

## Minutes of the Aldryngton PTA meeting 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014

### 1. Present

Philip Byrne; Anna Neffendorf; Elaine Stewart; Julia Franks; Kay Blackaby; Clair Harris; Michaela Thomas; Amanda Ellis

### 2. Apologies

Simon Feist

### 3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- Wokingham do not have a policy for promoting external linked events we can follow, **JF** to add a statement to the school lettings policy to cover this.
- New code for the PTA garage lock – Manual has been downloaded, we need a tool to adjust the code – **JF to ask Mr Bridge**
- Happy's Circus has no suitable date for summer 2016, so will be booked for a Friday in 2017 **Action SF**

There were no other matters arising and the Minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014

### 4. Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report was discussed and will be available on the PTA page of the school website.

- The accounts are now ready to be filed with the Charity Commission, so we need completed AGM minutes to accompany them. **Action SF & AN**
- The Christmas cards raised £245.50 which is an increase on 2013
- Cake sale spending has improved. CH to check records regarding £102.53 in Upper school to see if it has actually already been spent on Lego.
- The disco combined with the Parent bar raised over £1000, the first time we have broken the thousand mark.

### 5. School funding partnership

Mr Bridge has requested the purchase of a new drill for school maintenance projects. Drill plus battery £200 **approved (15/3)**

ES updated the meeting about a number of the large scale project requests from the last meeting.

- School Field – Creative Landscapes came to survey the work required. They said that aerating / slitting the field will not help with the flooding issues and these may only be solved by a soakaway, which would be a large financial outlay for a problem that occurs infrequently. The field itself can be improved, but due to the heavy usage it is unlikely to be improved permanently without regular costly maintenance. We await further companies to quote.

- TrimTrak part 2 – we may be able to apply for a grant for a tyre park via a reputable supplier. If we are successful it would mean that the project could be entirely funded without PTA or school money.
- The digging area is going to be improved by using the soil from the tree planting taking place next week.
- Hall floor – quotes are being obtained
- Many of the school Smart boards are in desperate need of replacement. The meeting **approved in principle** the purchase of two boards, with the option to agree more if a bulk purchase discount can be obtained. **(15/4)** The long term plan is for the PTA to support a rolling program of replacements over the next few years. In the interim, it may be possible to source ‘nearly new’ boards from local private schools upgrading. **JF to request SW to investigate**

AE raised the issue of the items the PTA is asked to fund. It may be seen by some parents that PTA money should be spent on ‘nice to have’ items that enhance the school, not ‘essential’ items that should be funded from the school budget. There was some concern that the PTA constitution would bar us from providing funds for essential items.

For reference The PTA constitution states:

*The object of the PTA (the Objects) is to advance the education of pupils in the school in particular by:*

*2.1 Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school;*

*2.2 Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils. **For discussion by the officers (SF; PB; AN; CH)***

ES was kind enough to outline the pressures on the school budget. Around 80% of the school budget is spent on staffing. The remaining 20% has to cover everything else including rising gas and electricity costs, building repairs, books and other curriculum items. We are lucky enough to live in a reasonably well off area, however this means we get very little Pupil Premium money. It is sad that the days of the PTA supporting only non-essential items are long gone, however, by funding curriculum items we are supporting the school and our children’s education.

## **6. Events this term**

Wrap a present – All organised and ready to go starting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Many thanks to Alice and Michaela for organising this year.

Christmas fair – PB reported that the planning is progressing well. Some additional volunteers and publicity will be required. **Action PB to communicate with MT for Facebook and school office for email / texts to be sent out.**

Sweets and floats will be needed for 2 jubilee stalls and a mug sale stall **Action PB & CH to arrange**

Grand draw tickets have been sent out for sale. **Action MT for Facebook reminder**  
Foil trays are needed for Upper school stalls. Gloves are available in the cake sale box.  
**Action AN to purchase**

## 7. AOB

- 27<sup>th</sup> June has been requested as the date of next year's Try-a-tri. This means we probably need to move the Summer Fair from the traditional first Saturday of July (4<sup>th</sup>) to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July **Action ES to confirm if this is acceptable**
- Please can Middle school request PTA help for teas and coffees at the Christingle on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December **Action SF**
- Some kind of evening event is to be planned for the second half of next term (Quiz / bingo or similar) **to be discussed further** at the next meeting
- AE brought a draft safeguarding document for PTA events for discussion. **To be discussed in more detail** at the next meeting

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 at 7pm

## Addendum

On 4th December 2014 the following email survey was circulated to the PTA mailing list:

Historically the PTA make a donation to each teacher in order to purchase the food, drink and related items required for the classroom parties. Can I ask everyone to reply to the following question so we can arrange for the correct monies to be made available;

- A. I am happy for £20 to be made available to each teacher to fund a classroom party.
- B. I am happy for £25 (last increase in 2009) to be made available to each teacher to fund a classroom party.
- C. I would rather this year the PTA funds are spent on other activities.

The majority voted for option B, therefore by majority decision the PTA we will make £25 available to each teacher for Christmas parties. However, as a condition of this increase PTA will be requesting that there is also a fruit/veg option rather than just sweets and cakes.