

Friends of Maud School Parent Council

Minutes

Wednesday 7th June 2017

John Curno (Chair), Louise Cran (Treasurer), Cat Anderson (Fundraising), Rebecca Cassie (Fundraising), Kath O'Connor (Secretary), Katie Fordyce, Rachael Smith, Debbie Tocher, Victoria Buckman-Brown Mrs Steel, Mrs McCue, Miss White, Miss Portsmouth

1. Welcome

John welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies

Kenny Westmacott (Vice Chair), Louise Catto, Shona Esslemont

3. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were summarised.

4. Treasurers Report

Louise Cran – the balance at 12th May 2017 was £3,513.03 less un-presented cheques makes the current balance is £3,207.28 which is a healthy balance.

5. Coffee Evening Round Up

The total taken this year was £2,059.85 and less floats, raffle books, tombola etc. the profit taken was £1,255.44. The raffle and home bake sales were down. An after-event meeting had taken place and highlighted some adjustments to make next year, some of which were discussed. It was thought the timing was better as the ticket sales were up from the previous year. More advantage would be taken of the Netball Gala if it was held again next year as it was thought that some of the parents were unaware it was our coffee evening and there were stalls inside the school.

It was suggested that selling more items made by the children might make more money (tea towels, coasters, bags etc.) All suggestions were taken down by the fundraisers and will be considered next year.

It was felt that the Parent Council had done as much of the organising as possible this year to save School time and resources but it was suggested that next year the School should be involved more. The school agreed.

Louise Cran thanked everyone for all their help.

6. Pupil Equity Fund

The £9,600.00 allocated to Maud School will be spent next year to target children who need more support to settle and learn in school. There will be sessions by a Relax Kids coach; they help the children's mental and emotional well-being and it is hoped will put all the children in a better place to learn in school. It will fund a PSA for a day a week to work with specific children to give them a positive mindset, again making them ready to learn and have a good attitude to school. The remainder will be used for mindfulness projects, working with other schools in the cluster for maths focus and Talk Boost for P1 literacy.

7. Draft Improvement plan for session 2017/2018

Ideas for this have been outlined, with the pupils also asked for their input. The main focuses would be Growth Mindset putting pupils in a good place to learn. Raising attainment and achievement. 1+2 languages with Miss Portsmouth remaining as our Ambassador, and work to make parents more aware of the strategy. Reporting to parents – the current report is out this week and it will be tweaked after feedback with a meeting organised with the parent focus group. The plan has not been finalised yet but will be as we move to the next session.

8. Christmas DVD's

School expressed their disappointment that the DVD's were still not ready for selling to the parents. It cost to hire the equipment and at this time of year there are no resources to be able to sell them, and had wondered if parents would still be interested. John said Kenny had been in touch to say it was ready for copying now. The Parent Council offered their help to distribute etc, the school could just ask.

It was thought that next year it needed reviewed. Rebecca said her husband was a videographer and should be able to do it next year, with no cost to hire kit etc. The school would gladly take up this offer if her husband agreed.

9. Swimming Lessons

School expressed concern at the length of the swimming lessons provided to P4 pupils. With 10 sessions offered and travel it meant a great deal of time spend away from learning, compounded by the fact the P4 class was a composite class, it was thought to be having a negative impact on learning.

Parents all agreed the sessions were very much enjoyed by the children and thought to be very beneficial.

It is not worth the travel for half hour sessions so school were suggesting reducing the number of sessions offered. The Parent Council agreed that it would be better to reduce the sessions than see them stop. When the school confirmed how many sessions they could arrange, the suggestion was no less than 6 but as many as possible, they would consider this further.

10. Classes / Staffing for Session 2017/2018

School are still waiting on information from the Authority before they can allocate classes. They have a vague idea of how things will be, but there are many influences based on who the Council allocate to us, children who may be leaving as numbers were not yet known etc. It was a concern as to why it was so late, and if there was a reason for this. Kath said at this time last year, we didn't know classes either. All probationers are allocated centrally and the school cannot advertise vacancies at this point in the session. School will continue to chase, and will let us know as soon as they can.

11. Disco

The next disco is booked for 30th June. The profit for the discos this year was £352.41.

Some comments have been made about the DJ. He keeps the children in check but can seem sarcastic and doesn't look to be enjoying himself. Kath said she thought it was good he was keeping the children's behaviour under control as when she has been it has concerned her the children don't listen to some of the adults and found herself marshalling behaviour which takes the pleasure out of being there.

It is worth approaching another DJ to find out costs, and possibly trialling. Another suggestion was to ask P1 parents to stay. They can help the children learn how they should behave and take some of the stress off the DJ and organisers.

12. AOB

Kath wanted the School to know that Maud Playgroup and Rising 5's has lost its funding from the council which means pre-school children will have to go to places outside the village. There is work to see what can be done about this, but the school should know that if the village cannot provide these places, there could be 3 or 4 children a year who, for various reasons, cannot travel outside the village and therefore may start school without having been to anything. This was a concern for the school.

Kath also asked if they had had a good response from a recent Facebook post about homework. They said that they would be sending out a questionnaire to parents too as different methods are used to gain the best feedback. Some had negative feelings to Facebook, or do not use it, but it was only one method used to gain feedback.

Debbie expressed some concerns over communication this year and had found herself caught on the hop about a few things. Can we be given more notice? Also, when the report cards were delayed, should the school not have apologised for this as it was on the calendar given out at the beginning of the session so were expected

home. (It was noted that it had been discussed at the last Parent Council meeting and they were delayed until late May/early June.) School said they tried to give as much notice as possible but it was not always able to. They would look at ensuring they do their best next year. If there are any concerns or issues, parents are encouraged to let the school know so they could look at it. It was not an excuse; however, the office had been a bit more unsettled this year which has taken a little getting used to. They were also finding Groupcall an easier way to communicate which would continue into next year. Other Parent Council members agreed that as a first time P1 parent, it was harder to understand all that went on as some knowledge was assumed and the school said they would work on this for next year, again asking for any incidences to be flagged so they could work on it.

Miss Portsmouth asked about library books and being able to take them home as the Parent Council agreed to do letters to parents. It was understood that this would happen next session and the Parent Council made a reminder to do this.

Debbie asked if the agenda should have been on the website, and Kath agreed that it should. She will liaise with Kenny about ensuring this done in the future, as he is the only person able currently to do it. If Debbie, emails the Parent Council email (friendsofmaudspc@gmail.com) she will be added to the parent list and all communication goes through there also.

13. Date for the next meeting the AGM

Wednesday 13th September 2017