

St Andrew's School Association (SASA)

Committee meeting

Tuesday 15th September 2020, 8pm, by Zoom

MINUTES OF MEETING

1) PRESENT:

Jill Horner (Chair) Liz Hurran (Vice-Chair), Helen Reid (Vice-Chair), Vikki Simpson (Communications), Anna Chamberlain (Secretary), Nichola Heer, Rachael Farnsworth, Richard Cohen, Jason Clarke, Eleanor Cameron, Vanessa Clipstone, Mazz Image, Emily Johnstone, Katie Small, Robin Danely, Rachel Smith-Phiri, Anita Matadeen, Tom & Goshia Adams, Fatou Drammeh, Catherine Boase-Davies, Mansi.

2) Welcome & apologies

Apologies received from Ian Johnstone, Paul Tucker, Iryna, Dorota Luksza, Katharine Barber.

JH welcomed everyone to the meeting with particular thanks to Rainbow new parents for attending. Keeping the school community spirit alive is particularly important during these unusual times.

Welcome to the new committee – Jill & Liz stay on until Christmas as Chair & Vice-Chair, with Helen, Vikki & Anna new in post as Vice-Chair, Communications & Secretary respectively.

Welcome new Year 5 class rep : Emily Johnstone, with thanks, alongside Mazz Image
Year 3JC missing 1 rep to help alongside Anna. Anyone willing, please contact Anna or Jill.
Year 4 – Liz needs another rep to support (Vanessa subsequently offered & confirmed)

3) Minutes from last meeting (AGM)

Approved.

NB. All minutes of previous meetings are accessible on SASA pages of school website and sent out via Parentmail.

4) Treasurer report

Closing balance: £3523. Recently given £4,000 towards KSI outdoor area, and regular classroom monies. Recent incomes from Lockdown Quiz, Easy Fundraising (more below), & online sales and second-hand uniform. Some earmarked for Hardship Fund which all agreed was important to support.

RSP: Suggested communicating to Rainbow parents about existence of hardship fund. Jill to do.

JH keen for SASA's continuing transparency of accounts & notified all that accounts are always available to see.

[Addition since meeting: Jane Burd currently arranging annual September audit of SASA's accounts. JH.].

5) SASA support this year

KS1 outdoor area renovation & expansion: Main focus this year for SASA fundraising as agreed with Jude Bennett.

JC: This will be a costly renovation - ~£50-70K – for an enclosed, outdoor, fully equipped learning space including storage. Longevity & quality are key.

Meeting next week to discuss ideas and waiting for detailed quotes. Jude Bennett & Jane Burd looking at costings. Aiming towards a timescale of next summer.

Area behind canteen:

JC: 3-5 people volunteering to level the area during Oct half term to make it a usable space and JC to notify SASA if more hands needed. New school council will discuss ideas for the area with legacy money of £1000 to spend. Utilising all available outdoor ground is important.

Mrs Walker: Home-School Link Worker providing St Andrews' families with extra support.

JH: last year we gave helpful funds, including for a dolls house used for therapeutic child support in Mrs Walker's groups; of which valuable regular use has been made. With Covid, SASA recognise the ever-increasing importance of this work, & would like to contribute some funds again – all in agreement.

Class charities:

JC: the School Council's first meeting is next week. Instead of the usual whole school initiative, this year individual classes will each support a local charity and hold activities in the classroom.

Jeans for Genes:

JH: this came in via SASA parent with thanks, and non-uniform day with donation will be held this Friday 18th to raise money for children affected by genetic disorders.

6) SASA initiatives (community & fundraising)

Coffee Morning – last Fri 11th was well-attended (successfully maintaining social distancing) in Bury Knowle (24 parents, and pleased to have 11 parents from Rainbows). Lovely atmosphere and suggested we hold in park where possible in future years.

Recipe book with submissions from parents/teachers –

NH: Initial plan to launch in July fell through due to lockdown, now revisiting. Planned supplier has recently shut UK office so NH has received quote from local printer "Planet Positive Printing" who have good eco credentials. Hoping for more competitive pricing to avoid high price per book. Idea to create in time for Christmas purchases. Discussed whether better to launch in the summer. Discussion took place around pricing, and perhaps a lower minimum price with options to donate more to ensure all parents who wished to purchase a copy could do so.

School has great history of parent contribution, plus teachers would like to contribute.

VC offered help with design, and MI too.

Photography Competition & Calendar: EJ's idea was shared of a photography competition, produced into a calendar. Suggesting Autumn Watch theme. Aiming for Christmas sales. EJ & JH to follow up.

Christmas: Much more limited this year - sadly unable to carry out our usual annual Christmas Fair. However, all keen to think of alternative ideas – discussion ensued..

LB: suggested Zoom chat with Father Christmas! – virtual grotto

JH: could still look into selling Christmas trees/wreaths.

Christmas raffle could still go-ahead. VS has ideas about virtual drawing of names using “Wheel of Names”. Discussion about online vs paper tickets. Ideally both options (online & paper) would be offered this year, if resource/restrictions allow. Need to get the license first and speak to Jude.

JH: brainstorm ideas now and make decisions nearer the time once current restrictions known.

Only raffle needs to be planned earlier for prizes – VS & Dorota to follow up.

Other fundraising ideas offered:

- Chain poetry email / competition
- Online curry & quiz night (VC to visit Bhoomi Kitchen to discuss possible discount deal for St. A. parents the night of the quiz & report back. EC: suggested break-out rooms on Zoom to discuss quiz questions & replicate “teams”).
- Fun class photos
- Online sales with proceeds to SASA (bikes, uniform etc)
- T-shirt design
- Non-uniform days
- Sunflower-growing competition after Easter
- Sponsored sporting challenge
- Cooperation with local businesses
- Coin hunt around house – donate what you find.

RSP: Suggested tie in with an environment theme: “Donate your commute” now so many parents are WFH – ties in with air pollution reduction. JC to look into the idea.

VC: sporting challenge- how far can you travel? Run/cycle/walk and record mileage.

RC: parents are missing meeting up and new Rainbow parents are missing out on community spirit. Can we encourage responsible (socially distanced, no more than groups of 6) interaction – put people in touch for walks/chats etc.

Buddy system suggested – Quarry and Big St A parents. Maybe drop-in calls once a week to answer questions to provide focus. Class reps could gauge interest. Could be useful for other year groups too to ask about older years.

RD: Rainbow returning parents can be a liaison/link too.

Decided that Eleanor, Helen, Rachael & Robin can monitor and keep in touch with us to let us know what might be helpful.

VC: good to have an activity for children to enjoy over Oct half term

7) Communications/External

VS: Priority is promotion of Easy Fundraising on Facebook & Whatsapp groups.

£2300 raised so far since 2016. Last quarter £202 raised. 70+ supporters.

Expected that money might go down if people have holidays cancelled.

3rd Sept we signed up to Amazon Smile – currently 10 supporters, 30 transactions. We get paid in batches of £5. People encouraged to get the app on phone and to consider SASA as the charity of their choice.

We've sold some items via FB. Looking into a "Donate Now" button for instant donation (gift aid eligible). Could be good for school uniform sales. Several people have unwanted school uniform – Liz to investigate solutions to match up those who want to donate uniform with those who need it and will speak to Vicky Westall.

VS to investigate companies offering money in return for used ink cartridges.

8) AOB

RF: Update from Katharine Barber on School Streets initiative to reduce traffic in built up areas around Headington.

Meeting of local headteachers (including JB) in July. Windmill pilot, from Oct half term, some of Margaret Road to be closed to traffic during school drop-off & pick-up (going right at end of Wharton Road).

Headington Liveable Streets: waiting to hear if they've got funding from council. Likely to be trial bollards/planters possibly on St Leonard's, towards Windmill Rd.

Idea is not to stop traffic in these areas but to slow it down and reduce cars using it as fast cut through.

Lockdown commemorative book: Rachael continuing working on this record of what it was like for the school community during lockdown - a copy will be available to view in school – not for general sale. Submissions still welcome. Final reminder to send photos/memoirs before the cut-off deadline of end October.

JH reminded everyone that she and Liz are looking for successors to be Chair and Vice-Chair from January. If anyone is interested, please contact Jill.

9) Next Meeting:

JH thanked everyone for coming. Next meeting: Monday 9th November, 8pm (venue likely Zoom)