

Minutes of the PTA Meeting held at Branton School on Thursday 15th October 2015 at 7pm

Present: The Chairperson (Abi Wilson), Treasurer (Helen Cowens), Zoe Ryan, Sarah Rogerson, Diane Laws, Michelle Smith and the Secretary (Coco Oates).

Apologies were received from Simon and Alice Landale, Claire Wood, Anna Wrangham and Bex Wilson.

The Chairperson called for an election of new office bearers. It was agreed that Abi Wilson would remain as the Chairperson, Helen Cowans as the Treasurer and Coco Oates as the Secretary. Diane Laws was proposed and seconded as the Vice Chairperson.

The Treasurer presented the report to all those at the meeting. The treasurer explained that there was still money to go out of the account for swimming for the term. She also explained that she was waiting to receive the invoices for the Nursery toys which had been bought earlier in the year. The PTA agreed to pay partly for the trip to the Life Centre in December. The cost in total was going to be 23 children @ £10.50 each plus the cost of the transport which would be approximately £165.00. It was agreed that the school should ask the parents to contribute £5.50 per child for the trip.

Mrs Ryan asked about tickets and transport to the Alnwick Garden to see Santa and the Northern Stage. Mrs Ryan explained that she had booked a trip to the Northern Stage for the pupils to watch a Christmas performance. After some discussion it was agreed that the PTA would cover the cost of this trip as a Christmas present to the Children from the PTA. Mrs Ryan agreed to confirm costs for this trip.

Future Events:

The Chairperson explained that the next event was the Halloween Party on Thursday 22nd October. Abi informed the committee that Breamish Village Hall is costing £35 to hire and the Disco is costing £70. The treasurer asked the chairperson how they wanted to be paid. Abi agreed to confirm these arrangements once she had found out. The Chairperson asked if everyone could please pass the word around about the party and to hang the posters to make the community aware that everyone is welcome. The Chairperson asked if anyone was available to allow the disco man into the Hall at 2.15pm, a few people said they would be and the chairperson said she would confirm who was doing this nearer the time.

The Chairperson asked who could help prepare food for the Disco; Sarah agreed to make 'Spider' buns, Helen agreed to bring Sausage Rolls, Diane agreed to make sandwiches. Michelle agreed to make 'ghost marshmallows', Coco agreed to bring Cucumber and Carrot sticks and crisps. Abi agreed to bring paper plates, cups, drinks and prizes for the dancing competition.

The Chairperson asked the committee about doing Christmas Pottery. She explained that this lady had been at the local shows in the summer and she thought would be fun. Mrs Ryan reminded the committee that this lady had in fact been at the school before and although it was a success it

had been tricky to find a large enough space for her to do the activity during a school day when there are children in both class rooms. It was agreed by everyone to not pursue this event.

The Chairperson proposed to not charge the public for entry into the Christmas Performance as a thank you for all their support during the difficult consultation period. However the Head pointed out that the money for the entry was usually used to pay for the children's Christmas presents from Father Christmas when he comes to visit. The committee agreed that we should still charge for entry but that after the performance the public should be thanked for all their help and support and offered a free drink.

After the Christmas Performance, it was agreed that the PTA would run a Raffle of approximately 8 prizes. The following people on the committee offered the following prizes.

Helen – Voucher for the Tankerville at Eglington

Sarah - Chocolate Prize!

Coco – one of Sybil's fruit cakes.

Abi – A voucher for the Butchers

Sarah suggested that we ran a Silent Auction where there were 3 or 4 good items. Sarah said that her husband could offer a voucher for an afternoons labour. Mrs Ryan offered the old Kitchen Scales from the school kitchen, Michelle agreed to ask Graham about making a tree out of horse shoes. Abi agreed to ask Dave the log man for a donation and also ask Anna about an aerial shot of the local area. The secretary agreed to include a note in one the letters going out in early November to ask for further raffle and auction donations.

Celebration Party! The Chairperson discussed that we needed to think about having a party once we have the good news that the school is not to close in 2017! It was agreed that it would be held at Ingram village hall and there would be key people invited and it would be a big celebration! The treasurer asked if Mrs Ryan could confirm what happens with the PTA funds should the school close. Mrs Ryan reported that it remains the funds of the PTA and cannot be touched by the Council.

Sponsored Walk After some discussion it was agreed that as there is a sponsored walk for Sports Relief in the Spring which the school take part in each year, we would not organise a separate one.

Diane asked about holding a Summer/Garden Fete in the School Field in July, open to the public, to double up as an 'open day' for the school where we could have stalls, bouncy castle etc. Diane also suggested having a 'Bake off' competition on the day which would be open to the public. It was agreed that this would be lots of fun and the event would need lots of advertising. Diane agreed to organise a meeting in February to start making plans for the event.

Charity Shop. The Chairperson asked the committee if they thought of the PTA should run a charity shop again. It was agreed that it is a good money raiser and should be arranged. Diane agreed to investigate the old Collectables shop in Alnwick, which Whittingham School had used successfully earlier in the year. Diane also agreed to research other possible pop-up shops in

Alnwick. It was agreed that even though the shop in Wooler had changed location it had been a success last year and so Abi agreed to investigate dates for the Wooler shop also.

The Chairperson asked about people's thoughts for the Bag Collections after the Charity Shop for anything which is not sold. Abi reported that the Air Ambulance pay very little now and wondered about another charity. Helen agreed to investigate other bag collections.

The Chairperson asked if the Secretary could put together a note to go out before half term of Future Events, to include the Social night which Diane agreed to organise, Bonfire Night at Calder on the 7th November and a Community Tidy Up in the School Field on Saturday 14th November.

The Chairperson asked if there was any other business. Mrs Ryan reported that the Toddlers Group on a Thursday morning had been poorly attended recently and she asked if the committee could try and encourage people to come back. It was agreed that some posters would be put up around the local area and that the information about the group should be put on facebook.

The Chairperson asked for a date for the next meeting. It was agreed that it would be Thursday 14th January at 6pm.

Meeting Ends 9.30pm