



Attended: Tanya Scott, Yesim Mulla, Leanne Lashbrook, Ali Anderson, Andrew Storey, Jacq Young, Jo Sheppard, Carlos Gusado Rovira, Kate Shilland, Sarah Marcou, Therese Driscoll, Sandita Ganguly, Debbie Loh, Oli Sparrow, Clare Glass, Jennifer Wilson, Alex Garrod, Natalia Mednick, Jessie Rublee, Lina Pereira, Amelia Nicholson, Caroline Ishojer, Rachel Coulson, Ros Jones, Chris Howe, Ailsa Launn, Fatma Ali, Wendy Anderson, Misha Singh, Ragin Agarawal, Tracey Driscoll, Charlotte English, Artemis McGuinness.

Apologies: Fiona Cowood

The meeting was quorate.

President's Report - Mr Jackson

A hard Copy of Mr Jackson's written report was distributed.

Chair's Report – Tanya Scott

A hard copy of Tanya's Report, which included financial highlights was distributed. Hard copies of the full financial summary were also available.

Committee members

The following Committee members stood down from the committee: Faith Bailey-Dainton, Tori Allerston, Laura Abel, Laura House, Nick and Leanne Lashbrook, Ellie Wells, Sheetal Baeve, Rachel Wolfendale (staff) and Sue Whittaker (Staff).

After a vote, the following people were elected to the committee:

Tanya Scott – Chairperson; Charlotte English – Secretary; Amruta Sawant – Treasurer; Laura Wild - Assistant Treasurer; Fiona Cowood, Wendy Anderson (staff) and Yesim Mulla (staff) - Ordinary members.

Mr Jackson continues as President.

PTA Objectives – 2016/17

A summary of performance against the objectives for 2016/17, was provided:

1. Fundraising:

- a. Proposed to develop school library into strong resource area and quiet zone. This project would:
 - i. Provide better facility for literary resources
 - ii. Provide a place of sanctuary for children who struggle with the hustle and bustle of the playground
 - iii. To provide softer space for Breakfast and After school clubs to use – especially in light of increase number of Reception children being placed in clubs

This project was postponed due to planning issues arising from insufficient level of detail in the plans submitted by the proposed building contractors

- b. Continuing to support key school activities / priorities
 - i. Year 6 leavers party
 - ii. KS1 Christmas party
 - iii. KS1 gifts
 - iv. Pantomime
 - v. Life Bus
 - vi. Crossing patrol
 - vii. Support extra-curricular clubs

With the exception of the visit from the pantomime company, which was not booked following negative feedback from last year, all the above were delivered.

- c. Support ad-hoc requests – **Objective delivered**

- d. Promote online fundraising via giving machine and easy fundraising more widely – **Objective delivered: It was decided to concentrate on promoting easyfundraising only**
- e. Further investigation into either a Virginmoney or Justgiving account – to allow direct donations from parents/carers/friends of the school. 36% of survey respondents said they would like to donate this way (particularly working parents who cannot attend fundraising events). – **It was decided not to progress this objective as the new Parentmail system allows for additional donations.**

2. Building School Community

- a. Development of more free events / activities which bring together Valley’s culturally and economically diverse community
 - i. World Food Festival – can we develop a cook book to go with this? – **Objective delivered: This event was held but there were not enough personnel resources to pursue a cook book**
 - ii. Book exchange – **Objective delivered: Event held**
 - iii. Ideas welcome! – **During the year a new, family board games event was proposed**

Suggested PTA Objectives – 2017/18

The following objectives were proposed:

1. Fundraising:

- a. Continuing to support key school activities / priorities
 - i. Year 6 leavers party
 - ii. KS1 Christmas party
 - iii. KS1 gifts
 - iv. Crossing patrol
 - v. Black History Month
 - vi. Support extra-curricular clubs
 - vii. Supporting ad hoc requests for funding e.g. black history month.
- b. Promote easyfundraising more widely
- c. **In addition to objectives a and b above the PTA usually selects a specific project as the focus of it’s fundraising for that year. The selected project is usually an improvement based project which has an impact on the quality of Valley children’s school life. It is usually something which enables parents/carers to see a tangible result for their hard work and donations e.g. we have previously raised money to fund the re-painting of the playground markings. The three following options were proposed:**
 - i. Development of the school library: During 2016/17 the PTA funded a massive re-stock of books for the library. This option builds upon that investment to improve the physical aspects of the current library space. The existing library room is a narrow and awkward and somewhat unwelcoming space. The proposal would be:
 - a. to build a mezzanine floor to provide a flexible workspace which would be used to provide breakout rooms during the school day as well as providing quiet areas for the breakfast and after school clubs to use. Though no formal quotes have been received yet, based on verbal estimates, it is likely that this element of the project would cost around £20,000
 - b. The creation of the workspaces on the mezzanine floor will allow the two existing workspaces on the first floor corridor to be converted into storage for coats and bags, thereby removing them from the main corridor, where they create a trip hazard during emergency evacuations. This was identified in a recent Health and Safety audit of the school as needing urgent improvement.
 - c. To complement the construction of the mezzanine floor there would need to be development of the ground floor to provide better facilities for storing and displaying books as well as creating more comfortable spaces for reading, making the library a more welcoming space for young readers. Verbal estimates indicate that this would be likely to cost in the region of £10,000
 - ii. Improvements to outdoor play areas: This proposal involves building on previous investment, by the PTA, in improving the playground area; which has included providing new markings, sun shades etc. The proposal would be:
 - a. to assess whether the playbus should be refurbished, replaced or removed to allow more KS1 playground space. Quotes have not yet been sought but as a guide a new piece of play

- equipment or roughly the same size would cost (ex VAT) in the region of £9k + installation
- b. To replace the ageing adventure playground with a larger structure suitable for KS1 and KS2 children. The cost (ex VAT) of this would depend on how big a structure is proposed but something similar to what we currently have would cost around £4.500 + wood treatment and installation
- c. The proposal could also include provision of additional storage for scooters in the playground at a cost of c.£2k
- iii. Focus of funding ad-hoc requests: With all the current budget cuts the school is going to start feeling the pinch very soon. The third option is for the PTA to focus on providing funding for all the nice-to have items that the school needs but no longer has the funding for rather than raising money for a big project. In a similar way to the existing ad hoc requests process, the school would identify specific needs and apply for funding from the PTA funds.

2. Building School Community

- a. Development of more free events / activities which bring together Valley's culturally and economically diverse community
 - i. World Food Festival
 - ii. Book exchange
 - iii. Board Games event
 - iv. More ideas welcome!

Concerns were raised that the two major projects proposed this year are very ambitious. With total price tags of around £30k, plus the cost of meeting our existing commitments, raising this level of funding will be a HUGE challenge. The PTA currently has around £14,000 reserves in the bank, accumulated over years of diligent fundraising. This could be used to part fund an ambitious project. In addition the PTA will seek to secure grant funding but there is no guarantee that we will succeed. Both projects can however be broken down into more affordable project phases. Fundraising should focus on securing sufficient funding to allow completion of the first phase (i.e. installing a mezzanine floor or assessing and refurbishing/replacing/removing playbus) before moving onto fundraising for further phases. In this way the project is less daunting and tangible results will be seen earlier. It is entirely possible that fundraising may have to spread over a couple of years to complete such ambitious projects.

A vote was taken and it was agreed (with 20 votes) to progress with the proposed objectives with the major project being the library refurbishment. There was a lot of support for the refurbishment of the playground equipment (10 votes) so the PTA will keep this project in mind for a future year.

Actions arising:

- Formal quotes for library project to be secured.
- Once quotes secured PTA to seek grant funding asap.
- Once quotes secured PTA to communicate phases of project and fundraising goals to parent/carers

Upcoming Events: 2017-18

- Winter Discos: Friday 10th November
- Board Games Event Saturday 18th November
- Christmas Fair: Sat 2nd December, 12:00pm - 4:00pm
- Spring Film Night: Friday 2nd February
- Book Swap (World Book Day): Friday 2nd March
- Spring Disco: date tbc
- Grandparents' Afternoon Tea Concert / Eggsfactor Competition – Wednesday 28th March
- Summer Disco: date tbc
- Summer Fair: Saturday 30th June 12:00pm – 4:00pm