

Thurlbear School PTA AGM
Minutes of a Meeting Held at Thurlbear School
on Thursday 6th October 2022

Present:

Guy Mock (Chair)
Rachael Dean (Vice Chair)
Kerry Prisco (Treasurer)
Sarah Hampson (Secretary)

Mr Steve Gillan (Head)

Olivia Budge
Aimee Drayton
Sarah Macey
Kate Newcombe
Clare Strange
Lydia Tatomirescu
Emily Taylor
Mechteld Van Heck

1. Apologies

Apologies were received in advance from and Jenny White and Phil Taylor.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 6th October 2021

Minutes of the previous AGM were noted and approved as an accurate representation of the minutes.

3. Matters Arising

- The School's request for a new facility to store sports equipment was promptly resolved through the generous donation of a shed by B&Q through Helen Fletcher. The shed was on site within days thanks to Mr and Mrs Childs whose team moved the shed in one piece!
- The music provision is now fully operational with children throughout the school enjoying and learning music. Mr Gillan commented this has been a wonderful addition to the curriculum.

4. Chairman's Year End Report

- This will be the current Chair's last meeting.
- Thanks were passed via Mr Gillan to all staff for their enthusiasm and support of PTA activities over the duration of his time as Chair.
- Thanks were expressed to all Year Group Representatives, parents, carers, extended families and volunteers for their help and support over the last year and for the duration of the Chair's involvement with the PTA.
- Thanks were expressed to the PTA Committee for their continued work and support behind the scenes.

The last academic year has seen the return of some events and fundraising due to the lifting of covid restrictions.

Highlights:

- Return of the disco in the Summer Term was been a joy to see with all children participating and having fun whilst raising money for the school.

- It was nice to see the return of the Piddlewood Plod to the calendar. The entry fee was doubled this year which resulted in a donation of £2,000 to the school along with the money made through cake donations. It is a joyous event and one that will continue.
- Great to see the return of the Summer Fair but the highlight was the overwhelming number of volunteers who stepped forward to assist on the day. In the run up to the event it was uncertain how many people might be able to give their time but on the day we had around 30 parent volunteers allowing us to have the most efficient set up with us ready well ahead of the Fair opening at midday. The engagement was phenomenal and very reassuring. As such the event was very profitable.
- The ice-creams donations from a parent and the surplus at Staple Fitzpaine provided a huge boost for our fundraising. Such a simple, and generous gesture made a big impact on the children and the profits for the PTA.

5. Treasurer's Year End Report

- At the end of the 2021-2022 academic year the PTA achieved a profit of £8,558 (up from £5,937). This is a fantastic sum of money.
- Main revenue streams came from termly raffles (slightly less profitable than last year), the return of the disco in the summer term, Piddlewood Plod donation and cake sales, Pre-Loved Uniform, ice cream sales, clothing bank and Amazon Smile and the Summer Fair. Income generated through these activities totalled £11,794.
- Expenses increased to £3,236 over the year but this is inevitable with the return of some events which require an outlay on resources to make them a success.
- Key contributions from the PTA this year include a book for every child at Christmas, an Easter egg for every child at easter, Leavers Bus, music provision, commemorative jubilee pins and a new initiative of a book for each child joining Reception.
- We are grateful for the donations which come via AmazonSmile, Clothes Bank, Hydro Harriers, Ice Poles and Pre-Loved Uniform which have boosted profits considerably this year. All these revenue streams have seen an increase from the previous years which demonstrates that the take up of these initiatives is increasing. It was agreed that the PTA would promote the clothing bank and AmazonSmile with parents again in the coming weeks. **Action SLH.**
- Net Assets at the end of the 2021/2022 School Year are £18,969, with a surplus to remain on account for floats etc. this leaves us with £15,000 to spend.
- Thanks were expressed to Guy as Chair and to the rest of the PTA committee. Thanks were also expressed to the staff, parents and wider community. The success of the PTA relies entirely on a combined effort.

6. Governors' Report

- No Governor in attendance.

7. Head's Update

- Thanks were expressed to Guy Mock as Chair for his direction, communication, and vision. Grateful for the honest and open relationship between the School and PTA which makes it such a success.
- Thanks were also expressed to the PTA Committee, parents and wider community for their ongoing support.
- The last year has seen the return of parents onto site for drop-off/pick-up and for meetings which has been most welcomed.
- Keen to ensure that the work of the PTA is not just for funds but also to be part of a Parent Forum to help make the school work to its very best. A newly instigated Governors' Ethos Committee has been established and they are keen to involve more parents on this committee. Details will be circulated in due course.

Wish list

- Miss Kelloway would be grateful for assistance in upgrading the external learning/play area outside Reception. There are significant drainage issues on the playground which result in reception's external area frequently flooding during persistent rain so any upgrade would need to take into consideration that it will get wet.

- Desire to organise a community day over a weekend to repaint external areas that are looking tired.
- There is a need to update the IT provision and computing learning at the School which is limited due to the existing resources. The School requested help in funding some new Chromebooks which would allow Mrs Foster Burnell to advance the Computing Curriculum as a hole.
- Request for support in funding a tablet for each class which would be used to take good images for uploading onto Dojo/Tapestry to share the learning journey with parents.
- The PTA agreed that it would help with these areas as much as financially viable. It was agreed that we would look at the costs for all these items to determine a route forward.
- The idea of a community day was positively received and the PTA agreed to help make this happen.
- The annual £500 donation to each class is gratefully received by the staff at the school and would be gifted again this year. The PTA will look to increase this figure once costs for other items on the Wish List are understood.
- It was agreed that this information would be shared with staff and parents and that parents would also receive information on what resources have been purchased for the classrooms to keep them informed.

8. Nominations

Chair	Emily Taylor	Nominated by Guy Mock Seconded by Kerry Prisco
Vice Chair	Rachael Dean	Nominated by Sarah Hampson Seconded by Clare Strange
Treasurer	Kerry Prisco	Nominated by Emily Taylor Seconded by Rachael Dean
Secretary	Sarah Hampson	Nominated by Rachael Dean Seconded by Kate Newcombe

9. Forthcoming and Proposed Events

- Schedule of proposed PTA events for the academic year was presented and Mr Gillan will confirm the dates work with the school calendar.
- Once confirmed all dates will be shared with the PTA community to allow dates to be diarised.
- Save the Date posters will be published for the discos, cake sales, fairs over the coming weeks to help promote.
- Mr Gillan felt the events provided a good mix and would not put pressure on families to spend money at an increasingly difficult financial time.
- Events such as Book Day and Easter Egg hunts provide us with the opportunity to do events for the children without a cost to families.
- There is scope for additional events should anyone have an idea but the PTA will require people to own those events as there is little scope for more work to be put on to the Committee. The Committee will support those events in any way possible, but volunteers are required to make them happen.

10. Year 6 Leavers' Contribution

- It was unanimously agreed that the sum of £500 towards the Year 6 Leavers would be gifted once again this year.
- Clare Strange added that the money makes a significant difference to the organising of the Leavers event and is very much appreciated.

11. PTA Constitution

- The Constitution is a requirement set out by the Charity Commission. The PTA Constitution has not been updated for several years.

- Template from the Parentkind membership, provided by the Charity Commission had been adopted.
- Emily Taylor highlighted the requirement of two additional committee members and as such Phil Taylor and Kate Newcombe stood forward for the roles.
- Further clarification is required for section on Grievances.
- The changes were discussed in detail with minor changes agreed. The document was unanimously voted fit for purpose and will be submitted to the Charity Commission. **Action KP.**

12. Childcare Vouchers

- The request was raised pre-covid for all Childcare Voucher payments to be switched from the PTA bank account to the School.
- Mr Gillan requested the details be sent over to the Office for them to action.

13. Sports Kit & External Sports Events

- Clarity was sought on the use of PE kits at external events. Mr Gillan confirmed that the School has kit which can be used by any Thurlbear team at an event.
- The use of kit at cross country was raised and it was made clear that the on-going events run by SASP are in fact individual events and not School team events and as such children represent themselves and not the school. Interest in this event is growing and to provide a kit for this would be difficult with the unknown numbers involved. It was agreed that the school would offer guidance on what to wear to help the children feel part of a team.
- Teams are entered into these fixtures when staffing and timetable allow.
- The PTA offered assistance through parent volunteers to help attendance at events if it was deemed appropriate and necessary.

14. AOB

- It was requested that more information regarding PTA spend to be shared with the parental community to keep them informed. The PTA agreed to continue sharing information on upcoming events, monies raised and spend with the community via its various means.
- It was stressed that the sharing of information from the PTA does happen but can be incredibly disheartening when you receive no response or feedback. The community need to feedback to show they have read and seen items to help promote these items within our class groups.