

FRIENDS OF ASHLEY SCHOOL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Monday 25th March 2013

Present: R Dunne K Barlow N Moore S Kent A Maddocks S Bates
L Cowden K Neale S Meharg J Hart A Healey S Fagg
S Byrne- M McCarthy R Grace
Jones

Apologies: J Parnell C Carter S Andrews S Boswell E Oryem H Webb

ACTION

Welcome to all by Karen Barlow.

Minutes of last meeting agreed, no matters arising.

1.0 REPORT ON RECENT EVENTS:

1.1. **RED NOSE DISCO:** Friday 15 March 2013. Lee Cowden reported a very good and successful disco. The children really enjoyed themselves and the disco was well attended.

L Cowden

1.2. **CEILIDH:** Saturday 23rd March 2013. Sharon Bates reported only 10 people registered to attend the event. There was a lack of support for this event and subsequently cancelled. Reasons reported included a clash of dates with other external events, not enough warning, mid-week email reminder event detail listed too far down, a clamp down on notices going out, and previous supporters of the Ceilidh no longer with the school. Sharon Bates reported the FOA has lost in the region of £420.00 this includes the £60 deposit, £300.00 for the band, £21.00 for the event license fee and £30 raffle prizes. This is a real loss to the FOA and it was suggested to survey the school again to find out what people want, if they prefer family nights as oppose to adult only events.

S Bates

1.3. **ASHTOCK:** Saturday 13th July 2013. Given the lack of interest for the Ceilidh and the loss of money to the FOA, some questioned if Ashtock should be a fund raiser and to charge for attendance. Sylvie Kent expressed for Ashtock to remain a free event, as this is the one event in the calendar for the FOA to thank the parents of Ashley for their support. Ideas were put forward on fund raising opportunities instead for example by providing on-site catering to prevent people from purchasing food off-site, inviting a local brewery (Mr Dunne's contact) to provide the alcohol, to expand the catering team under Steve Elkins leadership for on-site catering, to sell ice lollies and popcorn. Sylvie Kent and Shelley Boswell to explore the catering further. Sylvie Kent has asked for more volunteers as she plans to step down after this year. Amy Maddocks has volunteered to help and it was also suggested that a message be circulated via the class reps.

S Kent & S Boswell

2.0 UPCOMING EVENTS

2.1. **MAY BALL:** Saturday 11th May 2013. Sam Fagg and Shereen Meharg reported the May Ball has a capacity to seat 140 people, and ticket sales doing well with 74 tickets purchased and 34 tickets to be confirmed. Sam reported that the event needed 100 people to break even. The hotel has agreed for the balance to be made one week later than expected. The FOA highlighted that there was some confusion as to the number of seats still available with some people reporting rumours that the event had sold out. Sam Fagg and Shereen Meharg agreed to send a message via the class reps to update everyone.

S Fagg, S Merhag & D Nash

2.2. **SUMMER FETE:** Saturday 15th June 2013. Sharon Bates to lead again with Rachel Grace to do the programme and Martin McCarthy the advertising. Sharon Bates reported last year's mums will be helping but need more volunteers and will look to recruit new helpers after the Easter Break. This year's theme is "British Seaside". Sharon Bates is going to ask Darryl to paint the shed to look like a beach hut, ideas so far include a paddling pool, sand-pit and a sand castle building competition, also considering serving fish and chips and a Punch and Judy show. Other ideas put forward by the FOA included cockles, mussels (fishmongers at Garsons) and sticks of Ashley Rock. It was also suggested for Sharon to look into hiring the Year 2 puppet man for the Punch and Judy show as he

could double up to do balloon modelling. Karen Barlow also reported that Elmbridge Council have been in-touch to ask if they could set-up a "Let's talk Elmbridge" stand at the Summer Fete, it was agreed by all this could be done. Mr Dunne reported the new community hub has asked for a joint project with Ashley but has yet to give final details.

S Bates

3.0 FORWARD PLANNING

3.1. 100 Club: Idea put forward by Alex Healey. Alex Healey asked if the 100 Club previously worked and why it stopped, and if people knew about the 100 Club. The FOA reported the 100 Club was popular but stopped when the Chair stepped down. The 100 Club is a fund raising activity and run on the principle of the lottery whereby individuals purchase numbers from 1 to 100 for £12 each number (covers them for the year) and each month a number is drawn with half of the money paid to the winning number and the other half to the school. Alex Healey suggested putting the interest on Face Book but there was strong support amongst the FOA for this activity to go ahead, and it was agreed to start in September but the cost per number would be £10 covering the academic year as oppose to the calendar year.

A Healey

3.2. PLUM PUDDING & CHRISTMAS CARDS: Sam Byrne-Jones and Sally Andrews who have both previously arranged for the plum pudding and Christmas cards have both stepped down. Amy Maddocks has kindly volunteered to take on the plum puddings with Sylvie Kent taking on the Christmas cards. It was agreed that the Christmas cards will be done at home, and for Sylvie to speak with Mrs Atkinson to explore the option of offering some Christmas cards craft making sessions after school. Christmas cards need to be distributed in September for collection week of the October half term.

A Maddocks & S Kent

4.0 FOA STORAGE UPDATE: Karen Barlow reported other than the FOA storage unit behind Year 6 there is no other on-site storage facilities for the FOA. Karen will email out for a group of volunteers to help clear out/recycle all unwanted FOA goods currently stored in the old shed, bunker and current FOA storage on Saturday 27 April between 10am to 1pm. Lee Cowden suggested asking storage warehouses for charity spaces. Alex Healey and Sam Fagg agreed to explore off-site storage units and to report back.

K Barlow

5.0 TREASURERS REPORT: To be circulated with the Meeting Minutes.

J Hart

6.0 REQUEST FOR FUNDS & SPENDING IDEAS

6.1. Karen Barlow reported that she was waiting for Hilary (office) to provide a list of class spend for this term FOA monies but has not yet received the report and therefore the FOA had not committed to any further spend. Mr Dunne thought the FOA had committed to an on-going sum of £3250.00 for the school and that teachers were already planning activities for the spring and summer term. If the money is not forthcoming then the teachers will have to request for the parents to make the contribution instead. Mr Dunne confirmed that Hilary has done the report and will email to Karen. The FOA agreed to commit £3250.00 to the spring/summer term but will need to review FOA commitment for September especially in light of recent low level support of FOA events.

6.2. Karen Barlow will continue to write the FOA newsletter promoting the FOA activities for distribution next term and to ask for new ideas on how to make more parents feel part of the FOA, especially given the low level of engagement, and no new Reception year parents joining the FOA this year. Suggestions included class reps mailing out promoting the FOA, cheese and wine evening, and to start recruiting at the next new parents evening on Tuesday 7 May. Sylvie Kent suggested hosting one of the FOA sessions after school pick-up to encourage more parent participation.

6.3. Karen Barlow requested for it to be noted the two classes of the winning hampers from the Christmas Bazaar was to receive £50 each and not £25. Jo Hart reported that Louise Settle had made the remaining payment in cash to the winning two classes.

K Barlow

7.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None reported

8.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 15 May 2013, 8pm, Staff room, and Thursday 16 May 3pm after school pick-up, ICT Suite

ALL