



Parents Committee Minutes AGM 21st January 2010

Attendance : Charlotte Thursz, David Barratt, Sheena Harden, Hazel Hosford, Andrew Bell, Titus Mills, Karen Young, Annmarie Mitchell , Huw Bunn, Jules Lowrie, Halena Coury, Gavin Duckett, Anna Row, Jemima Mills.

Apologies: Sarah Heavens, Kate Gentle, Victoria Humphries.

Chairman's Report

Outlined the **role of the committee:**

- To raise funds to benefit the whole school
- To act as a communication channel between parents and management
- To create a social atmosphere and encourage goodwill with parents, children and supporters of the school

The committee, via the class reps, provides a link between the school and the parents and we all feel that this is important. We don't just organize event and raise money. Our meetings also cover topics that are a concern to parents. This year we have discussed parking arrangements and playground safety, the new parents handbook, bullying and the schools approach to discipline as well as procedure for dealing with children who become ill or injured during the school day.

A bi-termly **newsletter** is produced by the Committee, called The Paragraph (Thanks Charlotte!), and the Committee is also a forum for meeting new parents from other classes within the school.

This year we have again organised a number of events including two children's **discos**, our annual **Christmas Bazaar** our **School Quiz nights** and Karen and the team delivered another highly successful **summer fete**. Sheena and her team also ran **after school coffee shops**.

The events we put on play an important part in the social life at the school and are valued by all who take advantage of them for that alone. Our kids however see a much greater benefit. The **events raise funds** which help us to help the school with **special projects** and often ones which really enhance the fun aspects of school life.

Thanks to Anne-Marie for taking over the school uniform shop.

This last year we used a system of on line voting to allow the parents to choose which of the items requested by the school our funds were spent on. We felt this worked really well and helped ensure that the money raised was distributed with the support of the whole community.

GD thanked Jane Jones for her time as Secretary during the first part of the last year and for Jules for taking this role on most recently and Karen for her work as treasurer and for her support and commitment to all that the committee has achieved.

Election of Officers

The committee chairperson, secretary and treasurer resigned from their posts and the members voted in new committee officers.

Chairperson: Juliet Lowrie. Proposed by Halena Coury and seconded by Charlotte Thursz.

Treasurer: Huw Bunn. Proposed by Annmarie Mitchell and seconded by Sheena Harden.

Secretary: Jill Blane. Proposed by Annmarie Mitchell and seconded by Halena Coury.

TREASURERS REPORT

This evening I am presenting two profit & loss accounts. The first reflects the 12 month period to 31st August 2009 and the second a 16 month period to 31st December 2009 to bring the accounts in line with the new timing of the AGM i.e. in January. The following report will only make reference to the new 16 month period.

The events and activities organised in the 16 month accounting period to 31st December 2009 raised over £11,000 - a reflection of the continuing quality of the events, the dedication and hard work of the organisers and the support from Paragon parents and children by attending the events.

Donations to the school totalled £3,923 which included £3,590 paid in the accounting period, but pledged in the financial year to 31st August 2008 and £333 for a new hockey goal-keepers kit.

In addition, during the year, the committee agreed to fund IT Software, an abacus maths resource, a CD player, a digital camera and beebot robot – a total of 2,995. We await an invoice from the school for these items. The committee also agreed, in principle, to fund a new pottery kiln, subject understanding the cost involved.

The bank account balances as at 31st December 2009 totalled just over £12,600, so after taking the above into account (but without making an allowance for the kiln) just over £9,500 is available for the school.

Looking in a little more detail at the events and activity in the accounting period:

The three discos organised just before each of the two October half terms and the February half term left the children, as usual, happy, hot, tired and just a little sweaty. Numbers were excellent and the ticket price at £3 remained the same as it had been for the last couple of years. Mum's and Dad's supervising their little ones at the first disco were grateful for the glass of wine or bottle of beer available.

The annual parents quiz was held in the school hall and was as ever a hotly contested affair. Thanks to Natalie Jiggins for taking on the mantle of quiz mistress, after years of fantastic quizzes hosted by Mrs Brian. Everyone enjoyed a gorgeous lamb supper prepared by the Sarah Lauder. Perhaps, rather embarrassingly for the parents present, but great for the event profits, the bar was drunk dry and Gavin had to make an emergency run for additional supplies. We can all look forward to the next quiz next month, where Mrs May is making her debut as quiz mistress. The profit from this event benefited from being held in-house.

Enormous thanks to Sarah Heavens for organising her second barn dance. It was a struggle selling tickets but the event still made a small profit. However, very importantly, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all those "Stripping the Willow" and mastering their "Gay Gordon"

Natalie Jiggins continued her tireless pursuit to sell all her practical Paragon re-usable bags. Her contribution to the Paragon School, and particularly this committee, will be sorely missed next year when Cosmo finishes in Year 6.

A new fund raising event in the period was the production of the Paragon cookery book. I know it took the organising committee an enormous amount of time, hard work and dedication but I'm sure you'll agree the end result was well lovely and well worth the effort.

The results for the period also included the annual summer fete and barbecue held in June which raised £2,124. This figure was after purchasing a number of new, more robust gazebo's. Attendance was excellent and the weather remained kind. Nearly 400 sponges were thrown by the children at teachers!

The results also include two Christmas bazaars. A huge amount of preparation work goes into this event and I'd like to record my thanks to both the 2008 and 2009 teams. There was a super range of stall holders and the atmosphere was really Christmassy. However, the numbers attending have been declining over the last couple of year, despite a significant amount of promotional activity which is a shame.

Miscellaneous expenses in the period included the purchase of a new PA system, catering for two New Parents evenings and new for the first time in December 2008 the provision of coffee and mince pies for parents before and after the pre-prep nativity play.

Annemarie Mitchell is now successfully operating a profitable (for both the school and parents) second hand uniform shop. £305 of the £385 cost

reported was for a bulk buy of top quality nit combs (an agenda item all too frequently discussed at committee meetings)

Six years after becoming Secretary of the Paragon parents committee, I've really enjoyed making a contribution to school life. I'm delighted to be able to hand over to a new team and I wish them lots of luck for the future. I'm looking forward to supporting their events as a 'punter' rather than money counter.

Finally, I'd like to thank Gavin. It really is fair to say that many events over the years wouldn't have run so smoothly without his support, bar skills and technical know-how.

AOB

Titus thanked Karen Young and Gavin Duckett for their enormous to the school.

GD closed the meeting.