



Committee Meeting - 15th January 2020

Present: Lucy Potter (Chair), Maria Lewis (Vice Chair), Lisa Silk-Hale (Secretary), Shelley Taylor (Treasurer), Anil Saksena (Researcher), Nicola Pottinger

Apologies: Alex Perrett (Treasurer), Sarah Pitcher

Looking back

Christmas fundraising made a fantastic £2,674 which will be a massive help towards the sensory garden at Birch Hill. This is up £28 from last year.

Looking forward

Those at the meeting discussed a number of ideas for 2020, listed below. These may not all happen but a wish list of sorts.

After school film – TBC

We discussed a date for a film night at school. Looking to arrange this the week before February half term, week commencing 10th February 2020. Mr Dillon to approve and suggest date so we can advertise as soon as possible.

Indoor Pre-loved sale – March TBC

Looking at 2nd week in March. This was a popular event last year. Friends to contact Scouts Hall to see if we can hire it free. This would be a weekend event. Mr Dillon to approve.

Race night – Date TBC?

We will discuss this further with Mr Dillon as an option and speak to Sue (School Caretaker) about her contact at the Community Centre to see if we can get a good price if we are unable to use the school as a venue for gambling.

Sally-Ann is happy to organise the event and Friends team will advertise.

Star Wars Day – May 4th

As this is not a bank holiday this year we thought it might be fun to have a Star Wars day or just a fun day where kids can dress up. The idea would be to dress up and bring in £1. Mr Dillon to approve.

Outdoor cinema – Date TBC

A deposit was already paid for this to go ahead in September 2019 but the company cancelled due to the terrible weather. We are therefore able to re-arrange this event for 2020. A date needs to be decided upon and needs to be a time of year where it is still dark early enough to start a film at about 7pm. Once a date has been confirmed we will ask parents to vote on the film via Facebook. Most popular suggestions so far are Aladdin and Frozen 2. Further discussions needed on pricing. Thinking perhaps Friday 3rd April 2020.

Summer Fete – Saturday 4th July

Date has now been confirmed as 4th July so the Friends team will start to reach out to stall holders. We discussed the following ideas which are to be further investigated:

- Costings for stall holders.
- Speak to Mrs Kerslake (Music Teacher) about each class performing again, school band, and choir.
- Pony/sheep/ferret racing rather than pony rides.
- Magician, free for children's entertainment.
- Card reader perhaps a phone app for the BBQ.
- Contact local police, fire brigade to see if they can attend.
- We would like to use the Reptile expert again and set up a photo booth for people to have their photo taken holding the reptiles for a small charge. Maria has a contact for another reptile expert so will compare prices.
- Investigate purchasing a PA system for use at the Fete and other events. Where could this be stored?
- Source bum bags after another local stall had their money stolen on an event.

Car Boot Sale

Discussed trialling this in the summer and using the school playground and buyers can park in usual parking. Lucy had some valuable feedback from Willow Bank School who run these regularly and make approximately £2,000 over 8 sales throughout a year. They charge £7 per vehicle and sell cakes, tea/coffee, sweets etc. Thinking a Sunday so not to compete with Will Bank School.

Family Quiz Night and/or Bingo with possible family disco

Feedback from some parents is that it would be nice to have the quiz night not be adults only. Adults one has been a great success so perhaps we could do both over the course of the year? If gambling involved (bingo) this potentially couldn't be held at school so investigate whether this could be held in the Community Centre. To be discussed with Mr Dillon.

Camping Weekend on School Field

All at the meeting think this would be lots of fun but are not sure if there is a reason it hasn't happened before therefore needs to be discussed with Mr Dillon. If this is approved we need to decide time of year and advertise date before holidays are booked. Perhaps during the summer holidays. We discussed a small charge for each pitch, selling food, tea and coffee etc, perhaps providing some evening entertainment.

Pitch and Putt

This is another idea to try something different at the school. Friends to contact Finchampstead who may be able to lend equipment.

Updates

Unfortunately Mr Dillon was unable to attend the meeting and therefore we will try and get an update on the below either before or at the next meeting:

- Rotary club regarding a grant.
- Longacres who may sponsor us and donate items such as seeds for the sensory garden.
- Application for a grant from the National Lottery.
- Where are we with sensory garden, how much do we need to make? What else are we raising money for?
- How is best for us to communicate with the school.

Any other business....

- Update on banking – A new spreadsheet has been created to show prior year comparison easily. All monies in the safe have now been paid into the bank (total of just over £5,000 in December. A float of £100 has been left in the safe. The charities commission has been updated, Lucy and Charley have been removed and Alex, Lucy and Shelley have been added. Internet banking has been applied for. The bank account is in the process of being transferred to Alex and Shelley from Lucy and Charley. Accounts are being processed for the charity return 2018/19. 2017/18 was submitted late so checking on the deadline for 2018/19. We need accounts for October and November as accounts passed to Lucy only went up to the beginning of October. Can't reconcile against banks statements as we don't know what transactions relate to (awaiting response from Lucy Cass on this). We need PayPal monies to be transferred into the bank account. This is currently linked to Lucy Cass so she has to do it as soon as possible. We need to be better with recognition of where the money raised is going. Also look into a giant cheque.
- Bracknell Lottery – Anil has done some research and we are already registered to this as a charity but he will now advertise how parents, grandparents etc can register to join.
- PTA Hub App – Lucy found this app we can all use if needed with tips and advice.
- Sarah Pitcher & Lucy Cass need to update the phone numbers on Friends email so that we can use it properly.
- When email issues are resolved Anil is going to set up a Friends Twitter account as another way to notify parents of what is happening and when.
- Thinking if outdoor cinema is early April we won't do a film evening but perhaps bring the pre-loved sale forward.
- Lucy has been in touch with a lady called Moira who has a business loaning out re-usable party plates, cups, cutlery etc where they deliver, pick up and wash up the items. She offers these free to non-profit organisations. We are not in need of this service at present but will keep details should the need arise.
- Ask parents for donations of items left from Christmas such as sweets, duplicate gifts, Christmas jumpers, Christmas pj's, dressing up clothes. We are looking for anything we could sell at the pre-loved sale or other events.

Next meeting Thursday 6th February 2020 18.30-20.00.

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Facebook: Friends of Birch Hill School