



Maidstone Grammar School Parents' Association

Barton Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 7BT

Tel: 01622 752101

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 16TH OCTOBER 2017 @ 7.30PM

Present: Sarah Hudson (Chairman), Caroline May (Vice-Chairman), Mark Tomkins (Headmaster), Roger Berry (Treasurer), Wendy Papagno (Secretary), Stephanie Ritchie, Pauline Coppard, Paul Tassell, Clare Attridge, Michael Hall, Steve Batchelor, Karen Shaw, Julie Griggs, Jennie Creasy, Charlotte McClymont, Charlotte's mum, Krystian Szwedziuk (School Captain) and Lex Delamere-Ayling (School Vice-Captain)

Apologies: Emma Foreman and Irene Santineer

Minutes of the last meeting (Monday, 11th September 2017)

All agreed that the Minutes of the last meeting were a correct and true account.

Treasurer's Report

Roger explained that the £250 at the bottom of the sheet was a deposit for the Viva Las Vegas night and not the Race Night as originally stated.

Upcoming Events

Year 6 Open Evening – Thursday, 19th October: This is where current year 6 students look around MGS with a view to joining in September 2018. Sarah, Wendy, Clare, Irene, Steve, Pauline and two new Yr 7 parents were helping at this event.

Sarah asked Mark if we could use plastic cups for this event as we were short of china cups and saucers. Mark said he would prefer us to buy more china cups and not use plastic ones. Sarah to order some from KCS.

Fireworks Evening – Saturday, 4th November: This was the MGSPA's biggest event of the year. All food vendors have paid, ticket sales are going well and some advertising boards are already in place. The banners had been amended and these would go up alongside the Year 6 Open Evening banner so that we would attract new parents to the event.

Roger to circulate personnel list tomorrow. There would be a de-brief at 5pm for those helping in the evening. High-vis jackets would be available. Mark said the school have 100 and would be available for use.

The toilets were being delivered on 3rd November and put by the back gate.

There was a discussion over leading the fireworks in front of the pavilion with the current heras fencing in place.

Paul had bought lots of glow products to be sold at the event but it was agreed that the boys who were taking part in World Challenge would be solely responsible for selling these in order to be able to keep all the profits. World Challenge is a once in a lifetime trip funded by the children themselves.

Theatre Trips – 25th October and 8th November: These were all booked.

Wine Tasting – Friday, 10th November: This was an evening where you can taste 5 different beers and 4 wines. Most of the tickets were sold for this event with only 12 left at £20 per head.

Race Night – Friday, 8th December: this is the new date for the originally booked race night. Enough tickets have been sold for this event so it will go ahead on the new date.

Bruges Trip – Saturday, 9th December: currently there was one 49 seater coach booked for this event, however, Paul had received interest from 93 people. He was able to get a second coach but at the moment is having trouble getting a second slot on the Euro Tunnel. The option of a ferry crossing was dismissed as it takes too long. He would hear back from Euro Tunnel in the next couple of days and if another slot could not be found he would just take one coach.

Christmas Wreath Making: notices would go out for this after half term. Pauline was happy to run the evening again but would like help in collecting the greenery. Jennie agreed to help with that. Her and Pauline to liaise.

Future Events

Quiz Night in February, Darts Night in March and Michael Buble/Robbie Williams tribute night in May/June already booked.

Sarah proposed a Viva Las Vegas night in July. This would be approx. £35 per head with a casino theme with card and roulette tables. It was agreed that this would be better as a black tie event. More details to follow.

Sarah also proposed a Spring Fair for Saturday, 17th March 2018. This would take place in the main hall and quad and have various stalls, run by years 7 and 8. Various stall ideas were discussed along the lines of sweet/chocolate tombola, retro arcade games, sweets in the jar, coconut shy, teachers in the stocks etc. Staff and children would be encouraged to be involved.

Sarah would like three people to make a sub-committee for this event. Caroline, Karen and Charlotte agreed to take this on. Caroline suggested the possibility of a bbq and beer tent.

Other events suggested to Sarah by parents were:

Tie swap day as there were lots of students with the wrong tie still. Mark had already thought about this and said he would prefer to do this as a school event.

Boot Fairs in the front car park on a Sunday, possibly one a month. We could charge £20 a car and wouldn't need to do anything else except make sure people removed their rubbish.

AOB

Data Protection: Mark raised the issue of Data Protection. There were some serious changes coming in and it was important to make sure that the Committee are complying with these

changes. If we were currently using data collected by the school there would need to be an option for parents to choose to have their details made available to the MGSPA. The school were already looking at their policies and people were attending courses to make sure they were compliant. It would be useful for somebody from the Committee to go on a course.

Sarah, Paul and Karen agreed to be the sub-committee for this.

Online Ticketing System: Sarah said that it would be useful if parents can pay online through Parentpay or a similar system and have their tickets issued to them direct. This would save the school office having to take money and issue tickets and then money be banked for events. It would make life easier for the Bursary, however, Mark suggested that Sarah sit down with Heather and discuss it. Roger said that there could possibly be a problem if the company went bust and we owed money back to people.

Tea & Coffee at Events: Karen suggested that it might be useful to assign a group of people to be responsible for and coordinate teas and coffees for all events. Sarah said that it was difficult sometimes as people worked during the day.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 13th November 2017