

Minutes from Friends Meeting 21/3/2014

Present: Helen Marshall (HMar - Chair), Sue Timoney (ST), Jo Munns (JM), Bianca Gaspar (BG), Helen McNeil (HMc), Jayne Cole (JC), Heidi Beattie (HB), Catriona Penty (CP - Secretary).

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Race Night was a great success, raising £1,028 in total. Thank you to all who helped, made salads, brownies, etc and in particular to Helen and Dominic Marshall. The auction prizes were also much appreciated. HMar sent a letter to the pub and Helen from Spellows to thank them. In the next newsletter, ST will mention thanks to Georgina O'Connor for the Betty's auction lot.

Fish and Chips Night: Film Club no longer takes place. It is felt that this has left a gap socially as well as in fund-raising. It was proposed to meet early on Friday evenings once a month in the Punch Bowl for fish and chips (adults and children). Friday 2nd May will be the first such date. The Punch Bowl will donate 10% of food orders to the Friends. A sign-up sheet will be put up in the entrance and HMar will give the pub final numbers on the day.

Book Fair: The Book Fair takings were £438, 40% of which (£175) goes straight into the school funds to buy books. Thank you to all parents who supported it and to those who helped run the book fair on the 3 days.

Treasurer's report:

The Valentine's disco raised £113, Race Night £1,028, 200 Club £600, Easy Fund Raising £73. We have still not received the Dunsforth Pub money for the news letter. HMc has reminded them. Tamara is following up on Bags to School money from November as it still has not been paid to us.

Healthy bank balances total £13,769 in the current account, £5,083 in the savings account.

So far this school year Friends have contributed £2,145 to school (for the Panto, yellow swimming gala t-shirts, ICT upgrade and text messaging). Funds committed but not yet paid out total £1,405 (for climbing wall, year 5/6 trip and school transport). This does not include the i-Pads because the final figure is not known (it will be £8,000-10,000).

Re transport, the £1,100 raised last year in Open Gardens is earmarked for transport throughout the year. So far only £300 of this has been spent (re Panto transport) leaving £800. The reason there have been fewer requests from MLT for such funds is due to a transport grant school has been awarded specifically for sports. HMc will send an email to MLT saying we still have £800 for transport, and request details of planned trips where Friends could help with the costs. It was noted that KS2 seem to have been on several trips, KS1 does not currently know of anything scheduled.

So far this year we have raised £5,803 but have only spent £2,145 (excluding i-Pads). General consensus in the meeting was that we should be spending approx what we raise annually.

Some money (10%) might be needed for the cost of the nursery provision starting in September but as yet, no request has been received from MLT. HMar to request a wish list from MLT.

200 Club: Ed Bennison is taking over from C. Lofthouse. We discussed how life would be made easier if people who subscribe every year would be willing to pay by Standing Order annually.

Easy Fundraising:

It is clear that only a few people are aware of www.easyfundraising.org, a website via which on-line orders (Amazon, John Lewis, etc) generate a decent percentage of donations straight back to school. It is necessary to register and input the school ID. HMar will provide ST with details of the link and process to add in to the next newsletter. Also, examples of "if you spend £X then £x is contributed to school". It

was suggested that MLT could go through Easyfundraising.org when buying the i-Pad covers and head phones.

Newsletter:

This month's newsletter will be sponsored by the Anchor at Whixley (thanks to Simon Armstrong). April's will be sponsored by the Windmill Garage.

Tancred farm shop has done well from it (.e.g we bought all the sausages and burgers from there for the BBQ), as did the Dunsforth pub (which reported it had some walk-ins). ST will ask if Tancred farm shop would maybe sponsor May's newsletter and give a discount for the food for the climbing wall BBQ on 16th May. ST will put logos of all sponsors on the newsletter.

Does anyone have suggestions as to who may be willing to sponsor future newsletters? £35 each.

Book of walks:

We have decided to cancel this as it would be a great deal of work for not a particularly large amount of funds raised. Instead, we may do a recipe book, which could comprise meals as well as cakes as some of us are better at one than the other. We will ask for recipes at the beginning of September with a view to publishing in November for the pre-Christmas market. We could perhaps build around it a tasting evening. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Upcoming events:

Friday 4th April end of term tea and cakes. Helen Wilson and Bianca Gaspar will run this. Christmas end of term tea and cakes raised £77 from contributions. Please let Bianca or Helen know if you can provide some cakes. Again, we hope to receive voluntary contributions.

- **Friday 25th April** – Ice Cream Fridays begin! Jo Pollock will be selling ice creams after school every Friday. Please speak to Jo if you are able to help.
- **Friday 2nd May** fish & chips at the Punch Bowl, which will donate 10% of food orders to the Friends.
- **Friday 16th May** Climbing wall and BBQ after school. Sausages in buns and ice cream. More details of the event will be discussed at the next Friends meeting.
- **Sunday 18th May** Aldborough May Day: We have a stall to promote the school to prospective parents and raise funds through face painting, tattoos and nail painting. We are looking for volunteers and hope to be trained up by Helen Wilson and Georgina O'Connor. We have face paints in the store cupboard.
- **Friday 6th June** fish & chips at the Punchbowl
- **Sunday 22nd June** Marton Open Gardens: Volunteers needed from the school to run the tombola.
- **Saturday 12th July** BBQ and camp out: (school finishes on Friday 18th July). If there is a world cup match, a TV will be made available. ST suggested a beach theme for the children including a water park (paddling pools and water pistols).

T.B.A. in September: Disco for parents rather than in June as it is so busy.

Date of next meeting: Friday 2nd May, 9am.