

Minutes of Friends meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016, 9am

Present: Alice Ackernley (AA), Georgina Bean (GB), Heidi Beattie (HB), Leigh Carr (LC), Philippa Cook (PC), Jo King (JK), Sarah Harrison (SH), Helen Marshall (HMa), Helen McNeill (Treasurer, HMcN), Helen Medd (HMe) Jo Munns (JM), Georgina O'Connor (GO), Catriona Penty (Secretary, CP), Vanessa Quarmby (VQ), Sue Rook (SR), Gemma Shahjahan (GS), Vanessa Tasker (VT)

The meeting began by PC thanking everyone for attending – a wonderful turnout.

### **Fundraising Targets**

Last year £10,000 was raised so the target this year is £11,000.

### **Funds raised so far this year**

- We have already raised £5,000 through: the October coffee morning (£1,961 after match funding), parents disco (£995), the Christmas Fair (£547), Christmas cards, raffle, secret room, and other events. Thank you so much to all those who have contributed their time, and given their generous support.
- An anonymous and generous donation was kindly received to go towards the pathway (see below). A thank you letter will be sent.

### **Expenditure so far this year and planned**

- The work on the EYFS playground improvements will be starting at the end of February. The Friends 10% has already been paid. It would be nice to have some funding from Open Gardens this year in order to make some attractive finishing touches to the building. This can be pitched for at the OG meetings.
- The 10% devolved capital funding due to the diocese is due to be paid soon. This is £692.72.
- The work to make a safe pathway down to the Marton playing fields and tennis courts will be around £4,000 for fencing, legal, gates, disbursements, VAT, etc. The Friends of the school are paying for 100% of these costs. For legal (safety) reasons, the route will be useable only during school hours by school only.
- As noted in previous minutes, we will contribute to a portable oven which can be moved around different classrooms, in order to keep everyone out of Mr Penny's kitchen.

### **Future dates set for us all to note**

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, children's Valentines disco 5.30-7pm at school. Amy Haynes and Sue Timoney are organising this. Reception children must be accompanied by a parent / carer. Next year we will aim to include nursery children.
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, approx 4pm: Chocolate Bingo for all the family, with a chocolate/Easter themed tombola, to be organised by VQ and LC.
- Open Gardens is 26<sup>th</sup> June this year. Last year OG was very well supported by families from outside Marton whose children attend school, possibly due to the competition run by the Friends. The generous contribution of £2,000 we received last year was perhaps in part due to the strong turnout and support from the school parents and children so it is important to try and repeat this.

### **Annual Calendar of Events and Responsible people**

We discussed a calendar of events to ensure the £11,000 is achievable and includes a good even spread of events with something for everyone. The coffee morning stands out as a great fund raiser, due to the match funding. It would be preferable to find someone to match fund the school disco each year, as that is another larger contributor to funds. We need one large event per term, plus other smaller ones.

### **Events fixed so far** (other than those listed above):

- The Friends will sell light refreshments at Sports Day (tea, soft drinks, non-perishable items) as we think we're missing an opportunity. HMc will organise this.
- GO will organise the coffee morning again in October
- HB will organise the Parents' Disco again, probably in November
- HeM will organise the Secret Room again (December)

- SH will continue to organise Bag to School and we agreed that this will increase to 3 times a year (one per term). Next collection: 24<sup>th</sup> February (then 10<sup>th</sup> June, 18<sup>th</sup> November). Please see comment below under AOB.
- End of terms tea & cakes. We will try to reinvigorate this. It has become a bit hap hazard, as it has been uncertain whether people would bake or not. We decided on two of these events: after church at the end of the Christmas term and at the end of Easter term. We discussed possibly running an Easter Egg tombola at the Easter tea and cakes event, but this will instead be on the same day as the Chocolate Bingo event (above).

### **Other matters concerning fund raising**

- 200 Club: we would like parents to understand that every year the 200 Club raises a fantastic £600 for the school. If school parents do not support this, the £600 may not be donated to school but to another good cause associated with the village. Families do not need to purchase both tickets. They can purchase one.
- We need to push Easy Fund Raising as this is a free way of attracting small contributions to school, all of which add up. Please go onto [www.easyfundraising.org](http://www.easyfundraising.org) to register, naming school as a beneficiary. When you shop on-line (Amazon, Ebay, Tesco, etc) school receives a contribution. Please encourage grandparents and others to register also.

### **Other potential events (needing further discussion/ volunteers to run them):**

- A sponsored walk (shorter for younger children, longer for older children), then bacon sandwiches at the end; this could potentially fund the Family Fun Day for the children. Friday night seems to be a good time to attract people to such an event. This has been pencilled in for the summer term.
- or a Car-based Treasure Hunt. Or a walking one around the village. Or a combination of the two.
- At the summer BBQ this year, we will once again have an auction.
- An event for dads? James King said he would organise a golf day at Rudding Park and donate the money to school.
- We may try to reinvigorate the Friday night pub nights, maybe once a term, approx 5pm at the Punch Bowl for children to have tea.
- The September welcome coffee morning needs to be better advertised ahead of time and better attended. Some of the governors and Marie-Louise Thirlaway (MLT) should attend. HB will come up with ideas how to tackle this next autumn. It may be better to do it on the first day of the school year. More discussion is needed, including with MLT.

### **Other items**

Everyone is asked to be DBS (was CRB) registered. Please get forms from Mrs Stocks. This enables everyone to be authorised to be alone with children (e.g. take them to the loo, etc).

Brief outline of Friends Committee members: PC Chair, SH & CP Secretaries, HMc Treasurer, JM Parish News. PC added 3 reps: 1 for Reception (JK), 1 for KS1 (HB), and 1 for KS2 (Sue Timoney). The purpose of this is to make sure that people are proactively approached, reminding them of upcoming events and things required.

### **Methods of Communication**

- The parents contact register is more or less up to date.
- A closed Facebook page will be set up for short term notices only. Many parents / carers are not on Facebook so we can not depend on this.
- Email will continue to be used for longer term planning as well as short term notices.
- Friends meetings: there will be 3 main meetings each year (1 per term at 9am on the second Friday after half term) plus other meetings as and when needed.

**Date of next meeting** 4<sup>th</sup> March (then 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 17 June)

### **AOB**

Since the meeting SH has contacted bags to school. We did not have a great deal of weight last time so they were reluctant to let us have 3 slots a year however they are willing to try. WE THEREFORE NEED

TO TRY AND ENCOURAGE MORE DONATIONS. Fridays after half terms were not always available as the driver is out of area but dates booked are 24<sup>th</sup> February, 10<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> November.