

PTA Committee Meeting 8pm, 3rd October 2018

Silver Birch, Barnabas Oley School

Sally Adelman (Chair)	Catherine Wilamowska	Claire Kristensen
	Shelley Frost	Michelle Downes
Fiona Cox (Treasurer)	Cassie Prior	Andy Greaves
	Helene Savory	Emily Iles
		Louise Rabbett
Rachel Greaves	Sarah Thomas (Secretary)	
Siobhan Lawton	Michelle Houghton Kearney	

Apologies

Catherine Wilamowska, Andrew Pett, Cassie Prior, Catherine Sykes-White and Karen Whinney

Chairs / Treasurers Report 2017/18

Chair

Last year we spent a record £16,000. We spend what we earn every year, there was a slight overlap with the £5,000 grant that we got towards the pool. Sally thanked everyone and said she thought she had an amazing committee behind her, especially with the new committee members bringing through new ideas and getting straight in. She thanked all the helpers and volunteers who weren't there and help in so many ways, baking endless cakes and biscuits, people and companies who donate all manner of things. Iain for the laminator that he bought and donated. All the people who ask for donations. Teachers, staff, governors and all the supporters who add up to making all the events so successful. Sally finished by saying that she was proud to be part of it all and every child benefits from what we do.

Finance

The accounts have been independently audited by Karen Whinney, Fi and Sally to arrange a bottle of wine as a thank you. *FC/SA*

We ended last year with £7,493 in hand spending about £16,000 on the school, which is amazing with just 127 pupil.

It's our ongoing policy to spend as we earn so that it is our children that benefit.

Main fund raisers:

1 GORM this raised £3444 excluding gift aid sponsorship, we need to pursue sponsorship, push this harder to get a wider sponsorship circle. Sally bought Nik a thank you T Shirt. This is Nik's second year, he initially said he would do it for 2 years.

2 Fete and BOGT £1725, which is down a little, but the school is smaller.

3 Bags to School £1205 – We raised £444 for the first collection this year, we got more from touchbase, Sally collected quite a few bags.

4 Christmas performances, around £1000.

Entertainment for the children, discos, cinema nights, stay within the school year as this gives the children something to do.

Spending: £5,000 council grant, for the swimming pool, with £2,000 from the Gransden Show we matched the £5,000 for the changing rooms and outdoor classroom, which we need to get up and running, but is currently being used as a storage room for things from the staff room as the floor has collapsed. It looks like the insurance will cover this.

£4,000 went to equip the ICT suite.

£500 went to buy books for the library, this was from the giving machine, however it only raised £300 this year, which the committee agreed would go for books again. This is a portal that generates free money – 11 active donors this month, 75 people have used it. All the big companies are on there – it is tangible for people to know that the money that they raise this way the school spends it on books. It needs another big push.

£1,000 donation on early years, Holly inside and outside is in good shape, there is another £700 or less (there is a problem with a piece of equipment that may need to go back) to spend this year.

Class stipend, is normally spent at the beginning of the year this is £200 per class for the teachers to spend on extra resources to go with the topics that they are doing.

We also pay for the children to have a panto come into school just before Christmas.

School trips are subsidised, there is normally one major trip for KS1 and KS2 per year (although KS2 may have 2 trips this year), plus the Year 6 trip to Drayton manor. We have quite recently added an option on the letters for people to pay the full amount, the subsidised amount or there are a few that don't pay at all. This is all anonymous, Liz is the only person who knows who pays what, but we have had to pay less for the trips since we have offered the extra option of paying the full amount.

We don't have a huge amount of spare capital unless we secure funding.

Michelle is looking for funding for a new portable PA system. Also class books linked to the topic, it was suggested that the giving machine money could be used for these as they are books. Laptops are also in a dire situation, these haven't had any investment in the last 9 years, both pupils laptops and teacher's laptops. Three teachers have had new ones, the rest have been promised them, they were trying to do one a year, but other things have needed the funding more. There have been some donated to the school, but they need checking by IT people to see if they would be any good, these potentially could be the staff replacements.

Grants – this could be a possible project, Michelle thinks there are currently 16 – 20, at least 3 have completed died. I pads are being used and are in better condition, but are already in their 4th year. A lot of grants need match funding, so we would need to be able match fund. The school have looked at leasing, but it's not really a viable option.

Fi thanked everyone.

Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

Karen Whinney has audited the accounts

Election of Officers to the PTA committee

All current office holders resigned

Chair – Sally Adelman was proposed by Helene Savoury and was seconded by Sarah Thomas

Vice-chair – Helene Savory was proposed by Sally Adelman and was seconded by Emily Iles

Treasurer – Fiona Cox was proposed by Shelley Frost and was seconded by Sally Adelman

Secretary – Sarah Thomas was proposed by Fi Cox and was seconded by Sally Adelman

Both Fi Cox and Sarah Thomas confirmed that they would be looking for someone to take over next year, Fi particularly within the next 6 months so that she can show someone the ropes. Helene doesn't want to hold the post of vice chair forever either.

All officers are stepping down next year to allow for new ideas.

Normally when the chair resigns, they leave the committee. Fi said it would be helpful to have old opinions and for people who have held posts not to leave, but in reality it's harder to juggle, as it would work for some people who take on the role of chair for the last chairperson to stay on the committee, but not for others.

We need a full strong committee, so people can shadow for a year, historically it has been someone currently on the committee that has stepped up.

There were a lot of discussions as to how best to recruit more members so that we have a good selection of people who can help, spread the workload and bring new ideas and visions. Most people on the committee have only joined because they were physically asked, written in the newsletter or on emails is less persuasive. We need a captive audience where we can try and persuade more people to join, it was agreed that the best place to try and recruit is at the Christmas performances, KS1 was suggested as the best place to start due to the new intake, however there are a lot of new parents in KS2 and people's circumstances may have changed. Emily suggested that Marcus may be able to do this, but KS1 performances are in the afternoons and there are 3.

Class reps were discussed again to be a friendly middle link, however if we can't get people to join the committee, we are likely to have the same problem recruiting class reps. The committee is fairly well spread across the classes. There are lots of new reception parents.

There were discussions about parent governors getting voted in and whether this was a way forward, however we would need enough volunteers to be able to vote people in.

Can we call upon people with skills and engage them by using their skill set.

The PTA officers were elected for the academic year of 2018-9.

Minutes

September minutes were approved.

EVENTS

Tissues and Tears

This was good and well attended, Sally spoke to several people. Catherine Sykes-White is definitely interested in joining.

Gransden Show

We made £154.32, there are £100 worth of kits left, for Café HoHo. The Christmas ones took ages. This was great, sold squash and cakes, we could have done with an extra table and chairs, there wasn't always somewhere for people to sit or picnic blankets. We have a 4m x 4m pitch this includes gazebo, guy ropes etc, but we didn't ask for anything bigger, although the spot was perfect as we caught people on the way out and it was a good meeting point by the Punch and Judy.

Happy School Bag

This was good and raised £444, Barneys start at 7.45 so all the bags need to be moved away from the front door by then, to clear the fire exit. Sally may need help to move the bags next time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Disco – 12 October

Jezzo is booked, Helene is going to speak to him to see if he can do a bit more magic. Crisps have been bought. Louise Rabbett has done the poster. Volunteers are Shelley, Helene, Claire, Peggy, Michelle Downes and Michelle Swallow. Louise Rabbett and Siobhan will do tattoos and face paints. Reusable cups are in the shed. We can ask Jezzo to pick the fancy dress winner and get him to make them an animal balloon. Peggy will have the list of names and numbers. Chairs round the side worked well.

Café Oley – 19th October

Sally put some plates back after Gransden Show, Fi to send out plates and poem, would be useful to have a date and place on it, for when cakes are needed – 9.00 am front office. This will be the first new parents Café Oley, it needs going in the newsletter, lowkey cuppa and chat with friends. With a chance to buy craft. Helpers ST, SF, HS, SA, CW. CW now has poem so should be in hand.

Christmas Cards

Maple class have done theirs, the rest are on it. The deadline is Friday, for a proof to be returned before half-term and the orders will be here for the beginning of December.

Bingo – Blingo – 16 November

Emily has agreed to run this, it was agreed to turn it into Blingo – where all get blinged up. Emily has been looking up ideas for rounds, musical, numerical, themed words and there are quite a few ideas, however this will be extra work and Emily will be looking for people to create a round. There were discussions as to whether we should do food, what price the tickets should be sold at, whether to sell tickets for each game or whether you get all the tickets included. It was agreed to an 8.00 pm start and that tickets would be £5 with snacks on the table, then we can sell reasonably priced snacks, this will include tickets for all the games. Karoline Mansell has a bingo machine. We will sell tickets individually or as tables, so people who don't get a table together aren't discouraged. We need prizes, box of chocolates or a bottle of wine, then a hamper to raffle. Tesco's and Morrisons when approached previously will give gift vouchers that we can either use as prizes or spend on the prizes. We will need to ask for donations for the prizes – for 6 games. Hotel Factory shop in Huntingdon has chocolate that they need to sell on before the expiry date. We can sell the dobbers. Sarah to apply for TENS. *EI, ST*

An idea for Children's Spanish bingo for the future.

Next meeting

Wednesday 7 November 8 pm, at Fi Cox's.