

## Friends Meeting minutes 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, 9am in the ICT suite

Present: Georgina Bean (GB), Heidi Beattie (HB), Philippa Cook, Chair (PC), Tanya Cunningham (TC), Lisa Dickson (LD), Bianca Gaspar-Dunn (BGD), Sarah Harrison, Secretary (SH), Helen McNeill, Treasurer (HMc), Jo Munns (JM), Georgina O'Connor (GO), Catriona Penty, Secretary (CP)

### Review Since Last Meeting

The coffee morning, disco and Christmas cards have all taken place.

The October coffee morning went very well, and raised £497.19 (matched funding to be added when it comes in). Thank you to Georgina and Brian O'Connor for organising this again. As this is such a large fund raiser, it would be nice to see more staff members either present or buying raffle tickets. SH will do a thank you to Betty's for the 100 bread rolls and their continued support.

The parents disco went well raising £602 (match funding to be added when it comes in; thank you to Karen Tiffin for organising the match funding). Thank you to HB and Sally McMurray for organising the event Those who attended loved it but overall it was not very well attended. 15 tickets were sold to villagers whose children no longer attend the school. Only 14 sets of parents from school attended, out of a potential 70. HB feels that most of the non-parents will stop attending in the next year or so. Sally McMurray and HB are happy to organise it again but we discussed for a while whether people perhaps dislike the fancy dress theme or perhaps it is the wrong time of year. The time seems good as it is a good welcome for new parents. Due to the lower attendance, we made £300 less this year, although it will be more than compensated for due to the match funding. There is also a problem with everyone needing a baby sitter on the same evening.

The Christmas cards are completed and the ordering system underway. Thank you to Annette Weston and Gemma Boothman for organising this. The on-line system has been a bit of a nightmare and some parents were not able to order any at all. It has raised over £200. Annette Weston would like to step down from this for next year, creating a vacancy. We discussed for a while how to change this for next year to give the children more time to complete their cards and to make it easier for the parents giving their time. An after school club might work. BGD and GO volunteered to help next year. Overall, everyone agreed that it is very welcome that parents rather than school staff run this each year, but more time per child is needed.

£1,000 came in from Open Gardens this year. SH will write a thank you letter on behalf of the Friends.

SH will do a thank you note to Stephen Marklew for signing off the annual accounts.

The meeting was immediately followed by the AGM.

## Friends AGM minutes 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, 9.30am in the ICT suite

Present: Georgina Bean (GB), Heidi Beattie (HB), Philippa Cook, Chair (PC), Tanya Cunningham (TC), Lisa Dickinson (LD), Bianca Gaspar-Dunn (BGD), Sarah Harrison, Secretary (SH), Helen McNeill, Treasurer (HMc), Jo Munns (JM), Georgina O'Connor (GO), Catriona Penty, Secretary (CP)

We raised £8,371 last year (ending 31/7/16), biggest contributions coming from the coffee morning (£1,961), the school barbeque & auction (£1,264) and the parents disco (£995). Other substantial contributions came from chocolate bingo (£639), the Christmas Fair (£552), the 200 Club (£600) and two donations (£600) specifically related to the footpath.

Last year only £951.55 was spent, most of which was on the cooking trolleys and ovens. We agreed that as there is now a balance of £13,667, we should spend some of it.

Spending proposals from Mrs Thirlaway approved at AGM:

- 4 more iPads to be used for OSMO, we assume costing around £2,000. Approved by vote.
- A total of £6,000 combined for improving the outside areas, £1,000 of which has been requested from Open Gardens. Approved by vote. A working group needs to be set up to look into this and to approve each specific item. Items will include: An area for quiet reflection for those who do not want to charge around; a climbing wall; musical instruments in the playground; nursery wish list; a wooden built-in planter for the early years area to get rid of the muddy area which can not be used properly at the moment. TC suggested we email parents to ask if anyone has such things they no longer want so that it would cost less, but failing this, the Friends will pay for the planter. GO thinks Betty's and other companies may give a donation for a good cause to help with the cost.

*Action*: form a working group for outdoor improvements (see below also).

Other potential spending:

- JM (Governor) suggested smartening up some of the paintwork outside in the playground.
- LD suggested a slow closing gate on the playground because most people do not close it. School funds should pay for this, not the Friends. To raise in next Governors meeting?
- JM suggested a presentation skills course after school. This is a good life skill for the older children going on to High School. The Friends would be willing to spend some money on this.

Other items discussed:

- There are still not enough after school clubs, which is not really a Friends issue, but nobody seems to be addressing this. Sports, art, cooking, other activities would all be welcome. JM will discuss this with Mrs T and raise it at the next Governors meeting.
- HMc suggested a notice board by the bottom gate, which would improve communication between the lower part of the school and the KS1-2 parts. JM will make a couple of enquiries.
- BGD will update the parent register and add newcomers.

- LD will organise a Ladies social, e.g. £5 for chilli, jacket potatoes and a glass of wine, with the option to Paint a Pot at extra cost on the night. Date t.b.c. (poss. 23/25 November or early December), all welcome. The purpose is to get everyone together for fun, not for a fund raiser.
- HB asked GB to raise in the Governors meeting that people should feel obliged to participate in school, otherwise we will have a problem each year with a Chair taking over, etc
- SH suggested we have a paper copy of Friends notes in book bags, which was seen as an excellent idea.

We then moved on to the election of the committee for 2016-17. Thank you to Phil for Chairing it this year. She is now stepping down.

Our committee for 2016/17 will be:

Chair	Heidi Beattie (Proposed by LD, Seconded by CP)
Vice Chair	Bianca Gaspar-Dunn (Proposed by SH, Seconded by CP)
Secretaries	Sarah Harrison (Proposed by HMc, Seconded by JM) and Catriona Penty (Proposed by HMc, Seconded by JM)
Treasurer	Helen McNeill (Proposed by CP, Seconded by JM)
Charity Commission & Gift Aid	Georgina Bean
Bags 2 School	Sarah Harrison
Easy Fundraising	Leigh Carr
Ice Cream Fridays	Lisa Dickinson, Georgina Bean
PR & Parish News rep	Vacant
Secret Room	Helen Medd
Tea & cakes	Sue Wilson
Children's Spring disco	Vacant
Marston Open Gardens	Tanya Cunningham
Summer BBQ	Philippa Cook
Parents' Disco	Sally McMurray and Heidi Beattie
Vill. Hall Coffee Morn.	Georgina and Brian O'Connor
200 Club	Heidi Beattie
Christmas Cards	Gemma Boothman (TBC), Bianca Gaspar-Dunn, Lisa Dickinson
Chocolate Bingo	Vacant
Communication Rep.s:	
Nursery & Reception	Jo King, Bianca Gaspar-Dunn
Class 2	Heidi Beattie
Class 3&4	Sue Timoney
Facebook	Jo King

**Action:** working group volunteers needed for the outside area project. Georgina and Bella have so far volunteered.

#### Future Events

- November 18<sup>th</sup>, Bags to School
- Secret room, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, wrapping Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Date of next meeting **T.B.C.**