

Thriplow School PTA minutes

Meeting: 2pm on 10/09/2021 at Thriplow School

Attendees:

Paul Joghee (Chair), Helen Joyce (Secretary), Victoria Penty (Head teacher), Rebecca Wilkins, Stephanie Dods, Sarah Wells, Debbie Van Wyck, Olga Carozzo, Leena Varadharaja.

Apologies: Meghan Bonner (Deputy Chair), Dave Aston (Treasurer), Jayne Pashley.

Welcome

VP thanked the PTA on behalf of the Teachers and Governors for all the clearing up work - the transformation is incredible! PJ welcomed new parents to the PTA.

Finance Update

The PTA have donated £5k to the school so far this year. There is at least £2,500 in the PTA account available. The card machine linked to the PTA account is currently being set up. DA has prepared the PTA accounts in preparation for the AGM in October. We are still waiting for an update on the gift aid claim, which is now overdue.

1. DA to chase the gift aid claim with HMRC
2. PJ to share the form for the school to submit PTA funding requests (not yet been used)
3. DA to complete the set-up of the card machine set up and consider a 2nd card machine as backup.
4. PJ to sign off the accounts and circulate ahead of the AGM.
5. DA to make the money for the class budgets available to the school (6 x £200)

Cornerstone project

We are delighted to have received a generous donation of £250,000 from Mark Richer. The account stands at approximately £350,000 and the project is now being managed by the Governors (along with DEMAT), although the PTA remain in control of the vast majority of the project money. It is hoped the PTA will help raise funds for equipment, furniture etc. as the project evolves.

6. VP to include Mark's name in first school newsletter.
7. MB to include on PTA facebook page and Cornerstone facebook page

Grant applications and requests from the school

We have now received all the grants we applied for, which means we have secured nearly £3000 from grants last school year. Any parents with suggestions for where we can apply for grants would be welcome (please contact Meghan or Rebecca). It is noted that it's easier to apply for grants where specific resources are being requested by the school.

8. MB/RW to consider whether to apply for a grant from the Thriplow Daffodil weekend
9. VP to confirm the playground equipment the school would like. Ideas included a trim trail (for the field), circular netting swing, and play equipment such as blocks and scooters.
10. VP to confirm if the idea (suggested by a teacher) of an outdoor library (for the school and community) is appropriate.

11. VP to consider the offer from the PTA to support more lunchtime and afterschool clubs including Wildspace & additional sports clubs.
12. VP to talk to the After School Club to find out how the PTA could support them and improve numbers.

Playground and clean up days project

A huge thanks to all those who helped out to complete all the work on the original list. VP confirmed the one remaining job of painting the classroom on the slope should be put on hold as builders will be in there soon. The jobs that would be appreciated next include keeping drains clear (especially near the slope), digging out a French drain, gardening (particularly the side next to the road) and some leaf clearing (ahead of the maintenance team). The PTA are happy to cover costs of paint and other items required for the clear up activities. The committee agreed to organising group clear up day, with the 16th October as an agreed provisional date.

Olga is starting work on an outside mural to be ready in time for the Daffodil weekend.

13. MB to contact Sawston VC/Melbourn VC and see if there are any children completing Duke of Edinburgh awards who would support the clear up activities.
14. MB to advertise the clear up day and contact parents who offered to make bacon butties.
15. VP to get ideas from the children for the outside mural.

Fundraisers and PTA events

The gardening completion runs until the end of the month. Next fundraisers and events were discussed; movie night (separate ones for adults and children), Christmas hampers, Nativity fundraisers, Decoration Day, Brew board, Pinkster Gin tasting, event with the Green man pub (under new management), Thriplow fun run. The PTA would prefer to focus on (a selection) of these fundraising events than run cake/ice cream stalls, particularly as pupils are planning charitable activities, including running a Macmillan coffee morning.

16. HJ to complete the gardening fundraiser and arrange prizes
17. HJ to talk to the school about a Thriplow fun run and movie night
18. PJ to talk to Brewboard about a potential social event/fundraiser
19. HJ to talk to Pinkster gin and the Green man pub about a potential social event/fundraiser
20. HJ to promote Amazon Smile where Amazon will donate to the PTA charity
21. HJ to promote the year 6 Macmillan coffee morning on the PTA Facebook page

Thriplow Ball – ball committee

There is a strong appetite to change the format of the ball for autumn 2022 to make it more inclusive and affordable for school families, less of an outlay and ultimately more profitable. Clare Joghee will chair a ball committee. Parents are welcome to join the ball committee, which has a WhatsApp group and currently has the following members: Clare Joghee (Chair), Paul Joghee, Meghan Bonner, Kelly Austin, Grace Stobbart, Natalie Barker and Chloe Phillips. Parents have started to also offer help without committing to sitting on the committee.

22. MB to put out another request for additional Committee members and help.

AOB

The PTA agreed to focus on running the tea room for the Daffodil weekend planned for 19th/20th March 2022 rather than other stalls.

It was agreed the suggestion of a patron scheme for the PTA, where people make a one-off or regular donation was worth pursuing.

23. HJ to ask Linda to publish the PTA dates in the newsletter and put in the school diary.

Date of next meeting: 7th October at 8pm on Zoom - **AGM**

Dates of PTA meetings

Date	Venue
Thursday 7 th October 8.00pm (AGM)	Zoom
Thursday 11 th November 8.00pm	Zoom
Friday 14 th January 9.15am	School Hall
Thursday 3 rd March 8.00pm	Zoom
Friday 29 th April 9.15am	School Hall
Thursday 16 th June 8.00pm	Zoom