

1. Apologies: Jacqui, Paul, Ian, Sarah Jane

2. Attendees: Vicki, Paula, Moira, Sima, Helen Walker, Sheanna Ashman, Katie Thompson
Vicki welcomed Sheanna and Helen to the Committee. Both have been active on the Cygnets committee so are aware of what to expect! We have two further new committee members who could not attend, Ayako Heleine and Vinodh Kumar Sankaranayanan.

3. The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed by all.

4. Review of Events

Book Fayre

Sima reported that the Book Fayre had gone well, and despite it having been rather quiet in the small hall, orders had been large so the takings are much the same as before. Holding the Fayre in the Foyer is good as it attracts more KS2 children. She noted that parents tend to forget that the Book Fayre is on, so in future, better advertising is needed in the form of flyers – Helen offered to copy these at work. Vicki gave a bid thank you to Sima on behalf of the Committee.

Fireworks

Vicki thanked Paula for organising another brilliant evening, it had all gone extremely well. There had been one rogue firework but a crisis had been averted, and the bad weather held off until after the display. Vicki thanked the intrepid firework lighting team. We made £700, an increase on last year, which is especially pleasing since holding the event on 5th clashes with the Midsummer Common display. Helen has some photos of the fireworks which could be added to the Website.

Notes for next year: No need for toilet monitors, since refreshments are so close to the cloakroom doors. Also, perhaps organise a build up, getting the crowd to count down to the first firework.

5. Future Events 2010

200 Club – the first draw was held last week, and was won by no. 44, Deborah Opoku.

Christmas Market

Vicki confirmed that there is no Christmas Fayre this year, but there will be a Christmas Market for the children on Friday 10th December, to be held during school in the afternoon in the small hall.

The teachers have embraced the idea and will be helping the older children organise the event under the 'enterprise scheme', which will involve some marketing and pricing of gifts. Katie confirmed that Sue Dorrington was very happy to take the lead on preparations for the event, and that things are underway. The younger children are making labels out of old cards. The older ones will take the younger ones around the market to help them shop.

In the latest newsletter parents were asked to donate small items, small enough to fit into the palm of your hand, which will be wrapped in cellophane, and colour coded according to price. Moira will do another flyer to give parents some ideas of what they could provide.

Sheanna showed the Committee a bag of delightful knitted figures and animals made and donated by her mother-in-law, Joan Ashman. She suggested that the smaller ones could be bought at the Christmas Market, and the bigger ones be sold on a table in the large hall. Vicki suggested that we ask the School Council to write a thank you to Mrs Ashman. Helen noted that her mother can get bargain Quality Street from Chivers, which could be bagged up and sold at the market, which everyone thought was a good idea.

From 3-5pm in the large hall, there will be tea, cakes and mince pies, perhaps some non-alcoholic hot punch. Paula offered to organise this. Mrs Cutts will bring the choir. Vicki asked if the brass band could come as the carols in the foyer last year had been very festive. Katie will follow up on this. The raffle table will be there. The Committee discussed whether there should be some more stalls, but it was decided that this would be too much like a return to the Christmas Fayre. It was decided, however, to allow Cygnets, as the feeder playgroup, to hold a stall with low-key Name the teddy or Sweets in the jar type games. It was decided that it would be good to give children something to do while people listen to the choir/eat cake, and Moira offered to do a Christmas quiz, 50p a go, with a prize for the winner, and do a Christmas word search to hand out.

Regarding the raffle, Andy is organising this - the committee thought it best if tickets were sent out Friday 26th, and Vicki, Anna and Andy will bundle them into 30s for Margaret to distribute. [Tickets have now been sent out on Friday 19th].

6. MSA Newsletter – It was decided to move the dates of issue to January, Easter and End of the year.

7. Uniform – Jane Pendred has taken this on and is happy to do this on her own. She comes in on a Wednesday. Helen has offered help if required.

8. Website – James is continuing to update the site.

9. Sammy Shade – will be taken off the agenda for the time being.

10. Sheanna Ashman ideas

Sheanna came with some fundraising ideas:

Musical Evening. Sheanna expressed surprise that Milton Primary School does not hold any kind of music evening to showcase the children's playing. As a woodwind teacher she visits a number of schools and we are the only school not to host a concert. The committee were enthusiastic about the idea, both as an enjoyable opportunity for parents to see children's musical ability, and also as a good fundraiser. The logistics were discussed, and it was thought that the best time would be at Easter when the stage is up for the Yrs 5&6 play. The show would last about one and a half hours. Tickets would be sold, to include a drink. Vicki will speak to Sue about the possibility of going forward with this idea, with a view to fixing a date at the next meeting. Sheanna will speak to other music teachers to gauge their interest.

School Disco. The Committee discussed this, and Vicki explained that we have held several school discos in the past, but it had proved a logistical nightmare and always ended in a riot. Feedback in general had not been popular.

Movie night. Vicki had already looked into the idea of an outdoor movie and picnic idea, but the licensing laws are quite expensive. Sheanna noted that other schools run an indoor movie night – Vicki wondered about the licensing for this, and Sheanna said she'll find out.

Sponsored events – The committee talked about the themed sponsored walk held every year which raises up to £3,000, so no further sponsored events are required.

11. Clothes Collection

Sima introduced an idea she had come across online called “Bag to School”, a charity collection which collects unwanted clothing and textiles from school.

(<http://www.bag2school.com/u/k/home/>) A van comes to collect the bags, weighs them and pays 40p per kilo of stuff, which could raise £200-300 per term. All that is required is that 2 bookings are made when you call. Parents would be asked to save their unwanted items for the school collection, and bring in their bags on the day, so avoiding any storage problems. Sima will talk to Sue to further this, but the committee were very enthusiastic about such a simple way of raising money.

12. Any Other Business

The date of the Summer Barbecue will be 1st July 2011.

13. Date of the Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th December at 7.30 in the Lion and Lamb for a Christmas drink.