

Minutes of the Aldryngton PTA meeting 7th May 2015

1. Present

Simon Feist; Philip Byrne; Anna Neffendorf; Elaine Stewart; Michaela Thomas; Becky Friday; Clair Harris; Amanda Ellis; Ruth Evans; Amanda Bates; John Thompson

2. Apologies

Jas Chhokar; Kay Blackaby

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- The accounts need to be filed with the Charity Commission by the end of June, so we need completed AGM minutes (Chairs report required) to accompany them. **Action SF – still outstanding**
- Constitution to be updated on Charity Commission website. **Now done, awaiting confirmation from Charity Commission**
- TENS for next term – AN can complete TENS until the summer holidays, then the individual limit is reached. Going forward we should keep the TENS for the parent bar at the disco to a separate person applying – MT has volunteered for this.
- Safeguarding policy document to be discussed **Action SF & AE – still to be done**
- Jubilee Crest mosaic still to be completed (deadline is 17th June) – needs to be moved out of the pool changing rooms. **Action SF –will arrange transport with MT**
- Adding an extra disco to the schedule – there was tentative agreement in principle, but no suitable space could be found in the school calendar.

There were no other matters arising and the Minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting on 26th March 2015.

4. Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report was discussed and will be available on the PTA pages of the school website.

The deadline for the accounts to be submitted to the Charity Commission is the end of June. Mrs Tomsett's cake sale had a number of packaged cakes left over, which will be sold at the parent bar/ disco and the amount raised will be added to the cake sale takings.

5. School funding partnership

Pool Cover Roller unit: Quotes have been obtained from three companies for a number of different systems. ES said the preferred option would be a mobile system with a reduction gearbox to make the cover easy to operate alone. The higher quote of £8970 was eliminated. The two other quotes were similar (around £3000), and are to be passed to Sarah Byrne to see if she can negotiate them any further. **£3000 (15/13) approved** to be ordered asap once a final price is agreed. SB to communicate with Julia Franks.

Pool Storage: New storage units are needed to replace the plastic sheds poolside. The current ones are broken and unsafe. Two wooden sheds are preferred as they have a longer lifespan, at a cost of £199 each. **2 x £199 (15/14) Approved**

ES reported that the handset for the automatic pool cleaner is not working correctly. **ES to speak to George** to get a better picture of the problems and report back next meeting

Interactive Whiteboard replacement: The finance and ICT strategy groups are have now made a decision that Smarttech is the preferred provider for the replacement smartboards for middle school. Their technology addresses the problem of 'wobble' in the middle school classrooms, and will give consistency across the school as they are the current providers. Hillside school are intending to purchase more of these boards, it may be worth exploring if we can share costs on a bulk purchase. The previous agreement in principle for £4000 (15/4) is now superseded, and the meeting **approved £10,000 (15/15)** for three systems for middle school.

6. Events this term

Pool club is now up and running, letters went out and people are starting to join. There was some discussion of the numbers, which had been falling until the 2013 season when the pricing per duties system was introduced. We would like to try and encourage families who have never been members of the pool club before, it was suggested a 'try before you buy' ticket to allow people to see what it involves. It was agreed that the tickets would operate as a one off temporary membership of pool club rather than a guest ticket, so that the members priority over guests issue would not be a problem. It is not anticipated that the take up will be so large as to cause problems for existing members. Tickets will be valid until the summer holidays start and will cost £2. We hope to offer a similar scheme to families who will be starting at Aldryngton for the first time in September over the summer holidays. Again this will likely only be a small number of families so should not adversely affect full pool club members. MT presented a document containing various positive comments from past pool club members, it was agreed this should be circulated to parents to encourage new members.

Disco and Parent Bar – All under control and ready to go.

Summer fair – A subcommittee was convened including SF; AE; MT; AB; RE and PB which will meet Friday 15th May. ES agreed to contact Michael (FaceEvents) re Bouncy Castle.

Try-a-tri – The letters have gone out and the teams are organising their areas of responsibility. We really need to push the raising sponsorship aspect of the event. We need to organise someone to do the bike checking. **ES** said she will contact the local PCSOs to see if they are available. **JT** is also seeing if we can get some sponsorship from BTA again.

7. PTA Class representatives

Discussion of this topic was pended until the next meeting due to time constraints.

8. AOB

- Following on from the school budget letter which went out this week, there was some discussion of other ways funds could be raised. Some parents on the Facebook page had suggested being able to donate directly to school outside of fundraising events. It was decided to set up a donations page on the BT Donate site to allow parents who wished to make an ad-hoc donation **Action CH**. It might be worth investigating reviving the school 100 club **Action AN**. JT suggested we look into the Berkshire Community Foundation which makes grants to charities for projects. AN suggested finding a project we can submit to Thames Water for their community donation scheme. Pool showers? **Action SF** to speak to Tony Hanson as he has expertise in this area.
- JT asked if it would be possible to sell drinks and ice lollies from the PTA garage during pool club sessions. The pool club rules state no food or drink may be consumed within the pool fenced area, but as long as it were policed correctly, i.e. make a seating area outside of the pool fence, it may be possible. To be discussed further via email, and confirmed to members if a policy can be agreed.
- New Parents Information Evening June 25th – **SF to represent the PTA** and talk to parents about the importance of the PTA and also sell pool club including the mention of temporary member tickets, MT and VA will sell 2nd hand uniform, MT will sell pool club temporary member tickets from the 2nd hand uniform area, PTA info for new parent packs has been printed and collated – **MT to provide to Lyn**.
- MT put forward the suggestion of an Easter Egg hunt next spring and this was agreed as a possible additional fundraiser.
- AE put forward the suggestion of a Halloween themed disco but ES explained this would not be allowed.
- SF presented an email from Jas Chhokar regarding various fundraising opportunities, this was discussed briefly due to time restraints but will be reviewed again at the next meeting.
- Simon Feist informed the meeting that he will be stepping down as Chair of the PTA at the AGM in September. He has served the PTA for several years now and we are grateful for his important contribution to the school.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 2nd July 2015 at 7pm

Addendum: Pool cleaner remote control was confirmed not to be working correctly and needed replacing at a cost of £140. This was **approved** by the PTA committee by email on 19th May 2015 **(15/16)**