

# MINUTES

## Howley Grange PTA Minutes

January 19, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Nicki Bolton at 7:05 p.m.

### In attendance

Kate Wolstencroft  
Sarah Coton  
Sue Whitehouse  
Doreen Corser  
Jayne Montgomery  
Nic Cannings - Secretary  
Zoe Cilliers - Treasurer  
Zillah Williams - Joint Chair  
Nicki Bolton - Joint Chair  
Martin James - Head  
Simon Duncan - Deputy Head

### Apologies

Julie Egerton  
Anna McSporran  
Liz Cottle  
Glen Nicholls

### Welcome

Nicki & Zillah wished everyone a happy New Year and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Apologies and approval of the Last meetings minutes

Apologies were submitted and Nic circulated the minutes from the last meeting which were unanimously approved.

### Update on First Term - Treasurers Report

Zoe provided news that the PTA Funds for the end of the first term were £585.51. Family Disco made a profit of £366.17, Santa's Breakfast made a small loss of -£54.51, and the Christmas Hamper Raffle made a total of £557.30.

### Fundraising Ideas Updates:

Nicki began by discussing the need to set up a fete organization committee. Nic was asked to forward on the details of the "Fete Pack" specifically the Month by Month Schedule. Nicki asked for volunteers to join the Fete committee but as there was a number of people unavailable she left the option to volunteer open and tabled an initial meeting for the Fete Committee. It will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> February starting at 7pm at Nicki's house (57 Frankley Avenue). Kate suggested that it would be a good idea to invite Claire, Paula and Tina to the first fete meeting - Cake and Wine to be offered as an incentive was also suggested! Dee also volunteered to be a part of the committee but advised she would not be able to make the first meeting.

- **Snail Racing:**

Zillah previewed the possibility of Snail Racing and a dvd was shown to give a demonstration. Costs would be approximately £100 for 8 races.

- **Skittles:**

Martin advised that he no longer has access to the skittle alley from his former school, but agreed to call Kay to see if it would be possible to borrow / hire the skittle alley from Howley Grange Scout Group. The possibility of using Nintendo Wii's and 2 projection units in the hall was suggested as a backup if the skittle alley was not available. The inclusion of food was suggested as a good way to ensure families stay longer and Dee offered to see if a deal could be struck with Howley Grange Chip shop to get approx. 100 covers of specials (Mini Fish & Chips / Sausage in Batter & Chips etc). The date scheduled for the Beer & Skittles night is set for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

- **Quiz Night:**  
Nicki had spoken to Dave Guest about the possibility of a quiz and potentially using the quizmaster currently used by Halesowen Golf Club, who has offered to run a PTA quiz for £50. Dave has invited the PTA to enter a team for the monthly quiz at the golf club held on the last Friday of the month – February 25<sup>th</sup> was tabled as the date to check out the quiz as a PTA social evening. The quiz itself was scheduled for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Nic to confirm the start time / cost as per previous events.

- **Casino & Race Night contacts**

As both Dave & Liz were unable to attend this meeting the casino & Race nights were shelved on this occasion

Zillah is going to check the availability of the hall for both events with Mr Matthews.

### **Forest Schools Presentation**

Kate gave a presentation on the concept and scope of the Forest Schools Project. Forest Schools is a Scandinavian initiative which promotes self learning in an outdoor environment. The concept is that of an all weather activity, the only exceptions to this being Thunder Storms and High winds (due to the obvious health and safety issue). For each session the Forest Schools Leader creates a Lesson plan, but if the children wish to deviate from this and engage in imaginative play / role-play / mini bug hunts etc. they are encouraged to do so. The children are required to wear scruffy clothes and wellies under the Forest Schools overclothing, as it is guaranteed to get messy.

Once the environment has been established it can include areas such as a fire pit, logged areas for climbing / sitting, and trees for climbing. Kate gave examples of activities engaged in at her school which included: toasting marshmallows, whittling, den / shelter building, bug hunts and identification, and of course lots of Muddy Puddles!

Martin confirmed that the first teacher would be trained this term and that certain activities were underway to prepare the area that has been allocated for the Forest Schools project. i.e. ground clearing etc. He asked if it would be possible to get some funding for a few established trees. Zoe offered £600 from the PTA to pay for some "mature" trees. This was agreed unanimously as was the decision to support the Forest Schools project on an ongoing basis.

### **Any Other Business – Schedule Date of Next Meeting**

Nicki asked if the benches had been bought for school yet out of last years funds. Martin advised that the patio area (outside the back of the Hall) was in the process of being made into a secure area, with 2 more gates to be added. Once these have been provided and the fencing is complete, then the benches will be purchased.

Zillah updated everyone on the NCPTA using school as a host venue – unfortunately on this occasion they have had enough offers already, but we may be considered as a venue in the future

The Car Wash suggestion made by Nic at the last meeting was tabled to be discussed at the next meeting as an after Easter fund raising activity

The update on the Mary Stevens Lottery phone in petition is that they were successful in securing a grant of £40,000. Thanks to everyone who took part.

The next PTA meeting is scheduled to be held in school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 at 7pm.

Meeting was closed at 8.20pm