

Balshaw's Association Minutes Wednesday the 4th of March 2026

Charity Number 1176684

Present – Steve Haycocks, Heather Eato, Steve Lomax, Andrea Coles Tim Callaghan, Alice Derbyshire and Polly Bidwell,

Apologies - Julia Monks, Keith Woodcock, Kat Clarkson, Tracie Vass and Caroline Burnell

Chair – Tim

Mins – Polly

- 1) Steve H opened the meeting with a prayer.
- 2) Apologies - Noted.
- 3) Family fun Easter night planning – Thursday the 19th March, 6 – 8pm, Free to enter, pay to play.

Quiz, bingo, money in the bottle game and horse racing was decided on.

Review of the Tuck shop conducted by Alice.

Action: Alice offered to buy some Easter Eggs as Bingo prizes (2 eggs per game – 1 for a line and 1 for a full house x 5 games). Some more fun sized Haribo for prizes. And also a prize for the winning Quiz team/family.

Alice suggested that we could also offer Free Balfest entry as additions to the prizes so that would encourage people to come and bring friends.

Action: Andrea offered to create a poster for the event.

Steve H will run the race. £1 per bet.

Steve L will do the calculations on the odds.

Keith will make and run the quiz.

Suggested format for the night was; 3 x Bingo, Bottle game in the break, a quiz round, 2 more Bingo games and then the races. Subject to change and how it feels on the night.

- 4) Balfest 2026 –

Steve H said that there had already been commitment from most of last years stall holders.

Action: Andrea offered to put the date on the main school banner and it get it out on the gates asap.

Action: Julia, please could you contact LJ events again to secure the inflatables that you sourced last year and see if they would do a deal again on the coconut shy etc.

Tim is still waiting to hear back from Cuerden but has secured the gazebos from Chorley BC again.

Ann shared the Balfest sheet with the team on the new WhatsApp group.

Action: Tracie, please could you contact the Fire Brigade to see if they can attend this year?

Action: Andrea will continue to contact smaller stalls to confirm and will put a call out for Raffle prizes soon. Andrea will also advertise the House Competition in the briefing next Monday to give pupils time to get thinking of plans.

Suggestion that a darts competition would go down well and raise a lot of money.

Suggestion of a 'Beat the PE teacher' this year in nets.

Actions: Tim to ask Liv Cookes Mum for a prize if possible- asked but no concrete answer yet.

- 5) Treasurers report – Steve L presented. Please find scanned report attached to these mins. Steve L confirmed that the annual charities commission report has been submitted. He will transfer £12,500 from the PTA account to the Bashaw's Foundation account as per the anonymous donators request. This includes £2,500 from Gift Aid which arrived today. There is £5152 in the PTA interest account. So a total of just over £17,000 in the PTA accounts.
Some of this is committed to the school for the memorial garden renovation.

- 6) Memorial Garden –
Massive thanks to Naomi Brean for successfully securing grants to help with the renovation. Tim talked those present through the current plans.
Suggested that over a couple of weekends we amass a good crew of volunteers to come and help do lots of the work. Plans included –
Sails for shade
Paint the existing walls
Crushed shells
Level all the land
Steve H to contact friend re recycled astro turf.

- 7) **AOB – next meeting is the 15th April.**