**Minutes of the Lacon Childe PTA meeting**

**Monday 26th September 2023 at Lacon Childe School**

**Attending**: Lucy Bunten, Sharon Wakeman, Rachel Datlen, Noah Turner, Sarah Price, Sam Harrison, Jane Nicolson. Gwilym Butler (for item 1), Jim Reynolds (for item 2).

**Apologies:**, Sarah Westmacott, Steve Todd, Rachel Croxton-Broome, Kris Wood

Sharon welcomed Sam Harrison to the meeting, who had offered support with the PTA.

* **Childe Endowment Fund**

Gwilym was welcomed to the meeting and introduced the Fund, which was created in the 1930s, with an investment of £100,000. Gwilym is a trustee representing Shropshire Council. £8-10,000 is distributed each year and is aimed at students aged 16-25. The fund can support college, apprenticeships and university students. Justin Parker from MFG is also a trustee and is a Lacon Childe governor. There are also two Town Council representatives, Andrew Key and Sue Jordan. There is currently no direct link into the school and so a closer connection to the school would be really positive. Gwilym has circulated the original Trust document. The awards have traditionally been means tested but this has made people reluctant to respond in some cases. 39 application forms were sent out this year and 12 returned, of which several were ‘top achievers’ Lacon students from the previous year. The group meets in March and July to interview applicants and make the grant awards. The PTA could help advertise the opportunities for students. It would be great to increase 8 awards to 20 per year. The next meeting of the Trustees is Friday 27th October at 12pm in the Market Hall. Ideally the Fund would like a trustee representative from the School. Sharon offered to attend the next meeting as a representative of the PTA.

* **Bike Show Debrief**
  + Steve had provided some notes on thoughts about the future of the Show. It had gone well, thanks to Lucy for overall co-ordination, and a good amount had been raised.
  + It was agreed that a separate Bike Show sub group of the committee would be formed, which had happened in the past when the PTA was much larger. Staff members are keen to be a part of this to make the show bigger and better.
  + The Estates Team had been really helpful this year despite staff changes and would willingly be involved in future years.

**Entries:**

* The number of exhibitors had been lower this year. This was acknowledged and there would be a focus on attracting entries next year including promotion to specific clubs, Facebook pages, shows and bike shops,

**Date and Volunteers:**

* The date of the show was discussed at length. The PTA and School feel that a later show would allow better recruitment of volunteers and exhibitors. It would also not clash with club registration days such as rugby which clashes every year with the second Sunday in Sept. The early October date last year had attracted a record number of exhibitors and lots of attendees and fundraising.
* Jim and Steve are reluctant to change the date of the Show as the show has traditionally been at this time. Jim asked that a 2 day event be considered, but it was felt that volunteer support would be even harder to secure. Sharon had provided figures to compare a 1 day and 2 says show and the 1 day show had generated more fundraising.
* It was decided that a compromise of either Sunday 22nd or 29th be considered. Jim and Lucy will look at the bike show calendars to check for clashes.
* There are some keen school staff who are bikers who have offered some advice and feedback having volunteered at the event this year.
* Overnight stays need to be agreed in advance and Kris had offered to stay overnight and provide more facilities if people required.

**Catering and Cakes:**

* Sarah had done a super job of organising the catering.
* Jim had suggested that free tea and coffee be provided as a gesture to visitors, but Sharon had figures that show that this can raise £1k most years so it was agreed to continue to charge.
* There had been surplus food after the event but this had been donated to school, so was not wasted.
* The allergens issue was discussed and several ideas raised including having a ‘free from’ section with bought cakes so that people could be confident of allergens and then home made cakes could still be requested as this is a draw for visitors, or we could dispense withthe home made cakes and just buy in cakes.
* The Y7s and Y8s could be targeted to donate a tombola prize of donate £1 each to the 50:50 bucket prize.

**3. Treasurer’s Update**

* There was £8,571.40 in the bank with the Air Ambulance donation to go out yet.
* The bank account signatures form will be progressed this week. **ACTION: Lucy to circulate bank mandate for signing.**

**4. Forthcoming Events**

* Winter Concert – a date has yet to be set for this, but the PTA would do refreshments and a raffle with attractive prizes. The Lottery Licence allows us to sell raffle tickets. Sam offered a stay in her holiday cottage. **ACTION: Rache to approach Safari Park and Pioneer Centre for prizes.**
* Race Night – it was agreed to aim of the Spring term for this to ensure we have enough promotion time. **ACTION: Rache will contact Kris Wood to agree a date that fits with School.**

**5 Lottery**

* Autumn term promotion of the Lottery via a school competition is still planned. **ACTION: Rache will contact Rach CB to request the lottery competition be launched.**

**6 PTA Recruitment**

* Year 10 parents evening was this Thursday, so the PTA would provide refreshments. It was agreed that a flier would be good to have available with a QR code to link to the Facebook page. This would highlight the role of the PTA and what it has enabled in school, through funding. Sarah had done a similar flier in the past, which she will circulate, with dates of events and requests for support. **ACTION: Sarah to circulate previous PTA flier.** Sam suggested that once we have dates of events confirmed, these could be promoted, including via a calendar invite to all parents if possible.
* Parents could be invited onto our PTA WhatsApp group if they are willing to help out. It was also agreed that we need a social media expert who could ‘feed’ our PTA FB page and possibly Twitter to generate more interest. Sharon may do a short video clip of the role of the PTA. We could have a live social media feed during PTA meetings to gauge thoughts on events. **ACTION: Sharon to do a short video re her role of Chair on the PTA to post on FB page.**

**7 Bags to School**

* A new co-ordinator is required. Lucy had been sent details of a new company, Rags to Riches which we could compare with Bags 2 School

**8. Second Hand Uniform Sales**

* The idea of having this available for longer during the summer was discussed, e.g. sales and swaps on FB page as well as the Wash House sale window. It was agreed that we would want to promote this as a recruitment opportunity. Jane offered to run a stall each week in the school foyer to coincide with an after school club her son attends.

**9. AOB**

* None

**10. Date of Next Meeting** Monday 23rd October at 5:30pm in the Library. This will be the AGM and Wish List decision meeting.