

Balshaw's Association Minutes Wednesday the 14th of Jan 2026

Charity Number 1176684

Present – Steve Haycocks, Kat Clarkson, Heather Eato, Tim Callaghan, Tracie Vass, Alice Derbyshire, Polly Bidwell,

Apologies - Julia Monks, Keith Woodcock, Steve Lomax and Andrea Coles.

Chair – Tim

Mins – Polly

- 1) Steve H opened the meeting with a prayer.
- 2) Apologies - Noted.
- 3) Halloween Disco Review – Those who attended felt it went well. £333.61 was taken. Having the prefects DJ on the night worked well and the meeting felt that would be good again next year.
- 4) Balfest 2026 –

Action: Tim will contact Ann for the Balfest spreadsheet.

Tim will complete the forms for Chorley Borough Council to get the 8 gazebos again.

Tim will contact Cuerden too.

We discussed having a House Competition where each House has a stall and whoever raises the most money wins house points or an early lunch on chicken and chips day. The stalls could be to sell something, make something or be a competition.

Layout was good last year so it was agreed we would stick to similar. It was suggested that signage for the day could be better. Tim agreed to do some more A frames as well as having maps on the TV screens around school.

Music to be outside if weather permits as it was felt that lots of the music was missed last year as most people were outside.

Action: Tracie will ask Lily if she would be happy to lend her outside music system.

Raffle was discussed – it was felt it was too long last year so it was suggested to match the ticket to the prize this year for speed.

Actions: Tim to ask Liv Cookes Mum for a prize if possible.

Heather to ask PNE for prizes.

Kat to try Chorley FC too.

- 5) Future events – Car boot was discussed – possibly another in late March/April.

Race/bingo night suggested for after Balfest.

Action: Tracie to contact h.swift@balshaws.org.uk to ask for a PTA update to be put into the school newsletter. To request for presence on the PTA team or prizes for the raffle at Balfest.

Action: Tim will talk to Andrea about updating the school website under the PTA events bit.

Action: PTA presence at the next yr 8 parents evening – 16th April. Polly and Tim can make this and anyone else who is free to speak to parents please. Action: Bring PTA banner and Heather will create a leaflet again.

Action: Steve H to get Climbing Wall target figure and Tracie to do a creative thing showing the target and how close we are to reaching it so this can be shared at parent events to see progress. Also put this in the PTA newsletter update please.

Steve H also let the meeting know that money will be needed to train staff and for new safety equipment.

- 6) Treasurers report – delayed as Steve L could not attend this evening. Brief update that there is £12,250 in the Charity account and £5,150 in the Commercial Interest account.

It has been agreed that a £10,000 anonymous donation will be paid in through the PTA account so that Gift Aid can be claimed on the amount and then the full amount transferred into the Education Fund that the donation had been received for.

- 7) Feedback from the Memorial Garden review – Tim met Dr Brean to look at the garden previously. It has been requested that the space is made more useable. Tim said that he felt it needed completely paving and the aggregate removing. The raised beds need weed suppressant down – possibly aggregate or bark.

Tim felt that a contractor was needed for the job as there would be heavy lifting.

Action: Pics to be taken whilst it's looking particularly dilapidated for future fund raising.

8) Membership – discussed earlier in the meeting strategies to get more people to join the PTA. Newsletter, website and parents evening.

9) AOB - Those present went to look at the Memorial Garden at the end of the meeting.

10) The next meeting will be held on Wednesday the 4th of Feb starting at 7.30pm.