



**Aldryngton School PTA**  
**Minutes of the PTA Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**1. Present**

Anna Neffendorf; Michaela Thomas; Jo Beales; Emily Counihan; Simon Feist; Clair Harris; Amanda Bates; Vignesh Narayanswamy; Claire Connell; Jason Sutton; Rebecca Edgcumbe; Kay Blackaby; Stephanie Lin; Helen Barnes; Philip Byrne; Ishanie Sunthareswarah; Sejal Patel; Catherine Maskell; Roshan Degamber; Amanda Ellis; Ruth Evans; Elaine Stewart; Sabine Bickle; Jo Brearley; Nick Escudero

**2. Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted

**3. Chair's report – Simon Feist**

It has been a very interesting year to be Chair of the PTA – a Jubilee year with many events and celebrations. It is amazing that the school has had a good reputation consistently over its fifty years existence, mainly due to both great leadership and a competent teaching team. The wider community certainly appreciates the service to the local area throughout the years.

The PTA cannot exist without support. There are several big fundraising events each year, but I want to start by focusing on celebrating the smaller events, which carry on almost without fanfare, throughout the year. The discos happen every term and they enhance the children's social experience. I stand on the gate each time and am able to witness every child leaving with a big smile on their face. The cake sales are another under the radar event that happen across the year, raising funds to be spent in each classroom. The second hand uniform sales are another easy to miss fundraiser which also allow items to be recycled to the environmental and economic benefit of the whole school.

The big events such as the Christmas Fair and the Try-a-tri were very successful this year, but we also had the reduced summer fair combined with the Jubilee picnic. This event had a fantastic buzz about it and was very well received by all who attended.

My favourite event was the Jubilee movie, fish and chips and bingo event in the Marquee. It was a unique event to even attempt and with input from many PTA supporters we managed to succeed.

The pool club is a vital fundraiser to allow the pool to be maintained as part of the school. This year it was saved by Michaela Thomas and it is no exaggeration to say without her it would not have happened. The children love spending time in the pool with their friends and they benefit from more lessons than if they had to be taken offsite.

The time has now come for me to step down after two years as Chair. I can no longer commit the time required to the role, and it needs those bonds with the parents in the playground which become less as your children move up the school.

It has been a pleasure to be able to work with Elaine and the teaching staff and I could not have enjoyed the role without the constant support of Phil (vice-chair), Clair (treasurer) and Anna (secretary). Their wisdom and enthusiasm are only eclipsed by their dedication to the school, the pupils and the wider parent community.

#### **4. Treasurer's report – Clair Harris**

The PTA has yet again had another busy and successful year of fundraising, and the total money raised across all of the events this year was increased when compared to 2013/14 – a great effort all round! In my first year as Treasurer I've been impressed with the hard work and commitment of everyone who has been involved in organising, running and attending PTA events, which not only raise much needed money for the school but bring pleasure to the children and school community. Old favourites such as the Try-a-Tri, Discos, Cake Sales, Christmas Fayre and Secondhand Uniform sales continued to do well, with the welcome addition of the Parent Bar to run alongside the Discos and of course the Jubilee events raising extra funds.

With the challenges and pressures on the school budget increasing year on year, the PTA ever more helps to fund the essentials needed to run the school rather than nice-to-have enhancements to school life. The biggest allocation of PTA funds in 2014/15 academic year was £10,000 to pay for the replacement of the three interactive whiteboards in Middle School, as the start of a rolling program leading to the upgrade of all of the whiteboards in school. In total the PTA has donated over £20,000 to the school this year, including library books, English and Maths resources across the school, tablets for use in Foundation, sports team kits, a new roller for the swimming pool cover, plus half of the running costs for the pool.

All contributions that parents and families can make to raising money are valuable and needed – whether it is by organising activities, using EasyFundraising when shopping online, donating money via BT MyDonate or providing cakes for the class Cake Sales, 'every little helps'.

#### **5. Head's report – Elaine Stewart**

Last year will primarily be remembered as the school's Golden Jubilee Year. The PTA supported the school's efforts to make 2014-2015 a very special year.

Ongoing partnership was essential throughout the year which still saw the vast majority of the usual PTA events and activities taking place as well as the termly Jubilee events.

Last year will also be remembered as the one during which the school's lack of central funding came sharply into view. As never before the PTA's efforts to raise money to support our pupils' education will be needed.

This year, the PTA has achieved some record breaking fundraising amounts. The annual Try a Tri event alone raised over £4000 this summer. As a consequence of this hard work and success the school is now in a position to start replacing its old interactive whiteboards – a significant financial challenge.

I hope that the PTA will continue to be a source of social opportunities despite the ever-increasing need for it raise money. It is through activities such as swimming pool membership, quiz and bingo nights, film events and discos families and children have the opportunity to get to know one another and have fun.

I would like to thank everyone for their efforts over the year particularly those who have given so much of their own time, not only this year but for many years. Simon Feist, as Chair of the PTA has given so freely of his time, juggling work, family and school commitments, and whilst he is stepping down as Chair of the PTA we know he will continue to fully support events. A big thank you for all you have done Simon.

I was delighted to see the last committee meeting have so many people attending that we needed the use of a classroom. I hope the committee continues to grow and attract people with a wide variety of skills, ideas and time to give to the school. It is important that the PTA is fully inclusive and representative of the school community. There is no doubt that PTAs are at their best and strongest when they are able to work from a broad base. I look forward to another year of successes and would encourage everyone to find the time to contribute to the PTA's efforts as every family stands to benefit hugely from a successful PTA.

#### 6. Election of Chair

At this stage the Chair of the meeting was passed to Mrs Stewart.

Election of Chair: Amanda Ellis was proposed by Michaela Thomas and seconded by Anna Neffendorf. **Appointed**

#### 7. Election of Treasurer, Secretary and Vice Chair

Election of Treasurer: Clair Harris was proposed by Amanda Ellis and seconded by Simon Feist. **Appointed.**

Election of Secretary: Anna Neffendorf was proposed by Clair Harris and seconded by Roshan Degamber. **Appointed.**

Election of Vice-Chair: Roshan Degamber was proposed by Ruth Evans and seconded by Simon Feist. **Appointed.**

#### 8. Filling of other roles

- A Grounds Development Group parent representative is needed. There were no volunteers at the meeting so it was agreed to advertise this again to the school community.
- The school has asked if the PTA will take over organising the 'bags to school' secondhand clothing collection. Sabine Bickle offered to lead on this.
- Amanda confirmed those willing to oversee and assist with the following activities:

Newsletter & Communication	Michaela Thomas
Pool club	Michaela Thomas
Discos	Catherine Maskell and Helen Barnes
Wrap A Present	Michaela Thomas & Amanda Bates
Second hand Uniforms	Vicki Adams, Michaela Thomas, Jo Beales & Jo Brearley
Christmas Cards	Rhona Phipps, Michaela Thomas, Jo Beales

Cake sales	Anna Neffendorf, Amanda Bates, Jo Beales
Staff	Kay Blackaby, Rebecca Edgcumbe

## 9. Amendment to the constitution

The following amendment was put to the meeting in order for our constitution to comply with the Charity Commission's requirements for greater clarity of the positions of legal trustees i.e. The Committee:

### **Current constitution**

#### 1.4 The Committee

*The committee is composed of: four members elected to the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer (the elected committee members who shall be the trustees of the charity); the Headteacher or Headteacher's delegated representative; one or more members of staff of the school; and one or more parent/carer members taking on specified roles (the ordinary committee members).*

*The minimum number of elected committee members: 4*

*The minimum number of ordinary committee members: 3*

### **Proposed amendment**

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*The committee is composed of: four members elected to the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer (the elected committee members who shall be the trustees of the charity)*

*The minimum number of committee members: 4*

### **Current constitution**

*6.1 All elected members of the Committee: the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer are trustees of the charity and have control of the PTA, its property and funds. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer are referred to in this document as the elected committee members.*

### **Proposed amendment**

*6.1 All members of the Committee: the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer are trustees of the charity and have control of the PTA, its property and funds. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer are referred to in this document as the elected committee members.*

The proposed amendments were agreed by the meeting

## 10. AOB

### Request for funding of Jigsaw PHSE resource at a cost of £3000

This is a whole school resource including Foundation stage, which is unusual. It covers health, drugs, e-safety, sex-ed, mindfulness, all aspects of the curriculum in an up to date and very detailed way. It is written by teachers and allows continuous building on previous learning across the year groups. The staff have had a trial with it and are very keen to bring it into use as the existing materials in use are now very out-dated. **RE** asked if there were any

cheaper alternatives and would it be a one off payment. **ES** replied that there was access online for updates, and there are no other suppliers of this kind of package, it is unique to the market. **JS** asked if there would be any ongoing costs for updates. **ES** confirmed there would not. **Approved (16/1)**

#### Parent donations via BT Donate

This needs to be discussed in more detail and will be raised at the next meeting. We need to decide how to treat parent donations to the PTA to ensure we are within the rules. It might be worthwhile considering an 'appeal' for a specific item.

**SB** asked if we had considered co-operating with other local PTAs in the cluster, for example to avoid clashes in Christmas Fair dates. **SF** stated that we had tried this in the recent past and not had much success, but that it may be worth exploring again.

**AE** requested that communications regarding the Christmas Fair planning to start as soon as possible – let parents know that the first discussions will take place at the next meeting.

#### **11. The date of the next PTA meeting**

Thursday 1st October 2015 at 7.00pm in the staff room annex.