

Minutes - Nov. 16 PTA Meeting & AGM

Regular PTA Meeting

Present: Lone Olsen (co-chair), Damien Austin-Walker (co-chair), Debby Nelmes, Matthew Cowley, Lorna Moxham, Richard Williams, Kevin Keenoy, Kristina Roszynski, Catherine Farror, Fritha Flint, Mike Howard, Sharon Noble, Noga Verber, Tracey Preston, Claire Healey, Susie Timlin, Mary Shipley, Janeen Gatty, Susanne Pugsley, Susi Simon, Poppy Giles.

Apologies: Emily Macdonald

1. September minutes approved
2. Year 7 & 8 quizzes - Post Event Summaries provided by LO
3. PTA Xmas raffle via Parentkind - signed up and on Facebook. (MC)
4. Gambling license update, renewal due next November (MC)
5. The school's winter concert will be virtual this year; the school has opted for more caution after the disappointment of the year 7 inter-house competition canceled at the last minute because of covid cases.
6. PTA annual quiz night could be held in February or March but it's too soon to decide a date given the covid uncertainties. Will reevaluate in January.
7. Second hand uniforms - KR will take on this task from LO. Someone has moved the uniforms into the PTA's storage unit in the car park where it won't last long because of damp and mould. SN to discuss moving to the school's test centre where there is additional space.
8. Sixth form xmas disco idea cancelled due to covid. Perhaps an event can be held in July and the Year 13s can come back
9. Fundraising update from SN
Mental health -- £1000 from Tesco will be used to train more school staff to cope with mental health challenges in school and have more capacity.
We Are Beyond donated £4000 after seeing the achievements of the school so far.

Requests for funding:

A) The gym room in the new sixth form block needs £5,000 -- approved

Overall project needs £15,000 to be equipped.

Mr Halsworth raised £4800 from the marathon run

An anonymous doner has agreed to put in £5000 if the FoCGA will match with £5000

B) CAD design package need four pens for iPad software, total cost approx £1,600 -- approved

C) Philosophy, Beliefs and Ethics department wants £3,500 for mural -- approved

The PBE department has been working with a company called Paint The Good. They will select 20 students from years 8 and 9 to work with a historian on social justice over three to four days. They feed their ideas to a professional artist who draws them and makes into a mural, which will go along the wall by the department in the new building

All three projects approved with no objections.

10. The canopy is complete, FoCGA contributed £10000 towards the total cost.

11. Restarting park run - this idea may be revisited in March.

12. Estate agents board sponsorship - FF to revisit.

13. Xmas trees sale in partnership with Ravenstone primary school - LO

Details on Facebook, to be collected Dec 5. at Ravenstone. Deadline to order is Nov. 26.

They asked whether any CGA students would like to busk in the playground to create ambience on Sunday

14. School trips. A question was raised about the lack of school trips. The

school used to have a reputation for running lots of good school trips. NV replied that as a result of covid the school is still struggling with staff shortages and so there's not enough capacity to run authorised school trips. The school is looking at preparing some big projects for the summer term.

15. Communications from the school to parents can sometimes misfire. Some comms are sent via one channel (eg MCAS) but others are sent via email and then some are discussed on FoCGA's Facebook page. That inconsistency can be confusing. Can this be streamlined. NV suggested the school has had problems due to two major shutdowns with Bromcon, the platform that provides communications services. NV asked for parents to send in feedback as sometimes the school isn't aware of these problems. One suggestion was to establish a communications subgroup. NV to discuss with senior leadership team.

16. MH asked about how the Duke of Edinburgh scheme will be run this year. It seems it will be going ahead for year 10 and above, although dates not yet confirmed. Update to be sought from Mr Halsworth.

17. The school's exams officer is looking for school invigilators to help during the exam seasons in November, January, May and June. People are recruited per session and pay is around £12 an hour. These are people helping with the invigilating and not responsible or in charge of the session. "You're not the person in charge, you're just helping the person in charge".

Contact exams@chestnutgrove.org.uk

18. Next meeting to be held on a Tuesday in January, date TBC.

Annual General Meeting

Present:

Committee: Lone Olsen (co-chair), Damien Austin-Walker (co-chair), Debby Nelmes, Matthew Cowley, Lorna Moxham, Richard Williams, Kevin Keenoy,

Kristina Roszynski, Catherine Farror, Fritha Flint, Mike Howard, Tracey Preston.
Non-committee: Claire Healey, Susie Timlin, Mary Shipley, Janeen Gatty,
Susanne Pugsley, Susi Simon, Poppy Giles, Richard Cheesbrough, Antonia
Miles, Paul Hepworth, Sharon Noble, Noga Verber.

Apologies: Emily Macdonald

Chair Update (LO):

Last chair report was in February, when the meeting was held virtually (this had been delayed from November 2020 due to covid lockdown).

The objective of the committee is to raise funds and build good social and community links with parents and teachers. Very few events took place this year because of covid, but some fundraising was done.

The online PTA Summer Raffle raised £634.5; the second-hand uniform sale raised £420, the Year 8 quiz raised £1,734 and Year 7 raised £1,200.

There were various donations including from parents during the year.

Post Event Summaries received for the Year 7/8 quizzes.

The Facebook page has become an important channel of communication for the PTA and also for the school. Followers have increased to 436 from 230.

Financial update (DN):

As of Nov. 1 the PTA had £34,117 on account.

Much of the income was received through Virgin Giving and various appeals. There was one large donation from a parent.

SN is doing market research for an alternative to Virgin Giving, which is closing down.

The school is now registered with HMRC to receive donations and get Gift Aid so this no longer needs to be done through the PTA.

Committee votes:

Committee members re-elected:

Lorna Moxham, Richard Williams, Kevin Keenoy, Kristina Roszynski, Catherine Farror, Fritha Flint, Mike Howard, Tracey Preston, Emily Macdonald, Damien Austin-Walker.

New committee members elected:

Susanne Pugsley

Susie Simon

Claire Healey

Susie Timlin

Matthew Cowley re-elected as Secretary

Debby Nelmes re-elected as Treasurer

Lone Olsen and Damien Austin-Walker both stepped down as co-chairs.

Damien elected to stay as committee member.

Susie Timlin elected as the new chair.