

Minutes of the PTA Meeting on 11 January 2012

In attendance: Lorraine Thompson, Helen Simpson, Helen Robinson, Nikki Geddes, Kath Lovell, Liz Brierley, Vanessa Horner, Roz Swarbrick, Alex Prichard, Steve Oakley, Diana Harris, Rachel McDowell, Claire Caulkin, Jean Lingard, Alice Webb, Vikki Wardle

1. Welcome (and introductions) and members present

2. Apologies: Michelle Patoff, Kathy Parums, Sharon Kupusarevic, Diana Malkin, Sharon Martin, Nicola Stanley.

3. Approval of minutes of the last meeting and the EGM: granted.

4. Matters arising:

- Helen Robinson has an action to send details of our new constitution to the Charities Commission
- Helen Simpson has an action to send information regarding the roles of the new trustees to them
- The £500 allocated to the Infants from the Autumn Walk has been used to buy:
Y2 – class readers
Y1 – Mobilo construction toys, dolls' house furniture
Reception – small world play, dressing-up clothes, construction toys
- two additional tables have been purchased for the Community Classroom (money allocated from cake sales)
- The all-weather canopy for the rear Reception play area will be purchased with the money raised by the Christmas Fair and the Winter Ball

5. Financial report (Helen Simpson):

Money in since last meeting:

Cake Sales - £182.93 with an equivalent sum shared between The Genesis Appeal and Children in Need.

Christmas Fair - £3,869.85 (so far)

Total receipts: £4,052.78

Money out since last meeting:

Deposit for Year 5 practice exam - £500

Total expenditure: £500.00

6. Headteacher's Report

- The Christmas Fair was a fantastic success and the Chair of Governors sent his thanks to the whole team.

- The playground project is progressing well. The School Council did an excellent presentation and survey with the Juniors and they are currently costing/ordering the various selected items.
- As the drain repairs are costing a lot of money, it would be good if the PTA could fund the repainting of the fences surrounding the Infant and Junior play areas (which were originally provided by PTA fundraising). It was agreed at the meeting that we will wait until the drain work is completed before proceeding with this.
- Drawings were shared of the proposed all-weather canopy for the Reception rear play area
- Mr Hamblett is requesting funds to purchase 2 hockey goalie kits and new bibs (cost approx. £255). This was agreed.
- The Running Club is requesting funding for the purchase of 50 new BCS bibs This was agreed and a discussion ensued regarding the distribution and collection of the bibs to ensure fewer are lost in future.
- Once the all-weather canopy has been purchased, funds will be used to purchase new sand and water trays for the Foundation and Key Stage 1 classes.
- As it was noted that many of Key Stage 1's musical instruments are in a state of disrepair eg tambourines/triangles/shakers, it was agreed that the PTA would provide future funding for these items. Mrs Martin/ Mrs Brierley will provide a costing at the next meeting.
- There is much excitement about the Masquerade Ball and the staff are preparing for the Quiz Evening.

7. Review of Christmas Fair

The team reported the main learning points/ideas as follows:

- To have a larger organising team – suggest 6. A request for volunteers will be placed in the PTA/school newsletters.
- Raffle tickets could be sold in advance of the fair.
- To involve the Class Reps more in the organisation of volunteers and the sale of payment cards
- Splitting the food stalls to avoid the long queues

8. Updates

Winter Ball – Helen and Nick Buckley and Michelle Davenport have kindly offered to take the Ball forward for next year.

Bags 2 School – next collection will be 17th May. The last collection raised £400.

Library opening – has been delayed as waiting for 'a special someone' to be present.

Playground Project – Roz Swarbrick reported that the School Council presentations had gone well. Some of the ideas were supported very conclusively, others had

more divided support. The total cost for the chosen equipment is £4,000, which is £2,000 less than the allocated funds. Three new bins will also be purchased for the Infant playground in keeping with those being purchased for the Junior playground. The plan is to order the equipment soon so it can be installed during the Easter Holidays. The team are mindful of the fact that they should retain some of the budget for on-going maintenance of the equipment. They are now in the process of planning how they will plan/organise the use and storage of the equipment.

Gardening Club – the Gardening Club will ‘take a break’ this half-term due to the weather/time of year. They are now planning for the spring planting season. Support for the stall at the Xmas Fair was good, raising approx. £125 profit. They wondered if people didn’t realise that all proceeds were for the school Gardening Club and suggested wearing BCS Gardening Club T-shirts next time. The PTA discussed raising the profile of the group through the Newsletter and Website.

Quiz Night – letter to go home this week. Supper will be fish and chips, no vegetarian option can be offered. Helen has checked the supplies of salt, vinegar and ketchup in the PTA container since the meeting!

Fashion Show – Thursday 15 March, featuring clothing from Vanilla and PIXIE in Hale (children’s wear). Jenny Beazley and her team are progressing well with the arrangements. They will need some child models and are considering requesting volunteers and holding a ballot to select them.

Fun Run – Saturday 12 May 2012 at 3.00pm on school field. Diana Harris reported that three different lengths of run will be offered with some fun activities along the way. There will be a Bar/Bar BQ from 4.00pm onwards. Will need a tannoy system – Diana will investigate whether better to hire or buy one. Request for volunteers will follow.

9. Confirmation of dates for the Summer Term

To be published on the PTA web-site and is currently as follows:

- Fun Run – Saturday 12 May 2012
- Bags 2 School – Thursday 17 May 2012
- Car Boot Sale – cancelled
- Summer Fair – Saturday 30 June 2012
- Camping Event – TBC
- Lower Junior Disco – TBC (Vikki Wardle to follow up)
- Y5 mock exam – Sunday 5 July 2012
- Upper Junior Disco – Thursday 12 July 2012

10. Website

12 people have registered on the Spend & Raise website and a total of £167 has been raised since the initiative started. As this is an easy fund-raising opportunity, we discussed how we might raise the profile of the site and encourage use. Diana Harris will try to think of a slogan to promote the site. We will also distribute a ‘calling card’ to all parents to promote the site.

11. Pond and Newsletter

Pond – the pond no longer has any pond-life. Karen Bushell has offered to source and price an expert to advise us as to next steps.

Newsletter – the next edition will be published after the Ball. New trustees should please provide information to Kate/Sharon.

12. AOB

Helen Robinson shared a letter sent by David Reid (Chair of Governors). It expressed thanks from all the Governors for the 'awesome level of fundraising undertaken by the PTA in recent years'. He expressed the desire to try and forge a closer relationship between the PTA and the Governors in the future.

A supplier has offered to provide recordings of eg the Nativity shows for £5 per DVD. It was felt that this was costly and without worthwhile profit for the PTA/school. Steve Oakley agreed to research this further.

Helen Robinson and Nikki Geddes will attend a workshop run by the National Confederation of PTA's re fundraising ideas, gift-aiding etc etc.

13. Next Meeting: The next PTA meeting will be on Thursday 1 March 2012 at 7.45pm in the Community Classroom. All welcome.