

Thriplow School PTA minutes

Meeting: 8pm on 13/01/22 on Zoom

Attendees:

Paul Joghee (Chair), Meghan Bonner (Deputy Chair), Dave Aston (Treasurer), Helen Joyce (Secretary), Victoria Penty (Head teacher), Kelly Austin, Rebecca Wilkins, Stephanie Dods, Debbie Van Wyck, Clare Joghee.

Apologies: Jayne Pashley, Karen Brogan, Michela Morleo.

Finance updates

DA is continuing to chase gift aid claims with HMRC and will submit a future claim from more recent fundraising. There is approximately £16,600 in the PTA account and with the reserves policy that leaves approximately £3k - £4k available to the school.

DA presented more information on the funds raised from recent events:

Events	Total profit (after costs and gift aid claims)
Christmas Hampers	£529.96
Christmas Quiz	£112.02
Gardening (sunflowers & pumpkins)	£181.01
Pinkster Gin tasting	£205.56
Kids Movie Night	£416.68
Amazon Smile	£151.98

Focussing on Amazon Smile, DA demonstrated scenarios for available funds if more families selected Thriplow PTA as their nominated charity when buying through Amazon.

1. HJ/MB to promote the Amazon Smile opportunity

Requests for PTA funds and support

VP relayed suggestions for the current use of PTA funds and support from parents and how the school could benefit in the future. This included help to decorate the music room and groundworks to lay stone slabs between the PE shed and the bike shed.

2. VP to research the kitchen equipment/mobile cooker to buy from the current funds

Clubs/workshops

Thank you to RW for the support to get the KS1 football club up and running. The timing and types of clubs were discussed within the group, considering how they would run alongside the After School Club. The After School Club received positive feedback among the group, with parents relaying how much children enjoy attending.

3. PJ to consider the costs for clubs to run as part of the After School club
4. RW to talk to the school about KS2 football.
5. DVW to offer contacts for considering grants from an RSC initiative (Step into Science) <https://edu.rsc.org/primary-science>
6. VP to consider options (which the PTA agree to fund) for workshops for Science week already researched by RW.

Outdoor equipment/improvement

MB has the research on the costs and options for playground improvements if the school wanted to take these forward in the future. A few outdoor clear up jobs around the school grounds were suggested.

7. MB to organise a clear up day at an appropriate time.

Grant applications

No updates

Update on Thriplow Ball/New event

CJ summarised the thorough paper previously circulated to the parent body. Since the 2020 ball was cancelled, there are contracts in place which have been renegotiated along with the results of a survey on the appetite for a formal event. The new style event brings a renewed opportunity to bring together the school and village community along with the fundraising potential.

8. CJ to update the events team with the decision from the PTA committee to run a less formal event with a cheaper ticket price.
9. CJ to consider ideas put forward for cutting losses for the catering contract with the understanding the PTA accepts the deposit may need to be written off.

Cornerstone update

MB and VP relayed that plans have been costed and currently final details are being completed before a planning application is submitted.

Fundraising events

Upcoming events and ideas were discussed. Assuming the PTA will help support the Daffodil weekend with a café (tea/coffee/sandwiches), a volunteer team needs to be assembled.

Ideas for future events included a Pinkster gin summer drinks party and refreshments at the play at end of the summer term.

10. MB offered to arrange a painting workshop following the offer from a parent to run this.
11. SD to confirm the PTA support for the Daffodil weekend
12. HJ to run a Easter chocolate hamper raffle
13. MB/HJ to bring together a team to run a village fun run in May/June
14. MB to organise another Movie night (due to popularity!)

Exploring ideas for improving drop-off/pick-up

Following on from the discussion at the previous meeting, improvements were noted to the drop-off experience. Thank you to the eco squad for the anti-idling poster in the newsletter. Future promotion by the eco squad to promote lift-sharing, cycling or walking to school would be appreciated.

AOB

The PTA would like to make the parish council aware of the muddy pavements around the school.

Dates of PTA meetings	Venue
Thursday 3 rd March 8.00pm	Zoom
Friday 29 th April 9.15am (AGM)	School Hall
Thursday 16 th June 8.00pm	Zoom