activities on a Saturday morning, and maybe an afternoon session might attract more volunteers.
- It was suggested that local companies might like to donate staff time as a 'team-building' exercise. **Action Sabine** to find out from her company.

8. Events this term

- Disco 25th October, letters to go out next week. Simon has a solution for lighting the path – pontoon lighting which will be hung on the fence alongside the field, to be taken down at the end of the evening. A £200 cheque advance to Justine Bark for expenses was **approved**.
- Christmas card scheme will run again this year, Rhona will be sending a letter out shortly

- Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 1st December.
 - **Avril** will organise Father Christmas, to be booked from 12 – 2.30pm
 - Working group to meet Thurs 11th Oct 7pm at the Maiden Over.
- Wrap A Present will be the week commencing 3rd December. If possible we need more space than the music room can provide. Options to be discussed nearer the time.
- Carols around the Christmas tree will be Thursday 13th December. Coffee and mince pies to be provided by PTA. Volunteers needed to put up and take down the tree.
- Christmas parties – a £20 donation per class was **approved**.

9. Proposed events for next year

- Quiz night – Friday 18th January. **Action Justine and Julia** to coordinate
- Summer Fayre - 6th July 2013
- Try-a-tri – 8th & 9th June 2013
- Earley / Lower Earley 10K. The PTA supports this and agrees it should be run as a separate entity. PTA to be updated as it progresses. **Action John**
- World Book day event – Thursday 7th March. Possible book sale? **Action Anna** to investigate.

10. Cake sale organisation and class parent involvement

Justine, Anna, Alice and Olga agreed to co-ordinate cake sales as a group. The first cake sale takes place on 8th November. We need to encourage parents to get involved on a class basis. All money raised will be used by the classes, no longer to be used for grounds development.

11. PTA stand / event sign-up at Parent's evenings

Justine, Vicki and Stephen will represent PTA.

12. Aldryngton School's Golden Jubilee

- In order to find former pupils to contribute to the Oral History book Tanya has written a piece which will appear in the next MERA magazine (December).
- Can we consider electronic options to find former pupils who are no longer local – Facebook / Reading forum / other internet?
- We could consider a local leaflet drop.

13. AOB

- Lyn Benham has suggested a picture gallery exhibition, maybe we could do this during international week. Would it be feasible to run this ourselves instead? **Action Anna** to investigate.
- Suggestion of a book of children's poems to be compiled for sale to parents.

14. Date of next meeting

Thursday 22nd November 7.30 – 8.30pm