

## **Friends meeting minutes 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, 9am at Heidi Beattie's house**

Present: Alice Akernley (AA), Heidi Beattie, Chair (HB), Katie Bentley-Briscoe (KBB), Tanya Cunningham (TC), Bianca Gaspar-Dunn (BGD), Claire Hammond (CH), Sarah Harrison, Secretary (SH), Jo King (JK), Helen McNeill, Treasurer (HMc), Helen Medd (HMe), Georgina O'Connor (GO), Catriona Penty, Secretary (CP), Gemma Shahjahan (GS), Marie-Louise Thirlaway (MLT), Karen Tiffin (KT), Sue Wilson (SW)

This was our first meeting with HB as Chair. It was well attended both by representatives of the upper and lower ends of the school, a couple of new faces and some younger children, which we want to encourage. Thank you to all those who attended. As the Hall at school is in frequent use and the IT suite is small, Heidi's house was our venue.

### Treasurer's Report

Funds raised - Since our last meeting in November, the following money has been received into the account: £1,000 from Open Gardens, £497 match funding for the October coffee morning and £602 match funding for the October parents Halloween disco. Additionally, the last Bags to School collection made a record £184, a further £129 came in for tea and cakes and the Nativity Raffle made £230. Thank you to those who have helped, organised, contributed baking or donated prizes. The Secret Room made £282, which is a special event for the children. A big thank you to HMe as this is a lot of work.

The money has not yet come in from the Christmas cards as the card company made such a mess of the on-line system. Thank you to Annette Weston and Gemma Boothman for their lovely cards and their perseverance.

We now have £13,357 in the current account and £5,005 in deposit account. We always try to keep around £5,000 in the deposit account in case we have a bad fund raising year.

Expenditure / commitments - Only £149 has been spent recently (£63 on the PTA accounts, £8 for a thank you gift, £78 on other sundries). Pending expenditure committed but not yet paid out includes £435 for the Nativity stage, £2,000 for 4 more iPads and £6,000 on the outdoor area.

### Upcoming Events

- Tea and Cakes - Some schools organise and bake by class, which means the burden is shared fairly (whilst also creating a certain amount of friendly competition between classes). There was a discussion for some time about how many of these event to do. 4 are planned (mainly ends-of-term, plus productions), and there are 4 classes. HB will allocate a class for each of these 4 events and inform us. (e.g. logically the KS2 production will be run by either Class 3 or 4; the Nativity tea & cakes event will be run by either Class 1 or 2).
- To try to spread the need for Raffle prizes for various events throughout the year, HB has two boxes: one for raffle prizes and one for the Open Gardens tombola. Please start off-loading unwanted Christmas presents and bear us in mind for future contributions.
- Children's Valentines Disco, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 17.30-19.00 – Thank you to SW for offering to help organise this with Amy Haynes (Sue Timoney has stepped down). It was proposed that nursery and reception have their disco in the Reception Class itself and have slightly different activities to the KS1 and KS2 children who would be in the Hall. MLT has given permission for this change as long as the Reception Class room is left tidy and clean and that we have sufficient DBS-approved individuals in

attendance. SW, CH and AA will help out in the Reception Class room event. GO will do face painting, nails and tattoos again, helped by GS and JK.

- Easter Event – Last year we had Chocolate Bingo which was very well attended, highly profitable and popular with the children of all ages. Vanessa Quarmby and Leigh Carr organised it last year. Thank you to CH for volunteering to help organise it this year, but we need one more volunteer please. PMN: Vicks Hazeldean and GS have volunteered – thank you. Date: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March.
- Open Gardens, 25<sup>th</sup> June – as the Friends of the school run the tombola, please start collecting tombola gifts to contribute (see previous note above). Helen Tesseyman has proposed selling a calendar with different children's recipes, submitted as competition pieces. This might work better as a book as a calendar goes out of date faster, so everything would have to be sold quicker. The theme of cooking fits in well with the Friends' recent purchase of ovens and other cooking implements for school. (TC and Helen Tesseyman to meet to discuss further). The Friends will also have a new batch of tea towels made for which each child will contribute a self-portrait. Thank you to BGD and SH who will take the lead on organising this. If anyone wishes to see an example of the current tea towels, please ask HB, BGD or SH.
- Organised Mum calendars – HMc has organised this for a few years. We get 40% commission on sales. They are 16 month calendars and the time to start selling them is summer. HMc would like someone else to take over organising this. Any volunteers?
- End of term BBQ – The proposed date is Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July. We would like the sponsored bike ride to go ahead again (HB to discuss with last year's event organisers), ending at school in time for the BBQ. We may not do the auction again as it was not well supported. MLT suggested doing an auction only every 2-3 years instead of annually.

#### Other possible events

- We discussed a possible golf event at Rudding Park. This needs further discussion to determine whether to do just dads or dads and children and how to encourage non-golfers to join in also. The concept of a social event for dads is good. James King will organise the golf side of this. There may be a meal afterwards. PMN: Kevin Beattie and James King to finalise.
- At the previous meeting we discussed a possible Mums' social to be organised by Lisa Dickinson. HB check the status on this.
- Morrisons bag packing. HB will approach Morrisons for a date. We will focus the fund raising on a particular item for which the school needs to raise money, e.g. the outdoor area, to encourage participation and make it more palatable to ask for money.

#### Playground area Committee

There will be 4 parents or teachers on this. GO (Class 2), BGD (Class 3) and Bella Cornelius and GS (Class 1) have volunteered so far. We would like a representative from Class 4 but will proceed if not, and a teacher (Mrs Blunt?). We need to make sure the items purchased and installed can be used year round and not just in fair weather. At the last meeting, we committed £6,000 to fund this (PMN: note £500 is ring fenced for the Nursery wishlist).

#### Outdoor Classroom

KBB asked about this and MLT confirmed it has been discussed before, and requested by the School Council. When it was looked at before school could not afford it. This idea

will be pursued again as MLT says it would be beneficial. AA suggested that the incinerator company might contribute as they seem to be keen to fund good causes.

#### Spending requests from MLT

- School sweatshirts in a different colour for the star of the week KS1 and 2 (perhaps a total of 8). MLT to look at supply and pricing and HB will raise it in a Friends meeting for possible approval.
- School needs more waterproofs for the younger children. MLT will find out pricing and HB will raise in a Friends meeting for possible approval.
- Hi-Viz jackets. The Friends feel that this should be funded through school funds directly, not via the Friends, as it is a Health and Safety item.

#### Other items discussed

- Father Christopher's leaving party is on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. BGD and SW will organise this. CP and TC will also help to set up, bake cakes, etc. All are welcome to give Father Christopher a good send off into his retirement.
- After School Clubs –we have someone willing to do a cricket club (HB to send details to MLT) PMN: Club to be organised Summer Term (details to follow from school) and TC may run a craft or cookery-themed after school club.
- Before School BAFTA –would they like a toaster for use at breakfast time? (Friends would buy this). Other schools' BAFTA clubs include breakfast.
- Vacant Roles – the role is still open for the parish news. Any volunteers?

Date of next meeting:

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Venue: Heidi Beattie's House -The Old Forge, Graton.

Time: 9.00am