

Minutes of MGSPA Meeting
held on Monday, 7th November 2016

Present: Sarah Hudson (Chairman), Caroline May (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Papagno (Secretary), Stephanie Ritchie, Steve Batchelor, Clare Attridge, Karen Shaw, Pauline Coppard, Emma Foreman, Paul Tassell and Michael Hall

Apologies: Mark Tomkins (Headmaster), Roger Berry (Treasurer) and Irene Santineer

Minutes of the last meeting (Monday, 17th October 2016)

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

Matters arising: lighting for quad

This was still arising as Mark Tomkins was absent from the meeting.

Treasurer's Report & Fireworks event – brief update

The meeting looked at Roger's report and we are working on a net profit (assuming £1,000 match funding) of £13,200. The figure for last year was £9,800.

Some very positive feedback had been received and the feeling was that the food court worked well. There was a small health and safety issue that in case of fire there was only one exit. This would be looked at for next year. Also the criss-crossing of queues due to the positioning of the vendors caused some problems amongst people queuing.

Paul said that the pizza guy was very friendly and the food was very nice, good quality. Pauline said that the burger man wished he had more time and perhaps we should look into the possibility of vendors arriving earlier next year. Paul said that we could put on some music to keep people occupied while they were eating prior to the fireworks starting. Pauline said she was asked how many people we were allowed but she was unsure, however, she felt we were more than covered for the capacity.

Steve said that it was very busy on the hot drinks stall. Next time we should put the prices up, particularly of the hot chocolate as we were offering squirty cream and mini marshmallows on top. Karen said that the caretaker had suggested possibly having external portable toilets next time.

Paul said that the glow sticks/wands sold well and he could have sold the foam wands 2 or 3 times over and the bands were popular too. Next year less necklaces and more battery ones. On the main entrance the prefects seemed to be all together and the money was being mixed up with gate tickets and light up wands. Perhaps this was due to the briefing given to the students and next year we would ensure a more precise briefing.

After the "Good Night" had been lit it appeared that some other fireworks went off. Some of the crowd thought we had missed some fireworks but Paul said that these were ones that

didn't go off when planned and the feeling was to just light them again rather than waste them. Perhaps next year we would wait 30 mins for most people to leave before letting them off.

Michael raised the issue of electricity in the netball courts and suggested two sockets be put in the courts to be used for these events. Also Sarah said that the single gate could do with being made into a double gate. She understood the cost for this was approx. £2,000.

Apart from a few parking issues at Mote Park the overall feeling was that it was a great event and went well. The food stalls were definitely a good idea.

Paul said that he would like some recognition for some of the students who had helped all day Saturday and some came back Sunday to clear up. Sarah said she had spoken to the school about this before but that they didn't have Thank You cards. Discussion around the MGSPA sending these out to those concerned for this and future events.

Zorro Refreshments

There was a discussion around who was covering the refreshments and who the float would be transferred over the four nights. It was decided that the float would be passed from Emma to Sarah and then to Caroline for the Saturday night as everyone else was on the Lille trip. Refreshment cover as follows:

Weds, 30 th Nov	Thurs, 1 st Dec	Fri, 2 nd Dec	Sat, 3 rd Dec
Sarah Clare Wendy	Irene Emma + her husband & kids	Sarah Caroline + her son	Caroline Pauline Roger

Lille Coach Trip – Sat, 3rd December

Paul said that at the moment we had 76 confirmed places. The cost was £1475 per coach and we were therefore currently 9 people (£315) short of breaking even. Paul to ask some other people he felt may be interested and Sarah to put it on the MGSPA Facebook page and asked everyone if they would share it.

Christmas Shopping and Pamper Evening – Thurs, 8th December

Helpers were needed to sell raffle tickets and hand out mulled wine. Pauline, Caroline, Karen and Kate (Paul's wife) said they could help. Wendy and Emma said they may be able to help for part of the evening. All stalls would be in the hall and could set up from 5.00pm. They were paying £20 each and donating a raffle prize. Teachers are free this year as not many came last year as they had to pay £3.

Christmas Draw preparation

This was going well until Sarah had tried to save money by printing less tickets this year only to find that with the increase in the number of students she was 43 books short. She has therefore decided to send them out in batches and await some returns before sending out to

the remaining years. Suggestion that siblings don't get more than one set. The tickets would be going out this week.

Christmas Wreath making – Monday, 12th December

Pauline asked if anyone could help her getting hold of the conifer and holly. Sarah is buying the wine and nibbles for the evening and Caroline has offered to help Pauline along with Sarah and Emma. They would need to start getting bits during the last week of November. A Parentmail would go out this week advising parents of the event.

Any Other Business

Refreshments for the Year 12 Parents' evening on Weds, 7th December

Sarah would put an email out to the helpers list asking for volunteers.

MGSPA Christmas Meal

Sarah asked if people wanted to arrange a meal out this year. The majority agreed it was a good idea and the date of Thursday, 15th December was proposed. Sarah would enquire at The Wateringbury Hotel and email committee members for interest.

Fundraising Ideas

- Snooker night

Sarah was exploring the idea of a snooker night. Steve Davis charges £2,000 for a Saturday night of snooker and chat. People could play £200 to play a frame of snooker against him and others could pay £20 to come and watch and listen to the chat. Mark Tomkins had expressed an interest in playing Steve Davis.

- Christmas market December 2017

Following the food at the firework event Michael had mentioned to Sarah how great they would be at Christmas. It was therefore proposed that next year instead of the Christmas Shopping and Pamper Evening the school would have a Christmas market on the 1st or 2nd weekend in December from approx. 4pm. This would involve food vendors, Santa's Grotto, wreath selling, the school choir singing, reindeers for sleigh rides, selling of Christmas trees and craft stalls.

Everyone thought this sounded like a great idea. Michael asked for two electric sockets to be installed in the pump room to aid with these events.

Date of next meeting : Monday, 9th January 2017