

Struthers Fundraising Group

AGM

Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 17 May 2016 7pm, Struthers staff room

Claire Kirk (CK) opened the meeting by thanking those who had attended. She asked Susan Kirk (SK) to do the review of the last minutes.

Review of last meeting minutes

SK advised that as the last meeting was in January, it covered mainly the results of the Christmas fair and the card and calendar sales, as it was the first meeting post-Christmas. We also discussed the proposed dates for bag packing at Morrisons but unfortunately due to lack of helpers this did not go ahead.

Jane Houston (JH) has been asked if there were any items in particular the school would like financial assistance with and it had been suggested that they would like to buy further staging and set equipment to use in future school productions. **Update for 17/05/16** – the school production pencilled in for June is no longer taking place, therefore this is not required at the moment.

Discos were planned for February – these went ahead but again struggled with support for volunteers for the upper end session, p4-7.

Chairperson yearly report

CK opened by confirming, as already advised to the group and the school, that she would be standing down as chair this evening, after one year in post. CK advised that it had been a very demanding year and due to pressures from her new job, as well as an impending house move at the end of the summer, it would be too much to stay in the role full time. CK said she had enjoyed the role despite the challenges, and was relieved to be able to say that now the figures were finalised, it looked like a fair result for the group too!

The bag packing hadn't gone ahead, and due to the huge success of the Sport Relief mile sponsored event, it had also been agreed that the sponsored bounce would now be pushed back to the beginning of the 16/17 school session.

CK said she had reviewed some sites offering bouncy castles and inflatables and that there were some with bouncy assault courses. She thought this might be more appealing for the children and perhaps could then bring in the support of the PE teacher to help with completing the course, and introducing some practice to the classes, as they had with the mile run for Sport Relief.

This year's successes included the Summer Fair, the psychic night, last year's bag packing, as well as the discos and the Christmas Fair/sales of cards and calendars.

The group currently sit with over £7k in the bank, which represents a great effort.

CK gave special thanks to Angela Boyd for her role as Treasurer, as well as her efforts in supporting Claire throughout the year. She also thanked Andrea Baird for her assistance in providing printed materials and also for stepping in to assist with the Breakfast club shopping every week.

CK confirmed that Angela has agreed to stay on in her role for a further year, but will very much be stepping back to only do the financial accounts, having provided full on support to the Chair for many years. CK confirmed that the new chair will need to then agree how to move forward with arranging the discos, especially volunteers to support at the events, as this has mainly fallen to Angela over the years.

CK advised she will stay for the remainder of the term, to pull together anything we have in place and ensure the new Chair is in a position to move forward in 16/17.

SK will stay on as secretary for a further year.

No one person present wished to be proposed as Chair, although Andrea advised she would co-chair, it would need to be with someone who could take on the day to day contact with the school, which work commitments would not allow her to do. For several of the group this is the same issue, work constraints do not allow the full time role, although some would be happy to share it. CK said she would also be willing to co-chair if no one person could take the role on.

As it has previously been suggested that the group could merge with the Parent Council, this was discussed as a potential solution. Corrie Duncan currently attends both groups and felt that this would be positively received by the Parent Council. JH said she was happy to approach Kirsten Gallacher, the current Chair of the parent council to suggest this for the 16/17 session.

Head teacher's report

JH opened by thanking the group for their efforts, stressing again just how vital the assistance given is to the school, and will be even more so as budgets become tighter next year. The school really appreciate the help this gives to allow the children to have experiences both in and out of school that simply wouldn't be possible on the funding the school has available. Looking around the school the evidence of this is clear, with iPads, televisions, interactive whiteboards, and playground equipment.

JH thanked Claire for her time as Chair and especially remarked on how easy the communications have been between the school and the group. She also thanked everyone for their support with events and organising the groups, mentioning Angela and Andrea for their help with the Breakfast club.

JH confirmed that the first item on the calendar for next year's fundraising will be the sponsored bounce and again this shows how the group not only help the school but prioritise the children. The children remember the good parts of their time at school and this all helps make that a success.

JH confirmed that the welcome meeting for new P1 parents is next Tuesday and suggested that someone from the group might want to come to represent the work we do, and help to encourage new members to join.

End of year Financial Report

Breakfast club – as the bank account is operated separately from the group accounts, CK started with the details of this. Currently there is a balance of £1600 in the bank with the let for the premises at £400 per quarter, this would be left in the bank as a float to cover costs. The bank account will therefore continue as it is, with no withdrawal of funds for the school, until the end of the next year and the annual review, when the position will be discussed again.

There was some discussion as to whether the group should make parents aware of the potential for surplus funds being used by the school, as with any funds raised, however it has been made widely known that the group are maintaining the breakfast club in the time being in order that the school still has the facility. (South Ayrshire Council no longer assist with the operation of the breakfast club)

It was agreed that a review of the numbers of children attending the breakfast club would be made at the end of the next year, and this would then allow an average costing to be achieved and the price structure reviewed. It was also confirmed that the price of £2 per child was not only for food, but also for supervision/childcare and this was the amount agreed with parents on consultation last year.

Fund raising group – From the accounts produced by Angela, the year-end balance was £7122 in the bank, with £7875 raised in additional funds this year.

The fundraising included:	Income	Expenses	Profit
3 evenings of discos	£1589.96	£649.92	£940.04
Bag packing (March 2015)	£960.52	£9.30	£951.22
Christmas cards and fair	£2719.84	£956.29	£1763.55
Santa Float	£252		£252
Calendars,	£655	£257.28	£397.72
Summer Fair,	£2434.15	£520.41	£1913.74
Nursery treasure hunt,	£471.50		£471.50
Tea towels,	£920	£420	£500
Psychic night	£726.20	£215	£511.20
Finance fortnight	£310	£310	-

In addition to this we also received a donation of £100 from Bellway and £75 from Margaret Wagstaff, a very generous benefactor!

It was agreed that the group should keep £4122 in the bank as a float for known expenditure, and the school could suggest what they would like assistance with, with £3000 available now.

Next events

Sponsored bounce – CK advised she has reviewed prices for this, as it was likely it would run at the start of the term August/September and we would need to get a booking in place for the hire of the equipment. Crown Castles had the assault courses available for weekday hire at £103.20 each, and it was agreed that 2 of these would allow all of the children to complete them both as part of their sponsored event. Dates for this were discussed and the 15 September, which is the Thursday before the September weekend, was suggested as the best option. CK said she would look into the booking for that date.

AOB

CK advised that she had looked into personalised gym bags for the nursery children as a graduation gift, and one site had priced at £210 for 21, and another had priced £85. It was agreed that the lower price would be fine, and JH agreed to provide a list of first names of the children graduating this year.

Brian, the DJ, also wanted to get dates in the calendar for discos and suggested a few for September/October and February. It was agreed we would confirm with him Thursday 29 September 2016 and 23 February 2017.

There is a meeting for the cluster discos, held on 16 June at Marr, at Old Loans Inn at 7.30pm Monday 23 May, when the share of costs would need to be paid. CK said she would contact KG to see if she was attending and if not she would go and make the payment for Struthers.

Next year's fundraising ideas – it was discussed whether the items we run every year should continue, such as Christmas cards and calendars, and the consensus was that these were successful and parents seemed to like them, therefore we should go ahead again. Dawn Whiteford was suggested as a possible photographer for the calendar, by Claire Bell, as she is a parent at the school and was only unable to help last year due to other commitments.

JH advised that although the school show had not come off for the summer, it was under discussion for February 2017, as a replacement for the Scottish Talent Show in the calendar, which the upper school would mainly be involved in, with the younger children involved in warm up etc.

Andrea had brought copies of a previous suggestion list from a few years ago and the most popular seemed to be a Beetle Drive, which has low outlays in comparison to a lot of the suggestions, and also involves the children and parents together. It was agreed this would be discussed at the next meeting.

CK advised she would stay on to finalise some items and hopefully once the Parent Council had been consulted, the role of Chair could be shared with that group and someone in the Fundraising group.

Next meeting – Parent Council 13 September 2016