

# MINUTES

## Friends of St Mary's PTA meeting

*Date | time* 06-02-2019 9am The Villa | *Meeting called by* Helen Wallace, Rebecca Farrell, Jemma Rudnicki

### In Attendance

Debbie Lyall (5G), Lucy Luscombe (Whales, Angelfish), Millie Anderson (Starfish), Nancy Thorpe (3R), Abi Monk (6MG), Tabitha Walsh (3W), Tracey Garner (5C), Joanne O'Reilly (5W), Ruth Evans (6H), Sarah Jones (6H), Sahrah Chaudhri, Valerie Adamson, Chris Copland, Caroline Robertson (5G)

### Apologies

Helen Kavanagh, Emma Lally, Michelle Parfremment, Rebecca mason, Emoli Scott-Taggart, Sarah Butler-Merritt, Sarah Cole, Clare Lett, Jenny Parfremment.....hope that's all.

### The St Mary's Kitchen Garden

We welcomed Steve Marsden & Brian to the meeting, who joined us to discuss exciting plans for the St Mary's kitchen garden. Plans were shown and logistics explained.

- The area planned consists of 3 raised beds with a Tanalised wood surround (which will last 10yrs or so)
- Wood chippings around the raised beds
- Balustrade to one side making the 2ft drop to the composter safe
- A composter for brown fill and kitchen waste
- Site accessible for wheelchairs
- Used by children in Eco council, lunch-time clubs, outdoor learning such as Art & Science lessons – all welcome!
- Maintained by the children and volunteers
- Cost of approx. £3000 – a significant amount of leveling will have to be done to the area in preparation
- The Rotary Club are generously supporting this project with a significant donation (figure yet to be confirmed)

### Discussion:

- Abi Monk asked about the existing raised beds on the junior site? Can anything be recycled from these? It was agreed that all efforts to recycle existing beds would be done and Mrs Chaudhri will look into the quality of the sleepers currently there – although they are most likely 5+ years old.
- Valerie Adamson said perhaps the Governors might be asked to contribute towards the funding. This may be possible although we are mindful of how much the Governors contributed to new IT equipment last year.
- Millie Anderson – worked at a school that had such a Kitchen Garden and it added amazing value to the school.

- Chris Copland – has 13 good quality wooden pallets available – perhaps useful for the balustrade? The group thanked Chris for his generous offer.
- Qu: Are the costings for just build or plants / seeds as well? – Answ: Purely build.
- Qu: perhaps a small shed is required for storing tools & boots? The meeting agreed that this would be good to have.
- Perhaps signs could be made to help children using the area – educational information about the plants they are growing.
- Parents to be asked to help / volunteer time to maintain the garden.
- Valerie Adamson – when might this project start? Answ: Looking at late Spring.
- With donations of materials etc. perhaps the initial costings could be reduced.
- Perhaps a plaque on view stating that the garden was donated by The Rotary Club & The Friends of St Mary's.
- Waitrose Community Matters to be approached for donation.

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### Safety of our children on the school / home run

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We started off this agenda point with a discussion about 'who's responsibility is it?'. As a PTA body, our role is to enhance the children's lives whilst at school through fundraising events, not to be traffic wardens. That said, we **ALL** have a responsibility to protect the children at St Mary's in and out of the school and we all take this matter very seriously, although with heavy hearts, it has to be said that the people we need to target, simply don't care.

We were joined today by Chris Copland. Chris lives on Silkham Road and now has one child at St Mary's. Chris explained that the whole community on Silkham Road have held meetings going back a long way on how to improve the parking situation on the road. He described how even just a few days ago, a bus was stuck between two cars (parked legally) leaving people delayed and distressed and one car ultimately being towed away – a huge disruption for all.

Blocking the road, although a huge annoyance, isn't on the scale when it comes to our children's safety.

Sahrah Chaudhri: The school has a massive problem with this. We are already (and have been for a long time) in touch with the Police and the Council. The school 'names & shames' number plates that persist in offending and number plates have been sent to the Police. People simply don't respect the messages.

Ruth Evans: the system works better when people don't park on the double yellow lines – perhaps we can have cones put out?

Rebecca Farrell: The cost of 4 weather-proof pavement signs (larger than a traffic cone), personalized with the name of the school would be £500. Perhaps these might help? Perhaps the council can help fund? – (pictures of pavement signs used in other schools were shown.)

Caroline Robertson: The buses are working well and the 'walking bus' groups worked well. More buses are needed though, there is clearly a demand.

Ruth Evans: There were 3-4 different pick-up points for the 'walking buses'. Only one really got used, the Library point. Take up on this scheme seems to have fizzled out.

Chris Copland: Limpsfield school have an excellent system, but we simply don't have the space to do what they do. How about asking the Catholic Church on Chichelle for use of their car park am & pm?

Ruth Evans & Valerie: The Community Hall offer parking to parents, however, some are not happy about the width of the pavements in that area and when walking larger groups of children in rush hour, its not very safe.

Millie Anderson: Can the owners of the repeatedly offending cars be invited to the school (in private) to talk things through – there may be, for some, extenuating circumstances that are making pickup & drop off so stressful that they are parking in this way.

Sahrah Chaudhri: This would be very difficult.

Chris Copland: Awareness is so important, there has to be a culture of change.

Ruth Evans: What about cards to put on window screens of poorly / dangerously parked cars?

Emma Church: Perhaps the office can take more of the stress away from parents who have two pickups and therefore often arrive some 5-10minutes late to St Mary's.

Ruth Evans: There are many different reasons for the driving / parking problems. Its important not to stereotype drivers – important to focus on a few key points, of which there are 3-4. Identify key areas to target.

Valerie Adamson: The old school prospectus used to have a map printed within indicating key areas where to and where NOT to park – this should be looked at again.

Caroline Robertson: Perhaps a Zebra crossing would be beneficial?

#### **ACTION POINTS:**

The Friends of St Mary's to look into – (ALL subject to agreement / discussion with school):

- Road signs
- Cards for windscreens
- Supporting the school with the Police & Council
- Fact finding on Zebra crossing
- Prospectus map looked at with a view to using
- Encourage culture change / total intolerance of selfish & dangerous parking.

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#### **Infant Disco Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 3pm – 4.30pm**

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As predicted, enthusiasm for this event has been very positive! We are now full to capacity.

Help has been offered to set up and clear up which is very much appreciated – not too late to offer! Even if you are able to do 5-10 minutes of clearing up, that takes a load off others & gets them home quicker!

#### **HELPERS:**

NAME	

Lindsay Doune	SET UP
Lucy Luscombe	SET UP
Nicky Simmonds	SET UP
Fiona / Matt Claridge	Poss CLEAR UP
Fiona Feltham	Poss CLEAR UP
Sarah Khosravi	CLEAR UP
Helen Wallace	ENTRANCE

**Please arrive 2pm – 2.15pm to help set up.**

Millie Anderson: Is it possible to do a supermarket delivery slot on the day to save time & effort?

**ACTION POINTS:**

- Check with Sahrah if supermarket delivery would be ok.
- Soft drinks to be purchased – for refreshment stall
- Crisps & squash to be purchased – for children (included with entry)

**May Fayre – May 18<sup>th</sup> 2019**

We are starting to think about the May Fayre. Valerie Adamson, Rebecca Farrell, Helen Wallace & Sahrah Chaudhri have a meeting planned Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb to start planning.

- Valerie Adamson was formerly approved as the Promoter of the May Fayre – approved by Caroline Robertson & Millie Anderson
- Three signatures are required to approve the raffle. Done by Rebecca Farrell, Sarah Jones & Claire Jagers.

**Quiz Night**

This event has been advertised and teams are coming in thick and fast.

The event organisers are Laura Shackleton and Andrea Maynard, we thank them hugely for all their efforts thus far on what is usually a sell out & very popular event.

**ACTION POINTS:**

- Anyone available to help set up / clear-up would be appreciated
- Anyone wishing to help run the bar / entrance / marking of quiz papers, please email [smoxted.pta@gmail.com](mailto:smoxted.pta@gmail.com) and we will forward to Laura / Andrea.

Thank you in advance

**St Mary's Ball**

Tickets are now on sale to this glittering event. All advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

The Ball is being organized by Trish Carter and Sarah Endersby, we thank them hugely for all their hard work.

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## NEW FRIENDS LOGO!!!

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We are delighted to share that we have two lead runners in the new Logo design. We thank Clare Lett for all the time she has put into poster design for previous events and now these wonderful logos. We are very lucky to have her!

With a few minor alterations, we will confirm the new logo shortly.

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## FINANCE UPDATE

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The Friends of St Mary's have been very lucky to have the expertise of Marlize Lloyd for many a year as Treasurer. Over the recent months, Marlize has been helping Donna Shorey fill these rather large shoes....which we have no doubt, she will do.

We thank Marlize for her services to the Friends of St Mary's.

A summary of the Friends income & expenditure follows from September 2018- January 2019:

EVENT	Profit / Loss
Beetle Drive	£84
Bonfire Disco	£756
Christmas cards	£1302
Christmas Fair	£8948
Comedy Night	(£463)
Cake sales	£745
Cinema trip	£221
Nativity photos	£219
Breck foundation presentation	(£392)
Crocodile Encounters	(£300)
Panto	(£1499)
Donations	£214
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£9835</b>

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## ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

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- Millie Anderson: we should promote far more about what the Friends do – perhaps a display in both school sites showing what the money is being spent on.

- Millie Anderson: The scooter parking spot could do with a roof.

**ACTION POINT:**

- Rebecca & Helen will post on the Facebook group more often about the Friends activities (ie cake sale takings). Caroline Robertson will forward these activities to the office for the School Newsletters.
- Millie to look into creating a display / poster showing what the Friends have provided for.
- Discussion with Sahrah to be had about shelter for scooters.

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**AND FINALLY.....**

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CARNIVAL - (you know you want to Abi!!). We will be looking into the possibility of St Mary's taking part in this event.

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**NEXT MEETING:**

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THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR TIME & ENTHUSIASM. *Rebecca & Helen*