

Friends of Ashley School

Minutes of Meeting – Monday 19 June 2017

Summary

1. Treasurer's Report - a whopping £42,321 was raised during this academic year – many thanks to everyone involved in each of the events.
2. Forward planning – Ashtock to look forward to.

Read on.....

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Present:

Sharon Moat (Chair)	Lindsey Blake (Chair)	Katie Brindley	Hannah Freeland
Helen Bedford	Faye Curtis-Kay	Ruth Crowson	Jackie Stevens (Deputy Head)
Jo Boon	Monique Alexander	Catherine Maloney	Sam Fagg
Helen Hathaway	Kathryn Taylor	Tracey Stone	Suzanne Todd

Apologies:

Amy Maddocks	Lizzy Mills	Georgie Warren	Cecile Carter
Cath Winkley	Verity Williams	Laura Chamberlain	

1. **Welcome - Introduction**

Sharon welcomed everyone to this last meeting of the academic year.

2. **Minutes of the meeting on 25 April 2017**

The Minutes were agreed.

3. **2016/17 FOA Profit**

At the first meeting of this academic year the aim was to raise £30,000. Last year £23,458 was raised. The Chairs were delighted to announce that the school community has raised £42,321 this year. This is an amazing effort from the school community and everyone was thanked.

4. **Financial Overview**

As at 19 June 2017:

4.1 **Quik cricket**

There was a good community feel to this event. A suggestion that next year it was rounders rather than quik cricket was put forward. The mixed teams of parents and children was positive and lots of parents were giving lots of children encouragement. It was noted that there were a lot of different types of events and this particular event was hot on the heels of the year 5 trip to Bude.

Tracy Blandford and her team were thanked for this event which raised £677.

4.2 **Circus**

This raised £3,270. The circus team was thanked [covered at last meeting].

4.3 **May Ball**

The May Ball raised £10,430. This was an incredible event and there were an extra 80 people attending in comparison to two years ago. Having a bigger venue meant that everyone who wanted to come was able to. There was a brief discussion as to whether or not it should happen annually.

and it was agreed that it should continue to be bi-annual. There was good sponsorship and Sandown charged the school charity rates which made a big difference. The silent auction also had a great response. The whole committee were thanked and asked anyone with feedback to send it in.

4.4 **Summer Fete**

This made a record £7,500. Charlotte, Kirsten and their team were thanked. It was noted that the silent auction items were all contributions from school families and this in itself raised £2,000.

There was a brief discussion about the hampers and whether or not they should just be kept to the Christmas Fayre. As it was so warm it had a direct impact on food and drink in many of the hampers. It was also suggested that the hampers be kept to one per year group.

Other feedback included ensuring that there was plenty of bottled water and drinks for the children and that the performance location hindered the sale of tea, coffee and cakes. It was noted that there were no gazebos because of the wind that day.

4.5 **Expenditure**

The only spend request was for the 'well-being books' of £422

Taking into account what has already been committed in terms of expenditure there is £29,314 available to spend. Jackie explained that this will go to the new play space in all likelihood but the school wants to wait until the new build is finished and the temporary classrooms are dismantled to look at what space there is available.

It was not believed that there was a time limit in which to spend funds but Jackie's view was that the money has been raised and should be put to good use in the school.

It was also suggested that the recent purchase of iPads by the Governors Fund should be made clearer and publicised to all as it was buried in a recent weekly newsletter.

A discussion then took place as to whether it is the right approach that the FOA purchases 'big items' such as a trim trail item as opposed to contributing to general expenses of the school such as cooking, Athletics and the life bus. It is becoming more and more expensive to attend Ashley School if you choose to pay into and support the Governors Fund, support the opportunities which are available for your child and also to support the FOA events. Jackie Stevens confirmed that children do not miss out on school outings due to financial hardship. There are, however, parents who are able to afford to send their children on school trips who choose not to do so. Support is available for those families who need help. It was suggested that the wording on the letters is changed to ensure that those who need financial support speak up.

Lindsey explained that there was a class contribution of £250 per year group this year instead of £250 per term. It was suggested that a list of trips could be published in advance at the beginning of each academic year. The main difficulty with funding is the coaches.

Jackie Stevens explained that the school tried to cover one off expenses in one payment – the life bus, Athletics and cooking. It was also suggested the science week was also added to this.

Action: Jackie to follow up wording on letters and annual 'school' expenses.

Separately, the issue of parental support at school was raised. It would be very helpful to know in advance what parental support is required.

The example of cooking was raised as there is no teacher involvement at all and it is a big responsibility for the parent helpers. A suggestion was that FOA funds could potentially be used to

cover the cost of someone leading this properly. A parent rota still exists in the infant school but not for the junior school.

There was a brief discussion about the mini bus. It was given to the school a couple of years ago. Jackie Stevens explained that the school has to weigh up the cost of tax, insurance and the upkeep and the fact that only several of the teachers are qualified to drive the mini bus against the fact that it costs £120 per day to hire one if it is required. The mini bus also only seats 14 children. It is mostly used for sports events and arts awards.

5. **Forward Planning**

5.1 **Ashstock**

The communications for this have just been sent out. They will only be on the school Facebook page and not externally. Camping will be on foot only. The food, band and first aid has been booked as well as the stalls for sweets and the bar.

The Italian restaurant (La Dolce Vita) has offered the school £1 for each take away pizza which is purchased for Ashstock.

More communications will be coming out over the next four weeks and individuals will need to confirm if they are camping or not. Volunteers are required to set up the stage and gazebos. This will be done via Facebook and the newsletter.

Last year's event started with the children's disco. There is currently no-one able to do this. A request will be made for help.

It was noted that it is difficult to access the FOA shed at the moment due to building works and a week's notice at least in advance needs to be given. Sharon is to follow up and give the details of the individuals who ran the café at the summer fete to link up on resources.

A point for future discussion was raised, referring to a recent Governors' meeting, which is that Ashstock is a school event, on school grounds and the Christian ethos of the school should be followed. It was confirmed that the FAQs are in the process of being re-written and a behaviour policy will be included to include not only reference to alcohol but also to smoking. Sharon will send a message out which confirms that especially in these difficult times individuals are responsible for their own children and for their security. This will be given out via the newsletter and Facebook.

Action: Ashstock team follow up requests for help, FAQs update for Ashstock and Sharon/Lindsey – share 'rules' for Ashstock safety.

5.2 **Ink Cartridges**

There are two full boxes and there is a liaison set up with the Eco Council.

5.3 **SEND update**

Hannah confirmed that the books have been purchased and were being given to Tash Morgan and Jo Hart to be used in school.

6. **Uniform**

There would be another order by 6 August 2017 which would be delivered to the school on 4 September 2017. The proceeds for the school continue to flow into the school bank account on a regular basis.

7. **Second-hand uniform**

The provisional date for the next meeting is 7 July 2017. Cecile is looking for volunteers to help up set up, run and put away the stall.

8. **Library books**

This had been discussed earlier in the year. Catherine Maloney will liaise with the school. Jackie Stevens confirmed that there will be 640 pupils in the school in September. The books will be reviewed as well as the reading list for each individual year group and there will then be a shout out as to what is required. Sam Fagg kindly volunteered her mum's help (she is a retired librarian). Specific books linked to learning enquiries such as Romans, dinosaurs and so on will be required as well.

Kathryn Taylor referred to the fact that there used to be scholastic school catalogues circulated. This will be followed-up. It was agreed that there would be a stock take first and then Catherine would follow up.

Action: Catherine Maloney to follow up.

9. **New parents welcome tea**

This will be on 7 October 2017. There will be an FOA presence as last year.

10. **Christmas Bazaar**

This will be on 2 December 2017. A new committee is required for that - individuals should contact the Chair.

11. **Update on past events**

Family Sports Day – see above

May Ball – see above

Summer Fete – see above

12. **Update from previous meetings**

These action points had been completed and no further was required.

13. **AOB**

- The AGM would be on Tuesday 26 September 2017. Provisional dates for a quiz and/or bingo evening in the Autumn would be looked into.
- Sharon confirmed that this year the days and times of the FOA meetings had been changed to try and include more people at meetings. Feedback as to what has worked well and what has not would be welcomed.
- Sharon and Lindsey are attending the new parents welcome evening tonight and will explain the FOA.
- Helen Bedford has prepared a document where people can set out their contact details and what they want to help with as the new parents are the future of the FOA.
- Jackie Stevens thanked everyone for their contribution this year. Many thanks in particular to Sharon who will be moving to live in Geneva. Lindsey confirmed that she was happy to stand again as Chair next year and hoped to do this with someone who would then continue

on the following year. Suzanne Todd and Amy Maddocks would also be stepping down due to work commitments. The whole committee was thanked for their contribution this year.

- Jackie Stevens confirmed that it had been an amazing year from the school's perspective and the joined up thinking and working together was really appreciated.