

Minutes PALS Meeting 08 October 2019

Venue: Longstone Primary School

Chair: Suzanne McGregor

Attendees: Amy Menzies
Carole Clingan
Sonia Masson
Danielle Ramsey
Lee Scoon
Fiona Angus
Alan Gordon

Apologies: Cheryl Wood
Angela Pearston
Claire Wightman
Lauren Knight
Martina Proudfoot
Rachel Bonnar

1. Review of Last Minutes

No issues with the previous meetings' minutes.

2. Financial Report

No financial change from last meeting. Nothing outstanding to be paid.

3. Head Teacher's Report

3 new PSA's have now started and are settling in, getting to know the pupils. There is still a skeleton staff manning the school office while Mrs Westgarth is on medical leave. The process to find a replacement for Mrs Andrews is ongoing. A newsletter will be going out shortly along with updated copies of the school policies regarding pupil support. Mrs Masson said thank you to the parents who have helped recently with the school farm and garden projects, the school waterproofs and on school trips. She acknowledged that parental help is invaluable to the school.

4. Hallowe'en Disco

A flyer for the disco should go out this week.

Any volunteers who can help would be welcome, either at the disco or for set up before.

The foyer will be decorated after pick up on the day of the disco. Any helpers for the disco should arrive at 5.30pm.

We would like to have as many pumpkins outside lining the drive so if anyone is carving a pumpkin for Hallowe'en and can lend them to us for the disco, please bring them along on the day at pick up.

5. Christmas Fair

Christmas fair will be Saturday 7th December. A separate meeting will need to be arranged. It was suggested that the next PALS meeting could be solely a Christmas meeting.

6. Lucky Numbers

Numbers are dwindling for Lucky Numbers. There has been no advertisement recently so it was decided to post on Classlist and Facebook to get more people to take part.

Sabine Donnelly has asked to step down from looking after Lucky Numbers.

Amy will ask Sabine for information to give others who may like to take over what would be involved.

7. Children in Need

Children in Need will take place on Friday 15th November. It was suggested we could do a bake sale on the day to help raise money.

8. Redhall Taxis

There have been a few incidents between parents and taxi drivers, who are delivering children to Redhall School.

There was previously an attempt to make the street a one way system which didn't work out.

Any issues with taxi drivers should be reported to Redhall school, the taxi company initially and, depending on the severity, the police.

9. School Farm Project Update

The beds are almost complete, ready for planting in the Spring.

Fruit trees will be planted as a border/hedge around the beds which will help protect them.

There are various avenues being explored to find funding for the fruit trees including the Royal Horticultural Society, Edinburgh University and Food for thought.

10. A.O.C.B.

It has been reminded to parents and children that scooters and bikes are not permitted to be ridden in the school playground. Children should dismount at the gates.

Lots of children are now scooting to school and there are not enough scooter pods available. Children that enter the school via the door nearest the nursery are using the nursery scooter pods. Possibly need to look at an extra scooter pod by that door.

A parent questioned why it took so long to receive the P7 hoodies this year. Sonia suggested it was down to the company and there was no other reason as the hoodies should have been ordered in good time.

Another parent voiced concern over the P7 year which involves a lot of theatrical projects, including the Shakespeare production and the end of year show. They were concerned that not all children enjoy music and drama and therefore are not enjoying their final year at primary. There were also concerns that the P7 year has too much theatrical involvement and not enough academic work.

Sonia opined that the children get a lot out of the Shakespeare project and it's very worthwhile, even for children who don't think they are learning anything from it. She also gave assurances that academic learning is not ignored at the expense of these other projects.

A parent asked if P1/2 parents could have the dates of the nativity play as soon as possible in order for parents to arrange time off work to attend. Sonia said the dates should have been finalised and would communicate them to parents shortly.

The community council are looking into possibly resurrecting the Longstone Gala and asked if PALS and the school would be willing to help with this. Angela had already expressed interest at the previous community council meeting and PALS all agreed that this would be great for the community and would be happy to provide some input.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held at Longstone Primary at 7pm on Tuesday 12th November 2019