



COOKHAM DEAN PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA MINUTES

of the meeting held on Friday 23rd January 2026

ATTENDEES:

Pippa Jeans [PJ] 3
Marie Hepworth [MH] 1/5
Maddi Parkinson [MP] 1
Isadora Bennett [IB] R/5
Mrs Reekie [FR]
Helen Jackson [HJ] 2/4

Clare Parks [CP] R/3
Charlotte Hamilton [CH] 1
Katy Bowen [KB] 2/4
Narinder Batth [NB] 4
Johanna Hansen [JH] 1/3
Claire Greenwood [CG] 6

1. WELCOME, THANKS & FINANCE UPDATE

PJ opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Apologies have been received from Vicky Holloway, Jo Steele, Tori Dixon, Jana Harris, Michelle Patiar (treasurer).

PJ ran through the events/fundraising efforts that have taken place since our last meeting as well as the accompanying financials that were provided in advance from Mich:

- Bingo night back in November – massive thanks to Chanel for organising. Once again it was a really fun filled night and raise £1854 which is incredible.
- Cookham Dean Bonfire night – thank you to year 3 and all the volunteers that helped on the gate. This raised £300. This event is run by the same team as the Village fete and they have also given us another £100 for being one of their supported charities.
- Christmas tree sales managed by Mich and Kim – massive thanks to them both. Kim will be stepping down after this year. The sales raised £1867.
- Alongside the tress, was the pick-up party – thanks to Tori for all her organization and all the parents who gave up their Saturday to stand on a stall – this raise £1004.
- Panto ticket sales raised £227 and we'll be looking to do this again at the end of the year.
- Thank you to everyone who helped sell refreshments at the Christmas performances – KS1 nativity raised £150, Yr 3/4 Christingle raised £133 and the Reception nativity raised £87.
- Christmas raffle – big thanks to Vicky, the hampers looked amazing. This was the first time the raffle was drawn online and very happy to say it raised £1513 which is more than last year so we can continue with this format in the future. Everyone agreed it was much easier than papers in the bags. PJ also noted that we had some additional donations from people (this was an option online) so that is great. FR noted that it was much better not doing the draw on the last day of term.
- Thanks to Isadora and Jo (the elf) for managing the Santa sing-along.
- Copas collection day – once again this was very beneficial and we raised £1543 – thank you to everyone who helped make the mulled wine and helped on the day.
- Swimathon – thank you to the wonderfully enthusiastic Dani. All money raised is

split with the Lions charity. We raised almost £3,600 in total which makes us the top fundraiser to date. Our share is £1,777

- Apple chutney – again thanks to the team of chutney makers. There are still a few jars left, but to date we have raised £479.
- Apple juice has raised £323 so far. This is obviously much easier than the chutney as we send it off so we will likely just do the juice next year.

Just a note to say the sales of apple juice and chutney are likely to be more but will have been mingled in with the Christmas tree pick-up party.

PJ confirmed that the current bank balance is ~£43,000. After accounting for the previously agreed and ringfenced figures we have ~£13,000 available to spend.

PJ also announced that Mich would like to move bank accounts as Lloyds have now decided to charge charities a fee. All agreed this was fine. **ACTION: Mich P to implement.**

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / VOTE

Update on the wishlist:

FR asked to confirm that the £13,000 available did not include the outdoor classroom (~£11,000 minus ecology report). FR gave the following update on the outdoor classroom: as previously mentioned the first planning application was turned down and an ecology report (costing £1k) was required to proceed. FR was looking at alternative options, however in the meantime FR was able to find someone (via some parents) who have completed the ecology report for much cheaper. The second planning report has now been submitted and we are waiting for the outcome.

PJ mentioned that MP was keen to put some money (£10k) into a high interest rate account whilst it is not being spent. FR agreed this in principle but asked if we can hold onto it until the planning permission is agreed and we can confirm timings.

FR requested the following additional items:

- £150 for a set of thesauruses
- An electric sharpener for year 2 – KB offered to purchase
- £150 for some fiction books for year 3
- £737 for a new set of African drums for the music curriculum
- It was suggested by those present that perhaps the thesaurus and books could be added to the class Amazon wishlists. FR confirmed that IB will be having sessions with teachers next week on how to manage the wishlists.
- FR also requested (as she has previously) a new sofa for the lobby area as the current one is disgusting! It was suggested that perhaps we could get a better deal via second hand shop or a donation. **ACTION: JH volunteered to look at Thames Hospice show and liaise with FR with her findings.**
- Those present agreed the cost for the African drums and between £500-£1000 for a new sofa.

PJ noted that we need a new PTA shed as everything is going mouldy. We have put it off for as long as we could. It will cost £1600 for a 12x8 shed (this is the same as the current one – it was agreed there is not enough space for anything larger) which includes a new base and installation. That cost could be reduced if we have any capable parents that could assist. This cost was agreed.

PJ also mentioned that she has been approached by a company 'With love from' that offer a good package of 'mother's day gifts' for schools. Parents would pay for the applicable number of gifts required and then children would choose the items to take home wrapped ready to gift. All of the gifts are £10 and include pouches, candles etc. The PTA make £2 per gift but we have also been offered a discount of 20% for the first year so this could extend to father's day also. The company are flexible and you can choose first or pay first – there are no upfront costs.

There was a discussion about the potential issues for parents who have multiple children at school or those who just don't want to spend the additional money but would worry their children are missing out. Perhaps it would be best to organise after school (with parents waiting outside) so it is easy for families to opt out or siblings can choose together.

FR also mentioned that we do have families where there is no father so need to be sensitive to this – perhaps we don't do for Father's day. FR agreed in principle as long as sensitive issues were managed.

PJ mentioned she has received an email for the Cookham Dean village fete team – they would like to get children more involved in their events. PJ thought this was better placed as a discussion with school. **ACTION: PJ to forward the email to FR.**

Summer Fete update:

Clare has been working hard behind the scenes for our World Cup themed fete this year.

- The following has been booked: BBQ, Mitch, Pop up play, Bouncy castle, and Presto
- Need to think about what activity goes in the central area – eg a climbing wall. Looking at options.
- Savills have agreed £500 sponsorship

3. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Storytelling night will be 5th March (FR confirmed) led by year 2.
- Child choice day will be 1st May (FR confirmed)
- We will be having a new event this year – a magic show for the children on **7th May**. We would like to include a BBQ/Bar for the parents. The committee is currently looking at the logistics – maybe setting up marquees on the field / playground. FR agreed that she would prefer the event to take place on KS1 side to leave the hall available for wraparound. There was some concern over possible bad weather and it was suggested we could use the class gazebos for additional cover.
- Legoland tickets – we will be selling these again for the inset day on 19th June. We expect we may sell less than last year as it was very busy.
- The Yr 5 performance date is still TBC but FR confirmed it will be this side of Easter.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS / NEXT MEETING / CLOSE

PJ announced that she and Jess will be stepping down as co-chairs and Maddi will be taking over. Mich would also like to step down as Treasurer so we will be advertising the position shortly.

The NEXT MEETING will need to be held as a EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) as we need to agree a new constitution and complete the paperwork to be filed with the Charity Commission. We

will also officially vote in new committee members at this meeting. It was agreed the next meeting would take place on Thursday 30th April in the evening.

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.