

## Minutes of Friends meeting 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 19.30, The Punch Bowl

Present: Leigh Carr (LC), Wendy Dawson (WD), Clare Hassall (CH), Bianca Gaspar-Dunn (BGD), Jill Harper (JH), Helen Marshall (Chair, HMa), Sally McMurray (SM) Helen McNeill (Treasurer, HMcN), Georgina O'Connor (GO), Catriona Penty (Secretary, CP), Gemma Shahjahan (GS), Heather Stuart (HS), Karen Tiffin (KT)

HMa began by thanking people for attending. The meeting was better attended than the usual Friday morning ones, with a number of people who are almost never able to make a day-time one.

### Treasurers Report

We finished last year having taken around £10k of income and having spent around £14k (see below under expenditure). We ended with just over £6k in the current account and £5k in the savings account.

### Recent fund raisers since our last meeting

- a. End of Term BBQ – We made £740 on the BBQ plus an additional £525 on the auction (total £1,265). On behalf of the Friends, thank you so much to James and Philippa Cook for setting up and running the BBQ. Thank you so much also to all those who contributed auction prizes and to those who bid on and/or bought them.
- b. Open Gardens (OG) - £2k was received this year from Open Gardens. HS will draft a letter to the Open Gardens Committee to say thank you. A massive thank you to all those who helped and especially to all those who attended and supported the event. The amount received was higher than usual because of the building work due on the school. In past years the Friends have decided to ring fence the OG money for school trips. There was some discussion about whether or not this would be done again, given the fact that we have had higher capital expenditure than previously. See below also re pantomime.
- c. £49 has been raised so far this term from ice cream Friday. Last year £503 was raised in total for ice cream Fridays. BGD has kindly volunteered to take over organising this. There was some discussion about possibly varying this to warmer items as the weather cools (GS suggested a toffee apple Friday near Halloween).

### Expenditure

- a. EYFS playground improvements - £10,700 was spent in July 2015 in the form of our 10% contribution to the Capex on the Early Years area due at the front of school. Although work has still not started, 10% had to be paid to ensure that we as a school did not lose the funding. Everything is still in the planning stage, with the Governors and Mrs Thirlaway dealing with this. We expect to contribute 10% of other maintenance costs, which will be no more than £600.
- b. Mrs Thirlaway would like to replace the cooker which is used by teachers for lessons. The existing one does not work well so Mr Penny's kitchen has been used, which is an issue if Mr Penny needs to be in there at the time. There is more cookery on the curriculum now so Mrs T thinks this would be a good use of some Friends funds. HMa will discuss with Mrs T to see what makes most sense. GO says Betty's do bread-making sessions for schools for which we should get our name on the waiting list. HMcN says York Food Festival does something similar. CH will investigate both and discuss with HMa. JH knows of a Quorn demonstration. The Punch Bowl itself may also be worth approaching. It was widely felt that cooking-related things would be well supported by parents.
- c. By the end of the meeting it was decided that the Friends will fund all of the bi-annual pantomime trip this year. In 2013 this cost £980 in the form of tickets, bus and ice creams. We feel we can cover this as the events scheduled (see below) are predicted to make enough money. We will communicate the good news to Mrs Thirlaway.

## Future Events

- a. Village Hall coffee morning, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Last year this made £600 which was match funded by Brian O'Connor so we made £1,200 in total. Brian and Georgina have kindly volunteered to organise this again and once again it will be match funded by Barclays again. This is an important fund raiser so we would like to request the following please: 1) offers of help to set up, serve (bacon butties, cakes and drinks) and clear up (1 hour slots), 2) home-baked cakes, biscuits, tray-bakes, etc, 3) raffle prizes for a luxury raffle, 4) home produce-based items we can sell, 5) someone to run the luxury raffle. A list of precise items we would ideally like for the luxury raffle, and a sign-up sheet for helpers and bakers has gone up on the notice boards at school. Some duplicated items will be diverted away from the coffee morning and into the Christmas Fair (see later). There was some discussion about different types of hampers (colours, Continents). LC will find out who we can ask at Morrisons for milk and any other basics. HMa has written to Morrisons requesting freebies.
- b. Children's Halloween party, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Cancelled. We have decided to shelve this because it falls on the second Saturday of half term.
- c. Parents' Disco, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November. SM and Heidi Beattie organising. The theme and dress code will be James Bond as the new Bond film comes out the week before. Helpers are needed to set up, organise, & clear up. Rob Brown is obtaining a roulette wheel for us. There will be a disco, and hotdogs at 10pm. £12 per ticket. This event usually raises about £800-900. Following SM's requested people appointed per class will sell tickets as follows: Reception: Alice Akernley; Class 2: Heidi Beattie; Class 3: Leigh Carr; Class 4: Jill Harper. HMa will endeavour to find someone for Nursery also. SM will print tickets and make flyers. HMa will email around saying who is selling tickets and asking for helpers to set up on Saturday, dismantle on Sunday morning, run the bar, etc. Please see below on "Any Other Business" re match funding.
- d. Secret Room, date TBA. Helen Medd is running this and will need volunteers to set up and run it.
- e. Christmas Fayre, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 11.30am to 2.30pm, at the Village Hall. We will be selling turkey baguettes with the trimmings, mulled wine, drinks for the children. There will also be some craft stalls (which will pay to attend or give a percentage of takings and a raffle prize), much of which is Christmas themed. There will be a luxury hamper. We will do some Christmas-themed things for the children, such as reindeer food, stick the nose on Rudolph. SM suggested getting school to make something Christmas-related in class time to sell at the event. HMcN suggested jars filled with cake mix with a recipe on (e.g. add 2 eggs and mix). JH will investigate if we can get some reindeer.

## Any Other Business

- a. Is anyone able to match fund in the same way Brian O'Connor has done for the coffee morning? Are any parents / grand parents employed by a large company which does match funding? This can double the money we make. KT also works for Barclays and will investigate if she could get match funding before going on maternity leave, but for future events it would be helpful if others employed in good-sized organisations could investigate.
- b. Newsletter. Linda Joynson (secretary to the Governors) has asked if we can make another one as the villagers find it very useful to know what is going on at the school. Richard Dwight will sponsor the next newsletter (thank you JH). HMa and CH are working on this.
- c. Several parents are concerned about the lack of sport available after school since Edd Mason left. Clare Williams (Edd's replacement) only does an after school club on Friday. This does not really fit into the box of either the Friends nor school (as it is extra curricular). BGD and CP will speak to Mrs Thirlaway to see if anything is available via school. SM will give us some contacts and GS will ask a PE teacher she knows. Funding is surely available – Sports Premium Funding. We agreed that it does not have to be sport, but could be cooking, gardening or other activities.

- d. Mrs Stocks has asked if the Friends can please organise the leavers' hoodies and for them to be delivered at the start of term after Easter.
- e. Please will as many people as possible fill in the playground questionnaire. We need as much evidence as possible in order to get the funding and we are hoping to get £50k. People from outside the school and the village are welcome to respond also.

Date of next meeting: The AGM will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 7.30 at the Punch Bowl. Helen Marshall will be stepping down as Chair and needs to be replaced. We are seeking a new Chairperson (or two together). Details of all the roles on the committee will be circulated prior to the meeting, we have had a lot of support from parents this year and it been much easier to Chair as responsibilities have been spread across a great number of parents. Thank you!

The meeting adjourned at 21.40.