

Friends of Westgate Meeting

At The Fleece Pub, 7.30pm 20/01/2014

Present: Claire Marsh, Andrew Ross, Victoria Mirfield, Kevin Jacobs, Charlotte Evans, Serena Lunn, Liz Bownes, Hannah Webster, Laurel Chambers, Nicola Lee, Cathy Macdonald, Gill Mullens, Helen Carpenter, Debbie Parapia, Sarah Fuller, Sarah McBrinn

Apologies: Tamara Weatherhead, Becky Doore, Hannah Morley, Helen Jackson, Wendy Forde, Laura Martin and Jo Newell

1) Welcome and introduction to new member, Nicky Lee.

2) Minutes of 18/11/13 approved

3) **Feedback from recent events**

a) **Victorian Fayre:** Agreed that went well despite rain. May not need to purchase mince pies next time as lots donated and request for templates for crafts in future.

b) **Christmas Cards:** Good return. Thank you to Liz for her hard work.

4) **Forthcoming Events**

a) **Disco:** All appears to be in hand. Silly Brothers booked for £140. Helpers needed to turn up on the night and can bring siblings to earlier disco.

b) **Ragbag:** Ms Carpenter had been in dialogue with Jo Newell about the possibility of using a new company that pays a better rate or a potentially greener option of using a new shop in Otley that pays for old clothes. Whichever is decided, it will go ahead in March and it was suggested that we let people know well in advance to get a good response.

c) **Easter Fayre:** Preparations are in hand with Liz, Gail and Debbie leading. The date for the toy stall has been decided for Friday 14th March with donations accepted from Monday 10th and non uniform day will be on Friday 28th, the day before the fayre, and payment is a "bottle" as usual. Any donations of party bag type presents are welcome as prizes. It was suggested that "fake tattoos" could be offered along with face painting but on consideration this was not felt suitable for a school event. Debbie proposed that if we could source a costume, that a giant Easter Bunny hopping around would add to the atmosphere. Digital photos could be taken and emailed. Hannah Webster kindly agreed to see if she could source a costume and then bunny volunteers will be needed. The staff will be asked if they are happy to donate sweets as usual.

d) **Easter Surprise:** Serena Lunn will purchase enough eggs and alternative treats for those allergic by Wed 02/04.

e) **Carnival:** This was explained for those new to the school. Cathy Macdonald will send out a letter about ideas for the carnival in February and Hannah Webster is also happy to help out. Claire Marsh will forward some names of potential volunteers for the core team, to Cathy. The budget for each child is approx £1.

5) **New Initiatives**

a) **Second Hand Clothes:** Ms Carpenter passed around the up to date stock list which looks good but all donations gratefully received. PE items needed. Gail Brogden will be asked to co-ordinate the first stall at Easter Fayre.

b) **Food Bank:** Becky Berry is still happy to organise a collection for the Otley bank.

c) **Tour De France:** This will be passing along Ilkley Road at approximately noon on Sat 5th July with a good view afforded from KS1 playground. There will be a large screen in the Market Place but discussion was had about the potential for holding an event at school. A French themed barbecue was suggested and everyone will ask around to see if there is an enthusiastic response and it will be discussed further at the next meeting. A suggestion of hanging a large banner from the railings was felt to be a good idea.

6) **Spending Plans**

Andrew Ross (treasurer) reported that we have c£2500 in the bank.

Ms Carpenter proposed a plan for renewing the playground markings and she has 3 quotes for this (c >£4000) and a detailed plan which were discussed at length. The idea was approved and the school will fund the removal costs of roughly £1200 and FoW the rest, relying on the shortfall from current funds to be raised from the Easter Fayre. Work would be carried out, outside of school hours.

Laurel Chambers suggested purchasing a piano to accompany assembly and concerts but there is already an electric keyboard available which is used when needed and no pianist on the staff.

7) **AOB**

- It was mentioned that Henrietta Duckworth is involved in a city wide arts initiative around the Tour De France and that she could be asked for any suggestions to involve the school.
- A change counting machine has been donated to FoW by James Simpson & Mary Baber, which is received with thanks.

8) **Date of Next Meeting: Monday 10th March at the Fleece Pub.**