

## **St. Anne's Fulshaw PTA Meeting – Minutes**

Wednesday, 5 March 2025, Zoom Call, 8pm

### **Attendees**

Clare Daniel - CD  
Karen O'Connell-Franklin - KC  
Sam Dalziel -SD  
Jen Lewis - JL  
Jane Dobner -JD  
Karen Barnard - KB  
Quentin Barnard - QB

### **Apologies**

Shelley Roberts - SR  
Sophia Ramsbottom - SRam

### **Meeting Purpose**

Discuss PTA leadership changes, parent feedback, financials, and upcoming events for St. Anne's Fulshaw PTA.

### **Key Takeaways**

1. KC taking over as co-chair with SR until end of school year; AGM planned for new committee election.
2. Current bank balance healthy at £10,500, but aim to raise additional £1,500-£2,000 by year-end.
3. Focus on improving communication and engagement with parents through newsletters, social media, and notice board.
4. Planning more social events to build community, while balancing fundraising needs.
5. Outdoor summer cinema event proposed with date TBC (QB to generously provide equipment free of charge).
6. Parent Kind lottery suggested as new, low-effort fundraising method (60% proceeds to PTA).
7. Emphasis on diversifying fundraising approaches: grants, match funding, community involvement.
8. PTA aims to be more inclusive, welcoming, and to encourage broader parent participation in various roles.

### **PTA Leadership Changes**

9. SR has stepped down as co-chair; KC to co-chair with SRam until end of school year. Big thank you from the PTA to SR for all her work as Co-Chair over the past 18 months.
10. AGM planned for beginning of next school year to vote for new committee.

11. Constitution needs updating to something more modern, simple, and realistic. KC to make proposals to Committee in due course.

#### **Tesco Stronger Starts Grant Award**

12. The PTA have won a grant of £500 to use for football sessions and healthy snacks. SD is working with school to sort out a historical admin issue to facilitate payment.
13. We need to decide exactly how we apply the grant – perhaps for something in Sports Week. KC to look at terms and report back on options.

#### **Parent Feedback and Engagement**

14. Very low survey response (3 replies) but themes likely reflect broader sentiment.
15. General sense of apathy and lack of community feeling reported. Some parents are struggling to more involved out more due to family and work commitments.
16. Suggestions:
  - a) More social events not focused solely on fundraising. Remaining events this year now reflect this.
  - b) Increase social media presence, including restarting Twitter.
  - c) Termly PTA newsletter to update on activities, fundraising initiatives, and results, and thanking volunteers by name. Revive "View from the Chair" communication in newsletters. Emphasize welcoming, inclusive approach to increase participation.
  - d) Create simple one-page document introducing PTA for new Oak parents each year.
  - e) Explore ways for parents to contribute beyond event planning/attendance (e.g., grant research). Aim to involve more parents in specific roles (e.g., social media management).
  - f) Use Survey Monkey for future feedback collection. CD confirmed that historically Survey Monkey yields the highest number of responses.
  - g) Utilize PTA notice board in playground.

#### **Financial Position**

17. Current balance: £10,500 (including £1,100 owed from School Spider).
18. Aim to maintain £6,000-£7,000 buffer for annual commitments.
19. Need to raise additional £1,500-£2,000 by year-end.
20. Noted trend of decreased spending by parents (e.g., Cauliflower Kids: £134 vs £199 previous year).
21. JD suggestion we consider where possible to tie fundraising events to specific purposes.

#### **Upcoming Events and Fundraising**

22. Four social events planned: Candle-Making workshop, "How To Not Kill Your Houseplants" event, cheese tasting and beer tasting events.
23. Family bingo and beetle drive postponed to later in the year.

24. Summer Social after Sports Day remains main event. JD suggested we consider adjusting event pricing and costs to maintain profit margins. This year's summer social planned as same day as sports day again, capitalizing on increased attendance.
25. Clarification needed on St. Bart's music evening (potential good fundraiser).

### **Easter Egg Gifts**

26. PTA would like to gift an Easter egg to each child this year.
27. JD suggested we ask whether corner shop on Chapel Lane would be willing to make an at-cost order for us. KC to investigate. Alternatively, we can source through Tesco's at £1.50 per egg. Total cost should be less than £150.

### **Other potential events / methods of fund-raising this academic year**

#### Outdoor Summer Cinema

28. QB to provide equipment (pending screen arrival). Currently awaiting delivery of equipment. Special outdoor screen visible in daylight. Similar concept to Cinema on the Carrs.
29. Lovely event where children watch a movie together and grown ups socialise.
30. Potential to raise further funds through food and drink provision.
31. Potential timing: Late June with late afternoon timing.
32. Will need to notify neighbours and perhaps provide free tickets as consolation for any noise.
33. CD noted more generally that summer events highly weather-dependent; good weather increases alcohol sales and profits.

#### School Lottery

34. Parent Kind lottery proposed:
  - a) £1/ticket, £25,000 top prize, 60% of sales to school
  - b) Weekly draws, low admin effort
  - c) Preferred over self-administered or Charity Hive options
35. CD noted that self-administered lotteries had been done in the past but they required a huge effort by organisers so an automated one would be much better.

#### St. Anne's Fulshaw Parkrun Takeover

36. Children could seek sponsorship to do Junior Parkrun on a Sunday. This has been done successfully in the past. Children could wear school bibs.
37. Need to find someone – perhaps a Parkrun regular – who might lead this.

### Other Fundraising Strategies

38. Explain to members that they can run their own fundraising event (e.g. running a marathon or organising a pub quiz) and it can be facilitated and promoted through the PTA website.
39. Consider using the crowdfunding tool on the PTA website for specific items.
40. Consider using the QR code for the PTA donation page wherever possible, e.g. on school event programs, on posters around the school during events.
41. CD mentioned expanding promotion of certain events beyond the school community, e.g. Love The Lane Facebook group and the Wilmslow Parish Office.
42. Explore corporate sponsorship opportunities on PTA website.
43. Ensure flyers with QR codes for events are in the PTA notice board.
44. KC to consider further with CD how an Amazon Wishlist for certain items might be administered. PTA could promote this Wishlist for people who prefer to contribute by purchasing something.
45. CD mentioned that the charity has made much more money in the past through parent employer match-funding and grants. KC noted that this is another way of parents contributing without spending their money, along with using Easy Fundraising and recycling, which we should promote more.

### **Miscellaneous**

46. CD noted that PTA meetings used to alternate between pub meetings and online meetings. Online became more popular with so many Committee members with small children. Consensus was that occasional in-person meetings would be welcomed.
47. The PTA has a plan to change banks from Natwest due to the imminent branch closure in Wilmslow. A physical branch is really needed for cash deposits and floats for events.
48. CD explained that we should be able to run online meetings through Teams in the future which will avoid some of the limitations of Zoom.
49. Next online meeting is 5 June 2025 at 8pm.
50. CD extended a formal thank you from the school to SR for all her efforts in her role as Co-Chair.

### **Action Items**

- Clarify status of St. Bart's music evening - KC
- Set up and begin promotion of Parent Kind School Lottery – KC
- Investigate Easter Egg gift sourcing options - KC
- Send relevant PTA event flyers to parish office for community promotion - CD

- Create materials promoting alternative support methods (e.g. match funding, Easyfundraising, recycling facilities)– KC
- Discuss potential Amazon Wishlist operation – CD/KC
- Keep PTA posted on what dates will work for outdoor cinema event – QB
- Investigate Teams for future online meetings through school account - KC
- Plan deep dive into grant opportunities - KC
- Implement more regular communication through newsletters and social media updates.
- Create simple one-page document introducing PTA for new reception parents.