



COOKHAM DEAN PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA MINUTES

of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st July 2025 at 7:30pm

ATTENDEES:

Pippa Jeans [PJ] 2
Jess Harris [JH] 4
Michelle Partiar [MP] R/2
Marie Hepworth [MH] R/4
Mrs Reekie [FR]
Tori Dixon [TD] 4/6

Isadora Bennett [IB] 4
Sylvia Rai [SR] 1/3
Peter Hasler [PH] 2
Clare Parks [CP] 2
Claire Greenwood [CG] 5

1. WELCOME & THANKS

PJ opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming on this very hot evening.

Apologies have been received from Tessa Allanson, Jennifer Woodhead, Jacqueline Abel, Vicci-Lee Pearson, Lucy Leddington-Wright and Nicola Struder.

The PTA would like to say thank you for the following events which have taken place over the last couple of months:

- Sports day refreshments managed by Reception.
- Summer Fete – big thanks to EVERYONE who helped both in the planning and on the day. Special thanks from PJ to JH & CP who stepped up to help manage the event in her absence.
- Thank you to Ericsson who have donated approximately £2k worth of tech so that we can have working Wi-Fi for the fete and other events.
- Legoland ticket sales for the inset day led by MP – although it was a lot busier on the day it is still a great easy fundraiser and something we will continue.
- Refreshments at the Musical Soiree on 25th June managed by Year 3

2. FINANCIAL UPDATE

MP ran through how much the recent events have raised:

- Sports Day refreshments - £174. This is less than last year even though we sold out of soft drinks. Perhaps because it was so hot people were sticking to water?
- Summer Fete – An amazing £8,500. *Note: We previously stated £8,700 in the newsletter but this was due to an invoice that had not been paid so apologies for that.* We are also awaiting some monies from the silent auction and sponsors.
- Legoland ticket sales - £600 minus transaction fees TBC
- Musical soiree refreshments - £471
- Reception class tea towels - ~£400

MP confirmed she has paid Mrs Croft all the outstanding money owed to school which includes payment for items requested by the emotional well-being ambassadors, Pupils for Praise donation for the reflective garden area at church, AI green screen for school, Shakespeare Theatre company visit (all items previously agreed to). Only VCF is outstanding.

We have also received a donation of £1500 from Centrica via Imogen Fletcher (Reception Mum). This money will go to towards Outdoor classroom (or similar) and we will need to send pictures once in place.

Emma Fulton-Lee (Reception / Yr 3 Mum) made up the sweetie cones for the summer fete and her company has donated the money to cover the cost of these.

MP confirmed we currently have ~ £30,000 in the bank. Approximately £15,000 of this is set aside for the Outdoor classroom and gazebo so around £15,000 to carry forward to next year (not including any funds raised from the remaining events for this year).

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / VOTE

Update on the wishlist

- Outdoor classroom update: As reported at the previous PTA meeting, the planning permission has been rejected as an ecology report is required. The school governors do not want to proceed with the ecology report so FR is now looking at alternative solutions – for example a yurt company or a semi-permanent solution. Cost TBC. TD offered to look at alternative option also.
- FR requested the following 2 additions to the wishlist
 - o Parent talk on self-esteem by Hesta Bancroft, Child psychologist. Her sessions have previously been very well received and many agreed she had a good reputation. It would be a 90 minute session (face to face) including a handout for 50 parents for £500. FR is looking to hold this in the Autumn Term. It was generally agreed that we should charge a small fee to encourage commitment to the event as we expect it will be popular. We will also run a bar on the evening.
 - o New blinds for the Hall – boring but necessary - £2759
 - o **Voted and agreed to both items**
- FR is also deliberating on air con for the hall but unsure how beneficial this will be

FR also mentioned this is the Alice in Wonderland production on 18th July for the whole school to look forward to.

PJ confirmed that JH has agreed to be co-chair effective immediately but will become official at the AGM in the Autumn. CP has also agreed to support the chairs going forward.

Fete tables update: Unfortunately the 30 tables that we have previously used for the summer fete have accidentally been burned. These did not belong to us – they were owned by the Floral Society and stored at Brenda Copas' house which was recently sold and as a result the tables disposed of. We therefore do not have trestle tables to use going forward and will need to think of other solutions. This year we were able to borrow from various people including Copas and other individuals but we were short. Perhaps we can use the ones from the village hall.

We do already use a number of items from the village hall including their PA system and road closure signs/cones. PJ suggested that it might be a nice gesture for the PTA to become members of the 'Friends of Cookham Dean' for £20 a year.

PJ mentioned that she is interested in digitalising the raffle next year. This would be environmentally better and we believe the costs should work out the same. We would pay 5p per £1 (so per ticket). It was agreed that we would trial this for the Christmas raffle. The draw could take place on the big screen. We also need to think about how the Christmas raffle draw will work next year as FR confirmed she does not want this to take place on the last day of school alongside the Santa sing-a-long.

We will host a separate specific fete feedback meeting in due course. Initial feedback discussed as below:

- Recycling worked really well
- There was not a great take-up on the obstacle course inflatable – maybe because of the heat
- The trampoline company turned up late and were generally not very professional. If we were to use these again we would need to address this. It was generally agreed we should try something different next year.
- The water run worked really well and was fun for all!
- The ice-creams did not sell very well so perhaps we do not do this again in the future. There is lots of stock to be used – suggest sales after school and can be used at the Leavers vs Remainers cricket
- Sweetie cones were good
- Donation bucket did really well!

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

There are a few remaining events this school year:

- Summer Disco 3rd July is all in hand. Currently we have about 40 children signed up for each discos. Not so many for the film room this time which is good.
- Leavers vs Remainers Cricket 8th July – Yr 6 are all organised. They will need cake donations.
- There is the Reception parents evening on 9th July – committee to support FR.
- New class reps meeting – date TBC **ACTION: PJ to request date with FR**

Kicking off in September:

- Reception Parents Coffee Morning – date TBC
- Gravity Grand Prix Café – 14th September – to be managed by new Year 4
- Village fete 20th September – to be managed by new Year 1. We have had reports that finding volunteers is already proving difficult. It was agreed that it is important that we have presence in the community. We will combine the 2 stalls this year with splat the rat and stick in the sand. We can use the reception (new year 1) gazebo. PH agreed to help alongside Yr 1

volunteers.

- Boundary Walk 5th October – Becky is taking this on.
- Disco 23rd October – managed by new Year 2
- Panto ticket sales – we are changing the venue to Henley Theatre this year and have secured 57 tickets.
- Full school tea towels. **ACTION: MH to follow-up with TA regarding handover.**

ACTION: PJ to send FR requested dates for events next year

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS / NEXT MEETING / CLOSE

PJ asked FR when the fundraising for Thames Hospice will happen next year so we can be mindful of PTA events at the same time. FR confirmed it will happen in the Spring term (Jan – Easter).

MP mentioned that she had been asked by a few parents whether the increase in class size to 30 would change the scope of PTA funding. FR confirmed that it's difficult to determine but likely the requirement will stay the same, it definitely will not go down. FR mentioned that staff costs have gone up and as PTA fund 'nice things' there will still be a requirement for this. FR will still request the curriculum spend contribution from PTA and will continue to promote VCF.

NEXT MEETING will be AGM and PTA meeting combined and will take place in the evening in early October. **ACTION: MH to confirm availability with committee and FR.**

The meeting closed.