



## Freshford PTA meeting

3 May 2018 7.30pm

The Inn at Freshford

Present: George Tomlinson (GeTo), Louise Rudall (LoRu), Harriet Pilkington (HaPi), Floss Childs (FICh), Shannon Neenan (ShNe), Jo Johnson (JoJo), Martin Whitbread (MaWh) // Apologies: Lucy Dunbar (LuDu), Caroline Villiers (CaVi), Amanda Barrington (AmBa), Sara Buchanan (SaBu)

### Action items

1. GeTo to ask Mrs Kile (LoKi) when next playground meeting is with a view to fix working plan by Summer and discussed whether an Aviva Community grant application would be appropriate; we/school would need to submit bid to Aviva by October 2018 deadline. Cttee agreed limiting large fixed items will make the limited space as flexible as possible.
2. GeTo to consult Mr Wishart (AnWi) on trophy cabinet idea, so that school have the final say on the design. Options have been sent to AW for selection and approval.
3. LoRu and FICh to find potential source of Christmas trees (Hartley Farm?), to liaise with JoTa re Bath school that do this successfully.
4. JoJo to close Uniform shop bank account and/or transfer balance to PTA in preparation for handover to LoRu
5. GeTo to raise Reading Buddies with AnWi

**A. Financial position** Amounts raised = **£25,633**, above the annual target of £18k. Well done all! A further £0.4k/month is expected from existing family subscriptions + uniform sales + planned events listed below. This has fulfilled an original promise to School of bridging a £10k TA funding gap which has diminished on joining the MAT. LoRu met with HeLo recently to ascertain future funding gaps but School has limited visibility currently.

**B. Bid writing** A submission has been made to **The Ernest Cook Trust** for outdoor play equipment in light of AnWi's interest in advancing playground facilities. Cttee noted significant prior parent-led planning effort was not progressed by School; also noted parent involvement in building outdoor play equipment at Freshford Pre-School.

**C. Sponsorship ideas** Cttee noted **Freshford Mill** developers are willing to sponsor more events. To be contacted ahead of all future events.

**D. Future events**

1. **Disco** – Cttee thanked KaSc in absentia for enthusiastically taking on the mantle
2. **Freshford Village Fete** – Cttee recognised FVMH School continues to contribute through volunteers etc. to enable the school to benefit from discounted rates for use of the hall.
3. **Fireworks** – No organiser; Caroline Ford trying to persuade Jemma to organise. Jo Taylor has comprehensive list of to-do list Pre-School did cake & pop-corn; PTA facilitated the rest of the stalls through parent volunteers. FC said

people would hang around longer if there was a fire. Potentially needs one Pre-School and 1 School coordinator. BBQ Bar. Open to whole village. GT to liaise with Caroline Ford.

4. **Christmas fair/products** – historical timing in a Friday afternoon is not accessible to most parents, so move to Saturday with food & bar to increase amount raised and happiness quotient, expect to raise £2.5k in 2-3 hours. GeTo and LoRu suggested with greater planning Cards could be a significant fundraiser. In the past @WestwoodPTA produced cards & giftwrap from children's thumb prints, these were sold in local shop. A more generic but joined up approach to this to be investigated. FICh suggested Ripe Digital is a useful local printing firm. LoRu suggested Christmas tree sales, following conversation with Jo Taylor, as another school has found this to be very popular.

5. **Clothing Swish** suggested by FICh for kids & adults c.£350 from 1x evening

#### **E. Concerns**

1. Last year a high level of parent volunteers read with children in School, 20 mins at the end of day, this appears to have reduced. MaWh suggested 'reading buddies' with older children
2. Local complaints around parking/congestion at school drop-off times has increased
3. Recognition that in recent years we have not seen any staff at the PTA meetings, perhaps the body's purpose should be re-examined at some point

#### **F. Uniform shop**

Cttee thanked JoJo for her excellent contribution and agreed responsibility would transition to LoRu over next few months

#### **G. Other business**

1. Clive is keen for a trophy cabinet to celebrate the School's successes – support agreed as per 'Action Items'.
2. Cttee agreed HeLo deserves praise for School's participation in Mid Somerset festival
3. Cttee agreed School would benefit from closer relationship with Parish Council(s) and impress on benefits of School to the village(s)
4. Agreed we would benefit from a greater understanding of what skills Freshford parents and others in the locality have to contribute to the School, e.g. Penny & Richard's outdoor classroom at Friary.
5. Connected to (4) agreed we can learn from other PTAs about activities and fundraising, e.g. circus event at one comparable primary school reportedly generates £5-6k (this PTA regularly raises £25-30k/year)
6. FICh suggested reintroducing the Line Up at Friday home time; stand up and deliver some good news. It was also a great forum for the PTA. Idea to rotate around classes to reduce pressure on AnWi.
7. MaWh suggested measuring and recognising parent volunteer hours – separate to donations – with rewards/incentives
8. Cttee noted the PTA's hardship fund is available in general and was funded by the profit from the Christmas card sales
9. We have agreed in principle to fund **more** self-learning/testing software licenses, and are currently waiting for numbers. LoRu to speak to Rebecca Kemp re details and finalise with AW

#### **H. Next meeting**

Scheduled for **Mon 9<sup>th</sup> July**.