

Minutes

Friends of Longstone School

Meeting 26th April 2017

Present – Jenna Jackson, Kerry Darlow, Milly Holdsworth, Julie Cox, Jane Stirland, Gemma Harvey, Mark Taylor.

Apologies –Emily Swindell, Jo Mizon, Sandy Akenhead, Georgie Swift.

Action Points –

Jenna – Arrange and book bouncy castle for Summer Sizzle

Jenna – Put helpers sign-up sheet in hall for Summer Sizzle

Milly – Arrange and book photo booth for Summer Sizzle

Milly – Ask Bradwells Ice Cream for a donation for the Summer Sizzle

Milly – Look into prices for burger, sausages and pizza for Summer Sizzle

Milly – Do posters for Summer Sizzle

Milly – Do May Newsletter

Milly – To speak to Libby K-S about what was involved in previous popular events.

Kerry – Purchase items for Tuck & Tat at Summer Sizzle.

Kerry – Speak to Pre-School about Spring Table Top Sale.

Mark – To speak to dads about doing a stint on the BBQ at the Summer Sizzle

Jenna Jackson opened the meeting and the previous minutes from 7th March 2017 were signed off.

Agenda points –

1. Treasurer's Update

Kerry gave a verbal overview of the accounts as they currently stand.

The Curry & Quiz Night made a profit of £373. This is lower than in previous years and the reasons for this are believed to be because;

- We had 22 less people attending the evening this year than in 2016.
- The profits from Heads & Tails were donated to Red Nose Day as the event fell on the same day.

Emily Swindell took part in a run and took the opportunity to raise sponsorship money for FOLS. The total raised was £803 which is a fantastic amount. Emily has asked that the money be used towards outside play equipment for the children.

The Badminton club that uses the school hall pays subs each week and these are donated to FOLS. These have raised £315.

Easyfundraising has raised £72 in cleared funds and there are some more pending.

Two more leaves have recently been purchased for the Leaf4Life tree at a donation of £25 each.

The 2016 Christmas Cards made just over £100.

The Easter eggs for the Easter activities cost a total of £142.50.

The gambling license has been purchased for £20.

FOLS owes school for the balls for outside play, requested and agreed upon at the last meeting. A further £20 has since been spent on buckets for the balls and the attendees agreed to pay for these also.

We are still awaiting the Thompson Reuters fund matching monies to come through. Kerry has been in touch with Claire Colver about this to chase them up. There will be an update on this at the next meeting.

The total in the FOLS accounts is approximately £5,450. £2,200 of which has been set aside for larger funding projects.

2. Curry & Quiz Night

Jenna would like to thank all of the helpers for their input before, after and during the event. Thank you also to the White Lion for lending us the table clothes.

Gemma said how nice the event had been and with a good ambience, with candles, table clothes etc.

It was noted on the night and at the meeting that there was a lack of parents at the event. Some that had arranged to come also didn't show up on the night. Pre-school have had a table in previous years and didn't attend this year.

The group raised that rallying parents for these types of event used to be done by class reps but as there was no longer this role within FOLS this may stop many parents from getting involved.

Jane mentioned the possibility of encouraging parents to participate in future quiz nights in class teams. She also suggested the possibility of offering a lower price for pre-sale tickets so that we had a clearer idea of numbers ahead of the event. Tickets sales were largely on the door this year which meant that planning the food was tricky.

3. Easter activities

As always, the KS1 egg hunt was over in seconds. The children loved it and we saw lots of smiles.

The KS2 egg decorating competition had lots of fantastic entries and Gemma said how hard it had been to judge them. Thank you to Father James, Mrs Needham, Gemma and Jenna for judging.

Jane raised the point that we live in an affluent area and that she doesn't feel the children need an extra egg to be provided by FOLS. The attendees discussed why we do it and looked at the possibility of changing the activities for next year. This will be raised again at the meeting in September.

4. Summer BBQ date to be set and details discussed –

The date was set for Friday 7th July from 6-8pm. The name has been changed to the Summer Sizzle to reflect the change in catering plans.

As discussed at previous meetings, the plan is to get some of the Longstone dads involved in doing a BBQ. Mark offered to rally a few dads to do shifts on the BBQ's. It was decided that we would need at least 3 BBQ's and 6-9 dads to participate. Any dad doing a shift will get a free bottle of beer as thanks. Food offered will be burgers, sausages, bread baps and pizza (cooked in the kitchen). Milly will speak to Bradwells about the possibility of another donation of individual tubs of ice cream.

We will be hiring a small bouncy castle which Jenna will organise. This will be placed on the school playing field if the weather is good. In case of wet weather it will be moved into the school hall.

There will also be a photo booth at the event which Milly will organise. Due to an issue at last year's event we have been offered it for half price this year and will be making use of the offer. The attendees agreed to make a nominal charge of 50p for users of the photo booth, this will help to cover the cost but should provide a lasting memory for the children, particularly the year 6's.

Jenna has already started to send out raffle prize request letters to larger companies and is awaiting replies. The attendees discussed the need for us all to knock on business doors locally to ask for donations of raffle prizes.

The list of raffle prizes will be collated earlier this year to enable us to have pre-printed tickets made available for sale ahead of the event.

The attendees also discussed the charging for this event. It was decided that making it free to get in but charging a little bit more for the items for sale would be a better option. It has been hard to collect entry fees from everyone in previous years and will also prevent large numbers of children using the bouncy castle at any one time.

There will be the BBQ selling food, Tuck & Tat stall as at previous events but with less illuminating items due to the lighter nights, a bar selling a selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, the bouncy castle and raffle tickets sales.

Jenna will put a helpers sign-up sheet in the school hall to rally parental support ahead of the event. Helpers will be asked to do 1hr slots. Milly will put posters up around school to make families aware of the event.

Jane will again be holding the Nearly New stall at the Summer Sizzle and the theme will be children's outdoor toys and equipment, in preparation for the summer.

5. Greenhouse/Gardening Club

All of the flags required for laying the base of the greenhouse are now on site and will be laid by Mr Unwin very soon.

Gemma has been looking into 6ftx4ft greenhouses and has found an offer online where they are available for £249 with the staging being around £65. Jane offered to put a notice on freecycle to see if anyone locally is trying to get rid of one and will report back asap.

Mrs Unwin will run the gardening club and Gemma will send a request to parents asking them to donate any unwanted seeds, plant pots, compost etc to get the club started. She anticipates that it will start running in May.

6. Leaf 4 Life Update

As previously minuted, 2 new orders for leaves have been received. Kerry will speak to Jane Littlefield about what the minimum run is and if more are needed we will speak to parents directly to promote the initiative.

7. New Outdoor Equipment

Following Emily raising sponsorship money for outdoor equipment, FOLS members and Gemma have been looking into possible items to purchase. Gemma, Jenna and Emily had a meeting with an outdoor equipment provider in school but were underwhelmed by what was available. Jenna has looked at some catalogues and seen some great options but they are all very expensive. The attendees discussed the possibility of applying for lottery funding. The process is apparently complicated but worth looking into and the committee will do this with the help of Sally Needham.

The items of particular interest are equipment that encourages hanging, swinging and climbing as these activities have far reaching benefits for children.

The possible fabric of the structure was discussed and although wood looks lovely, it was decided that it takes too much maintenance in the longer term.

Gemma said that Mrs Gaywood had suggested a table tennis table as she knows of these in other school that are well used and loved by the children.

Gemma also raised that the children would benefit from more trikes and scooters as these are very popular. FOLS agreed to give £400 to school to spend on these items.

8. Any other fundraising ideas –

The attendees discussed the possibility of doing Tea Towels again this year. All of the children will be asked to do a self-portrait and these will be printed, along with all of the others children's pictures, onto tea towels for parents and families to purchase. These will be done leading up to Christmas so they can be bought as gifts.

We will once again be doing Christmas cards although this raised less in 2016 than in previous years. There are less funds available to teachers to purchase equipment for this activity and it was felt that this may have contributed to the poorer sales. Parents may be asked to donate unwanted craft items later in the year and they would be used for this.

Mark asked what FOLS events in previous years have made a good profit. The items that came to mind were the ferret racing with a pea & pie supper. Milly will speak to Libby K-S and John Fawcett about what was involved in this event. It is thought to at least need a bar, a kitchen and a betting handler. Simon Unwin is also thought to have some insight on what would be required.

A sponsored family bike ride was initially popular although this dwindled off over the 3 years it was held.

The Big Camp Weekend at The Royal Oak was very popular with a bouncy castle and face painting and many parents attending. Mark is keen to hold a camp out on his land but the issue of toilet facilities was raised by the group.

The Bat Walk was very popular with families. This is an event that FOLS would like to run again but would need to find a local ecologist who is willing to talk and explore the area with families in tow. The group will ask around locally.

Jane raised a suggestion of a 'clear your bedroom' table top sale where people from the local area are invited to hire a table and sell their items. The attendees liked the idea and Jane will look into the costs of hiring possible venues in Bakewell to attract more footfall. It would be held next Spring and there was a suggestion of asking Pre-school if they would like to combine it with their annual Nearly New Baby and Children's sale. Kerry will raise it at the next Pre-School meeting.

9. Any other business.

Mrs Gaywood has asked for FOLS to purchase a loud hailer and fog horn as school's previous ones are now broken. FOLS agreed to pay for these. She has also again requested sets of stilts for the children to use

during break times. Gemma said that they appear to be sold in sets of 4 for £189.95. The attendees agreed that if we could initially buy 2 sets of stilts we would consider it. There are still reservations about their safe and proper use during break times. Gemma will speak to Mrs Gaywood about the possibility of a safe use instruction session for the children prior to them being put out at play times. The group finally agreed that FOLS would pay for 2 sets and if we see that these are being used correctly and safely then we would be willing to purchase further sets.

The date for the next FOLS meeting is Thursday 15th June 2017.

An interim meeting will be set for final details of the Summer Sizzle.