

Minutes of Friends meeting
Friday 9th January 2015

Present: Leigh Carr (LC), Jayne Cole (JC), Philippa Cook (PC), Sarah Harrison (SH), Helen Marshall - Chair (HMar), Helen McNeill (HMc), Jo Munns (JM), Georgina O'Connor (GO), Catriona Penty (CP).

Thank you to those who sent their apologies.

1. Actions from last meeting – none

2. Treasurers report

- The Secret Room made £135 profit. This is not supposed to be a profit-making event so this was a bonus. Thank you to Emily Bennison and Helen Medd for organizing this and to everyone else who helped wrapping and coordinating on the day itself. Everyone was very pleased with the way everything went and the children really enjoyed the whole event.
- Raffle & teas following the KS1 Nativity play (for the W.I. and for parents) – We made £254 on the raffle and £86 on teas, a total of £340 . Many thanks for all contributions of raffle prizes and for those who baked and ran the events.
- End of term tea & cakes – We made £79. Again, many thanks to all who baked and helped serving and clearing up. Unusually we were almost short on cakes this time!

3. Spending completed / earmarked

There is just over £7,000 in the bank account. The only things paid out lately have been £1,200 for pre-agreed spending on school trips and an additional £300 is still earmarked for transport for such trips. We should be mindful of the fact that this school trip money is directly as a result of what we were given by Marton Open Gardens at which the Friends run the tombola annually. We have also paid our PTA membership (£60). We were charged £4 for an “unpresented item” which was due to a person changing their bank account. In the future therefore when money starts to trickle in for events, the Friends will bank some of these cheques prior to the event and not as one large lump at the end.

4. Future Events

- The Children's Valentines disco will be on Friday 13th February at 5.30-6.30pm. This is the day we break up for half of term. Thank you to Sue Timoney and Amy Haynes, who are organizing this. A sign-up sheet will go up in the entrance area for helpers on the day. It is for children from reception to year 6 and if your child is in reception, please would you stay at the disco. Last year we had 56 attendees and raised £113. Prior to the disco, the Parish Church Committee will be running a pancake event at the village hall from 3pm so this may help to feed a few hungry disco-goers beforehand.
- The Quiz Night date has been confirmed as Friday 6th March at Marton cum Grafton memorial hall. This should be targeted as an event like the Race Night or the Parents' Disco, which usually raise a good amount. We have decided to proceed with this and invite villagers as well as parents. We will host this in the village hall and ask if the pub can provide Lasagna. The Friends will provide salads and puddings. We will be appealing for someone willing to set the questions and read them out. Perhaps a few Friday-night pub-goers? We will also run an auction at the Quiz Night. This worked very well for the Race Night. Some of the prizes may be able to be gift aided. We would need to know a reasonably good actual value of an auction prize to do this. Also, it would be ideal if we could find a parent who would be able to match fund through their employer.

- Book Fair change of plan. We have decided to change the way this is run, i.e. parents buy seemingly over-priced books and the provider gives a donation to school for Mrs Thirlaway to buy books for the school library. The number of books in the library has increased greatly over the last few years but there is concern that few of the children seem to be visiting the school library to benefit from this and the cost of the books for the parents is high. There was some discussion about maybe having an event run by the Ripon Book Shop visiting school, maybe over a “reading breakfast”. HMar will cancel the Book Fair provider and approach the Ripon Book Shop regarding a workable alternative.
- The Summer Barbeque is likely to be on Saturday 11th July. £5 a ticket and maximum £20 per family. Thank you to Philippa Cook, who is organizing this.

5. Other items for spending:

- Tableware. For use at various events, the Friends would like to buy some disposable glasses for Pimms, disposable plates, napkins and dish cloths, tea spoons and nice cake serving dishes. PC will procure all from Costco except serving dishes which CP will try to procure from charity shops (since completed - £4.98 for 5 decent size square plates)
- T-shirts and hoodies for sport. For sporting events outside the school, the Friends will fund some t-shirts and possibly hoodies with the school logo on it. Every time a child wears one, parents will be responsible for returning the item washed as the items will belong to the Friends, not the children individually. Events would include the swimming gala, cross-country and hockey / netball / dodge ball. We will aim to get t-shirts done for the new school year in September. There was some discussion about hoodies, maybe selling them with the children’s names on them. As hoodies are only to be worn for sport and not during the school day, this needs to be discussed with Mrs Thirlaway.
- Rug base for sports kit. JM suggested that the Friends could buy a sturdy ground-based item so that the children have a place to call base and a place on which to lay their sports kits to keep them reasonably clean.
- Docking Station. The children running the worship team have requested a smaller, lighter docking station to play music from the ipod so that they don’t have such difficulty transporting it from the school hall to the church. The current one is very heavy. SH will investigate cost and discuss with Mrs Thirlaway.
- Musical instruments for the playground. Mr Lightowler has suggested this on the basis that the trim trail is popular, it would be good to offer a musical alternative. It would need to be fixed into the ground, sturdy, a minimum of one octave and not go out of tune. Buying from a local firm would mean better service for installation and servicing, albeit probably at a higher cost than an imported item. Such playground instruments are not cheap, however. CP will investigate.

6. Other items for possible fund raising:

- After the KS2 play in the summer, we may do a similar thing to the event after the KS1 Nativity play, i.e. a luxury hamper and teas or perhaps wine and canapés.

7. Other matters arising:

- A short discussion took place at the beginning regarding the iPads the Friends bought. Very few children seem to be reporting at home that they have been using the iPads much. Hmar will ask Mrs Thirlaway for some information on this.
- Clare Hassall has been investigating potential sponsors for the Newsletter, e.g. KidsPlay, swimming teachers. Often sponsors will offer a discount for anyone bringing them custom as a direct result of the newsletter. We will aim to have a Newsletter distributed in the final week of every half term.

Date of next Friends meeting: Friday 27th February at 9am in the school hall