

Friends of the Ridgeway AGM - 09/07/2019

Attendees: Helen Benson, Claire Collier, Ann Marie Funk, Lisa Marsh, Karen Midgen, Jenny Nicholls, Amanda Stanmore, Kathy Thomson

Apologies : Vikki McHallam, Pippa Chapman, Nicky Glazier, Emma Muller, Jane O'Brien, Helen Sharp

Summary of last 12 months activities

Coffee mornings and lunches

These were generally not very well attended apart from the Mindfulness tasters and subsequent course. Some events had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest. It has been decided that for the time being, these coffee mornings and lunches will be replaced by Café Chat which is organised by school.

Fundraising Events attended by the Friends and organised by Helen Benson

Picnic in the Park was very successful in spite of competition from other cake stalls located nearby. Location of the tea stall was not ideal, away from main music and events to be talked about with the organiser if attended again. Helen Benson and Natalie Sawtell, now have a useful list of things to take and make the day run smoothly for future occasions.

The Farmers Market charity tea stall also raised a good sum of money. Dates for next year's stall need to be decided by September. It was decided that the end of April was the best time for the Friends to have the charity stall.

It was asked if street collections have ever been tried or considered in the way Challengers collect. It was discussed that a license is required but believed that school has buckets for collection. The question was raised about the location of minutes from previous meetings as it was believed that there is most likely information in them from previous discussions about street fundraising and other similar questions and discussions which have been had in the past.

Phil the Bag

This year the collection of items raised £87.50 which was a disappointing sum compared to previous years. This raised the matter of accountability of the scheme and their code of conduct. It was discussed whether there are other similar schemes which could be considered. Bag 2 School was mentioned. It was also asked whether the wider community and the church could be involved in collections; the church being mentioned as a possible storage site for the black bags which can be problematic at school due to lack of space. It was decided that this could be considered after more information is received on the schemes and a decision made about the way forward.

Christmas Fayre

This was a very successful event raising £2,000. The success was largely due to the raffle ticket sale. This year the date is 30th November which is a Saturday and hopefully will increase attendance. Helen Sharp has agreed to take on the main responsibility for organising and running the fair with her students. She will be able to call on the help of a group of previous parent helpers.

Sponsorship of the event is key and needs to be organised. It was mentioned that, from experience, estate agents as sponsors can be problematic as they require their boards to be displayed and this was not easy to arrange with parents on previous occasions. It was agreed that the sum of £500 would be considered for sponsorship.

Parent participation and communication

The ongoing matter of how to involve more parents and in particular new parents was discussed. It was agreed that the Facebook page is a successful means of communication. The newsletter was deemed to be another good way to include parents.

Treasurer's Report

Summary of main expenditure

New Christmas Decorations	101.20
Children's summer trips 2019	1400.00
Children's xmas gifts	540.00
Staff cakes	249.30
Leavers hoodies 2018	174.65
Shed contribution and gardening equipment	317.86
Farnham Carnival Contribution	272.86

Summary of main income

Christmas fayre (inc sponsorship)	2205.65
Parent quiz night	1509.55
Easyfundraising	494.84
Farnham Farmers Market	282.00
Mr C Benson (payroll)	240.00
Xmas productions raffle	243.00
Phil the Bag	453.50
Picnic in the Park	492.30
Northbrook	20.30
Charitable Donations	159.93
Xmas Puddings	22.00

Questions asked about how the money spent on the carnival was used. Also, questions asked about the money raised from the carnival. It is believed that money collected is shared out between charities. Unclear if the Ridgeway receives any money from this.

It was agreed that more information about Easy fundraising and Amazon Smile is needed and decided that this needs to be publicised again. Not many of those present knew how to access Easy fundraising. This could be mentioned in the Newsletter?

Give as you earn was discussed as an easy way to raise funds and the question raised about whether this should be promoted to parents. It was felt that perhaps this wasn't appropriate at the Ridgeway School but remained a question for future discussion.

It was decided that Northbrook wrapping paper and Christmas puddings could be left behind as didn't have great appeal.

Election of Officers

Karen Midgen was elected as chair

Lisa Marsh elected as vice chair

Amanda Stanmore elected as secretary

Helen Sharp re-elected as treasurer

It was agreed that there would be a group of core members who would agree to commit to meet on a monthly basis. Roles and responsibilities would be spread across this core group so that no particular person felt they were carrying the sole weight and responsibility.

AOB

Darryl's wish list

The Friends haven't had so much expenditure this year and have money in the account. It was agreed to contact Darryl and ask him if there is anything on his wish list which the Friends could purchase.

Should the Friends be renamed/rebranded?

The question was raised as to whether the Friends should be renamed. Should it be PTA for example? For the moment it was agreed that there would be no change.

The question was also raised about the role of the Friends and their fundraising efforts. Those present felt unclear about where the Friends sit in relationship to school fundraising in general carried out by the business manager. It was felt that it would be helpful to ask Darryl Morgan for his view on the role of the funds raised by the Friends. It was agreed that a termly meet up with Darryl would also be desirable.

Future fundraising

A more targeted future fund raising for individual classes to provide what is really needed was discussed. This would also have the additional bonus of getting parents more involved in what the Friends are trying to achieve and teachers as well. Individual teachers and parents to be asked what they would like in their children's classroom.

Darryl Morgan came to the meeting with flowers for Ann Marie and Helen Benson and thanked them for all they have done.

Mindfulness

The mindfulness course was discussed and that Hannah, the facilitator, had offered a considerable reduction in her rates to the group. It was decided that a gift should be bought for her and given at the last session on 20th September. It was also decided to talk to Hannah about how to continue the mindfulness in the future.

ACTIONS

Farmer's market - *Helen Benson to request April date*

Street fundraising - *Lisa Marsh to enquire with the council about licenses*

Past minutes - *Karen Midgen to ask Vikki McHallam and school office for whereabouts*

Phil the Bag - *Amanda Stanmore to investigate alternative schemes*

Christmas Fayre - *Lisa Marsh to head up the search for a sponsor*

Newsletter - *Amanda Stanmore to take over responsibility. Karen Midgen to help if needed.*

Targeted class fundraising - *core committee to discuss implementation of this further at next meeting*

Meetings - *KM to set meeting dates and contact Darryl next term on behalf of the committee*

Armchair fundraising- *Lisa Marsh to liaise with Ann Marie Funk about Easy Fundraising Amanda Stanmore to write about this in the newsletter?*

Darryl's wish list -*Karen Midgen to speak to Helen Sharp about a suggested figure and either KM or HS to email Darryl.*

Mindfulness – *Kathy Thomson to arrange a gift and get to the Mindfulness group before 20th Sept*