

2021-11-30 Friends of Belham meeting minutes

Held on Zoom

Attendees:

Kathryn Church	Tom Turnham
Adam Scott	Ginnie K
Chantelle Edwards	Elsa R
Doug Renwick	Louise M
Shaun Kirby	Lizzy P
Hannah Cleaton-Roberts	Abba N
Lucy Beedham	Rob W
Rachel Noar	Eleanor B

1. Welcome

Adam welcomed new committee members. Thanked everyone for their help in running a busy term of activities.

Review of recent events:

2. Fun Run debrief

KC: nice event, lot of work to put together by core group of 4-5, tried to have low environmental impact as possible - wooden medals, apples for snacks;

Elliot's photos really appreciated;

Abba N - Lyndhurst PTA would be keen to join a future fun run (she met new chairs), they are part of the Charter Educational Trust. Tom T says Lyndhurst are keen to get sporting events off the ground, need to be clear who's responsible for what - safeguarding

Suggestion that joint events could also be held with other schools in the Charter Trust.

Kathryn thought a joint Fun Run could be a nice and maximise the effort put into the organisation.

Action: Abba to connect Kathryn with Lyndhurst PTA, Kathryn to report back at next meeting.

3. Christmas cards debrief

Process was too complicated this year. Lizzy happy to investigate different options, Chantelle offered to help. Lizzy happy to do again in 2022.

Action: Lizzy to investigate with company if can do direct uploading, and investigate other companies.

Chantelle to check with friends which are recommended.

4. Uniform sales

KC: sold about half of the existing stock, sale was busier earlier on then fizzled out. Would be great to do it in the school playground, maybe smaller age-group specific ones. Need to aim for weeks without clubs? LB: aim for first week of term when people may need more uniform? TT: longer terms have more club-free afternoons. CE: Friday is a good day. LM: playground is very busy and chaotic. HCR: cake sale combined with uniform sale was done before and was terrifying! LP: offering uniform to families who may need it? TT: there is a small stash of uniform that school can give out if families need it.

Action: Kathryn to coordinate with Ally Sprakes on proposed dates of sale (ideal would be first week or summer term or week before half term in summer term). To discuss with Ally whether FOB can increase donations for families in need, or families starting through the year.

5. Tea towels:

Thank you to Lucy B for organising tea towels for R and Y2. Process was straightforward and earned income.

Next meeting: Identify organiser for reception 2022 effort.

6. Gardening:

Harriet leaving school in July. Rachel C is going to help moving forward and will meet Tom in the new year. Chantelle to talk to a year 1 keen gardener parent to help Rachel. Idea to have a few gardening mornings through the year.

Action: Chantelle to speak to year 1 parent and connect with Rachel C.

Benches - around £4.5k sitting in the Lane pot. Two benches estimated at £700 to £1000 (requires proper research) - sought views on the appropriateness of spending this money. Discussion that the Lane is still not yet open, and some concern over cost of a new bench. School needs to weigh price vs quality.

Action: Tom to discuss with school and come back to us with ideas of what they want in terms of the benches.

Velodrome - went well

Next meeting: Identify organiser for spring/summer session.

7. Friends Drinks and AGM

Good turnout from teachers but poor parent attendance. Question on whether 6.30/7pm timing was problematic, or the fact that AGM mixed with a social event. Long debate on how to market it better. Need to make it more enticing.

Led to discussion on board needed for posters - Tom updated that poster board may be possible with Bellenden Road widening.

Chat about comms - Could Buzz/FF be in email body so searchable? One column not two so more readable? School is undertaking a comms review.

Action: Tom to continue discussions on Bellenden Road poster board and update next time, and feed suggestions re the Buzz into the school's comms review.

Action: New committee to discuss alternative arrangements for AGM in 2022.

Action: Kathryn to investigate alternative catering/glasses hire options.

Upcoming events:

8. Belham Festive Market

Extra volunteers would be helpful. HCR: useful to have bullet point what to do on a stall so volunteers know what's going on.

Action: Louise/Doug to write 5-pointers for each stall/volunteer activity.

9. Community Christmas Cards and Albrighton Community Fridge food bank collections

Lizzy to run Community Cards again this year. Collection box to go into playgrounds/reception from next Monday.

There will be an Albrighton collection at the Festive Market (long life goods) and another one on the morning of Weds 15 Dec (more perishable, xmas foodstuffs welcome). Ginnie offered to help sort goods. Adam will use his vehicle to deliver.

Action: Lizzy to coordinate with Tom. Louise to provide content on Albrighton donations for Friend's Friendly next week and recruit/coordinate volunteers via WhatsApp groups if they are needed.

10. Terrarium

So far ticket sales slow. Will need big push in last FF's of this term and in early January.

11. Quiz

Ideal venue is Peckham Liberal Club as used in the past. Rich Knowles offered to run quia again. Discussion on food - need to cater to different dietary needs. Needs to stay hot til the food break. Curry worked pretty well last time - organised by Abba N through a 'dark' kitchen. Did leave us with their bulky thermal boxes which they took over a week to pickup from Adam's front garden! General view that it should be after Feb half term - better to gauge how Covid is progressing. First Thursday after half term suggested.

Action: Kathryn and Chantelle to speak to Liberal Club and check food options.
Kathryn to confirm Thurs 24th Feb with Rich.

12. Disco

Tentative Halloween disco next year, and one in the Spring term. Was very crowded in the Liberal Club last time and it has tricky, narrow access with steps - do we need more space? Split the year groups. Towards end of spring term?

HCR: different age groups have very different attitude. More popular with the younger years. Run a R-Y2 disco only? Different DJ's for different ages?

Alternative spaces - Copleston Centre? Church opposite Peckham Rye Station?

CE: Parent DJ? She has some ideas.

Eleanor Brown - Junior Jungle good for older children, but expensive.

Lucy B offered to be central disco coordinator with help from Chantelle and advice from Hannah C-R
Any spaces at Harris Academy? TT thinks they get good rental space from their spaces so may be hard to get space on a Friday.

Action: Kathryn and Chantelle to check Church option near PMR station.
Chantelle to follow up with Harris to see what the options are there.
Chantelle to speak to parent DJ to see what they can offer for kids.
KC to get quote from Junior Jungle and Little Disco Co, and double check with Copleston if they can do a Friday pm.

13. Easter Egg Hunt - pencil for 2nd or 3rd of April

Next meeting: Determine organiser (check in advance if Elenor Brown happy to do again).

14. Challenge 28 - discussion about whether to run this - involves people asking for sponsorship again - non-fundraising challenge? Steps over the month... Walk to Beijing. Companies who will match fund challenges (Abba). Tech showing progress on a Map.

Action: Abba to research company match funding options, if they can support a primary school effort.

15. **Ceilidh** - TT says Y6 are learning about country dancing so they would be keen for a Ceilidh. Music and dance department.

Leaver's ceilidh for Y6? This was popular. Keep tentative until confirmed dates of Y6 performance and production.

TT: NB SATS week (9th May) and residential in May (23rd)

TT: leaver's event can have issues with behaviour - freedom sends them a bit crazy - need lots of adults there to avoid a 'frenzy'. Hamlet leaver's event is PTA organised and child has to have a responsible adult with them. Adults have bar outside in playground and children do their thing inside.

Action: Y6 parents to gauge interest in end of year dance (LP, CE, GK)

16. **Fun Run** - agreed to stick to Autumn.

Saturday instead? Clashes with Park Run. Would be good to have a fresh reason for fund raising so that extended friends and family feel they are giving to a new thing.

17. **Summer Fair** - Agreed to try a May fair instead of heat of July - proposed date May 14th at the end of the SATS week? TT thinks it would work ok for school. Some Y6 might just want to chill after SATS. But might be good for R-5.

EB: Maypole? Do Villa have one?

Action: new committee inform school of date: J Pink, C Murray,

18. **Camping** - June midsummer

Action: Kathryn to check with Scouts on available dates and book in Belham weekend.

19. Other ideas

Cultural day: CE: celebrating different cultures in the school, their foods. TT if more social, less educational could be an evening or a weekend.

TT - school in Catford he used to work at did cultural pot-luck. Bring food and so on.

Make the May fair more multi-cultural - foods from different countries?

Action: Tom to discuss idea with school and revert if they would like a social/evening/weekend event or prefer to do something in school.

Sporting sweepstake: RN: could raise money linked to big sporting events - what are the gambling rules?

Suggested Women's Euros in July.

Action: Rachel to investigate gambling rules and what FOB could do in this space.

Children-led fundraising: RN: classes collectively raising money - choosing what they want for their classroom from some of the fundraising?

GK: kids used to run the bake sales.

KC: secondhand toy sale /garage sale idea.

Action: Tom to discuss with teachers if they have any suggestions or ideas for children-led fundraising.

Family Cycling outing: Adam proposed a family bike day out from Catford to Beckenham on an off-road route. There was some interest but concern the route may not be appealing to some families. Agreed that Adam should organise if he wants and we circulate among families in a more informal way, to allow families to go if they want to, not to make it any kind of sponsored event etc. Families can bring their own picnics etc.

Action: Adam to propose dates to new committee, and can share details on whatsapp to those interested.

20. Using existing FoB Funds to support the Makers Room appeal.

AS explained that the existing Makers Room target was £11,500. TT has identified additional costs of £2000 for installation and induction hobs. There was not a discussion of adding this £2k to the target.

AS proposed allocating £2,900 from existing FoB funds to the Makers Room - we have around £8100 unallocated funds in the bank at the moment, so we would have £5200 remaining if we did allocate this money.

This prompted discussion of the 'STEAM Grant' of £10,700 given by Jack K's PhD funders some time ago, and intended for use on STEAM activities and the Makers Room. Due to time passing and changes of personnel and change of the Trust, TT is having trouble tracking down the detail. He believes only around £2000 has been spent.

So there may be £8700 remaining, some or all of which could be used on the Maker's Room.

Those present agreed to commit the £2900 to the Makers Room *if required*, which will give School the confidence to proceed with ordering workbenches/stools/tool storage and get the project completed sooner.

Action: Tom to investigate STEAM funds situation. School can proceed with Maker's Room purchases with a £2900 guarantee from spare FOB funds, while STEAM funds are investigated.

21. Parent survey: KC suggested we can canvas ideas from parents through a short survey on what they would like to see or do next year.

Action: KC to send round short google form via FF and WhatsApp groups week of the 6th or 13th Dec.

Outstanding items to discuss next time:

Lectures/evening events at school. Golf Day. Name labels. Benevity. Bake sales. Belham Merch. Grants update from Alex. Update from Year 6 Hoodie and Year book team.