

Minutes of Friends of Westgate Meeting at Fleece, Otley

Monday 27th April, 7.30 pm

Present; Wendy Forde, Charlotte Evans, Victoria Mirfield, Helen Carpenter, Joanne Hattersley, Andrew Ross, Debbie Parapia

Apologies: Clare Marsh, Jo Newall, Cathy MacDonald, Gill Mullens, Liz Bownes, Sarah Fuller, Nikki Lee, Serena Lunn, Kevin and Jane Jacobs.

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Review of Recent Events

- i) *Logo Competition.* A winner has been chosen and given a £10 voucher and the new logo is bold and simple. It is in the process of being turned into a usable format and hopefully we will be able to see this at the next meeting and start using it.
- ii) *Toy Fair.* Successful part of Easter Fair, held separately and raised £102.06 and an additional amount from the sealed bid auction of a donated trampoline.
- iii) *Easter Fair.* This is our biggest fund raiser and raised £2019.99. Football was up and the new stalls proved popular. There was a high demand for face painting and a suggestion for next year is to have something to entertain the queue. The tombola took twice as much as last year but cake stall sales were down and it was queried if we should have 2 cake sales in the same term. There were few additional volunteers to the usual helpers and ideas to try and attract greater numbers included; stressing that children are welcome to help with their carers and offering a free strip of raffle tickets to helpers. Raffle donations were good as usual but a face to face approach works better than a written request. **Thank you to everyone involved in the fair but especially the Easter Fair Committee as it could not go ahead without you.**
- iv) *Easter Bunny.* The children appreciated his visit although he did leave rather a lot of paw prints.
- v) *Rag Bag.* Jo Newall arranging as usual and going well.

Forthcoming Events

- i) *Uniform sales* planned for 18/05 and 30/06 including the reception induction. Donations always welcome.

- ii) *Year 6 Yearbook.* Helen Jackson has found a local company that are in budget and Austin Kelly has offered to help put together. The year 6 selfies and group photos have been done and there should be a great yearbook for the departing year 6.
- iii) *Refreshments at Maypole.* Planned for 21/05 and 50p for a drink and biscuit or flapjack. There will be 2 stations so everyone can access them and volunteers are needed.
- iv) *Carnival.* The theme has been chosen and Steph Woods and the carnival team are ready to go into school and make the costumes ready for 20/06. Jim Ibbetson has kindly agreed to construct the centrepiece and a year 7 student has also expressed an interest to help out.

AOB

- i) Sarah Fuller will be asked about the orienteering which is usually run in the Autumn Term. There have been suggestions about changing the format as some people may feel that “orienteering” is not for them. Alternative suggestions include; joining with another school, a sponsored walk or treasure trail or finding the new FoW logo, displayed in various locations around Otley, potentially over a whole weekend to allow people to take part at their convenience. This can be discussed further at the next meeting.
- ii) Name tags. Bec Bardgett has sourced easy to name tags for clothing, shoes and belongings and these will be offered for sale at the uniform sales and other events.
- iii) The Treasurer reported that the current balance is approx. £3400 and hopefully the next big spend should mean that the lighting rig is available for the Leavers Play.
- iv) Discussion was had about how to attract more people to FoW as it is such an important part of the school. People can give as little or as much time as they can and it can be a good place to meet new friends. It was felt that a more personal approach may be useful and if someone expresses an interest that they can be contacted directly. Current Friends could talk to other parents or carers in their children’s’ classes and better use could be made of the notice board, emphasising what FoW do and showing examples of some of the recent things that have been funded by us.

- v) The date for the Curry Night is provisionally 13/10/15 and Debbie will liaise with Westbourne Spice.

The next meeting will be held on 06/07/15 (since the meeting this has been changed to 13/07/15), at the Fleece at 7.30 pm and the Annual General Meeting will be held afterwards, so nominations for new committee members especially a Chairperson are very welcome as FoW will not be able to continue without the positions being filled.