

Minutes for Cavendish PTA meeting 29.04.12

Present: Rachel Boyd, Jen Barnes, Nick Chadwick, Khadeija Mahgoub, Rahmad Jamu, Tracey Clare, Simon Manning, Rob King, David Griffiths, Carol Spiller, Carolyne Allmark, Clare McCarron

Apologies: Janet Marland, Suzannah Reeves

1. Treasurer's report

The St Patrick's Day disco was a success raising just over £300. The PTA currently has around £10.5k in the pot which includes around £500 already committed to fund activities later in the year, after which there will then be just less than £10k left to spend.

The PTA would typically raise around £7k each year but this year's boost was obviously as a result of the success of CavFest.

Tracy Clare has agreed to put some photos of the new kiln on the PTA notice board.

2. Gardening update

Leonie is concerned about the number of children attending Gardening Club when she is managing the session on her own. The club is currently attracting around 20 pupils a week but this is on a casual basis - pupils do not need to book their sessions in advance like with other after school activities, nor do they need to pay.

Muted that some parents are just using the club as substitute childcare but there are a core group of regulars who clearly enjoy coming along.

Agreed that the best way to manage and simplify the situation is to bring in a term-time teaching assistant to help Leonie keep the children contained and guard safety during the sessions and to make club chargeable at £1 per pupil per session, with pupils having to sign up and commit on a half-termly basis.

Agreed **David Griffiths** will organise the TA and **Tracy Clare** will send out a letter letting parents know about these changes (done) and that ParentPay would be ready to take bookings from the first Monday back after the Easter holidays, in advance of the first session on the Wednesday of that week.

Agreed the club could take up to 25 pupils with the extra TA support.

4. Events for rest of the school year.

Summer Fayre:

Clare McCarron suggested replacing the traditional summer Fayre format with a mini Olympic Games and Rob King has looked in to bringing in an outside professional sports company to run the event for us.

The Fayre would still have the usual stalls etc and would be open to pupils and their families only.

Need a £4-500 investment to bring a company in and fund trophies, medals etc.

Agreed a sports sub-committee of Rob King, Clare McCarron, Khadeija Mahgoub and Nick Chadwick to meet separately and progress. Set the date for Saturday 5th July.

Didsbury Festival:

16th June. Agreed take part again and **Simon Manning** will send the forms off.

Will take two pitches and have the bouncy castle, drinks, tuck, helium balloons/inflatable hammers to sell plus ponchos and tie-dye bags.

5. Payroll Giving

A system parents can set up online with their employer's payroll department so that they can donate a set amount of their choosing from their salary to the school every month, before tax and national insurance is taken out. Great idea as this would potentially give the PTA a guaranteed regular 'income'.

Agreed we need to gauge interest from parents before going ahead and **Carole Spiller** is going to find out more information about it, whether there may be charges to set it up etc. and to draft letter to send out to parents to see if there is any interest.

6. Cavendish Cookbook

Started the project around two years ago and agreed it is well worth pursuing and finishing. Needs 20 more pages of recipes to complete it with two recipes per page (so up to 40 more recipes needed).

There have been two new pupil intakes since the project started and several new local restaurants opened up who may be able to provide a new source of recipes for the book.

Si Manning is going to email round the latest version of the cookbook and we will aim to complete it in time to sell at the Christmas Fayre.

Clare McCarron and **Rachel Boyd** agreed to progress and **all** to think of how and where we can source more recipes from.

7. Teachers' Requests

The school is spending over £4k fencing off the school playing fields over the Easter holidays to increase security for pupils and to stop the frequent fly-tipping and vandalism. The wooded area at the back of the fields will also be cleared out, a 2-metre security gate at the car park entrance installed and the whole area will also be health and safety checked.

Suggested United Utilities may be able to provide a grant to cover some of the costs following the Burton Road sewer works disruption. (**Tracy Clare/Rachel Boyd to look into this**)

Could also host a BBQ day using the new BBQ, inviting parents to donate an hour or so of their time on an allotted Saturday to help clear the fields.

Agreed that the PTA would donate £3000 of funds to this request.

8. AOB

Janet Marland, Clare McCarron and Rachel Boyd have recently entered the PTA into two awards for the CavFest and Bonfire events, which come with a cash prize. Watch this space!

Date for me PTA meeting - Thursday 10th May.