

Minutes: PTA meeting 5th March 2026



Attending: Annemarie Roberts (Chair), Mrs Hood, Sarah Pullen-Underhill (Deputy Chair), Susanna Fabry-Crowe (Design, events), Thanasis Chondrozoumakis (Treasurer), Alexander Woods, Nicola Stanton (Secretary; in part/minutes), Passent Horan (events), Carolyn Young, Louise Allen, Vanessa Tiltman, Billie Higson.

1. Treasurer's report

TC spoke to his report (attached). Figures compared with last year show more positive financial picture overall. PTA has £7,753 in the bank; taking into account committed expenditure of projects (see below) this figure is -£10,500. **Action:** structure of future budgeting to be presented around short, medium and long term funding streams.

2. Funding - projects

a) Climbing walls: PTA-funded £8,181 climbing walls are receiving really positive feedback.

b) Minibus: £2,000 now being progressed again. Mr Ley (business manager) checking staff willingness and ability to make this a reality.

c) £500 for Forest School: Mrs Kyte looking at Year 6 plans for extension of Forest School. PTA's £500 to go towards new pathways, plants and flowers to attract wildlife plus £1,000 from Tonbridge School together with labour at the Tonbridge Boys' community day in July. AW pointed out that any Forest School 'story' ticks publicity interest boxes; **action:** NS to tap into local media interest. LE highlighted World Bee Day, 20 May, for PTA to launch their involvement.

d) £1,500 for SEN walls: evolving SEN situation at school; ideal solution tbc. Commitment remains but funding can be released for other approved causes as the PTA must not be seen to hold onto funding unnecessarily.

e) KS2 outdoor classroom: SPU looking at quotes for octagonal wooden shaded gazebo of £15-£18k of which £5k costs for installation. Either 6 metre (up to 50 children) or 7.5 metre (up to 75 children). Best quote from Pentagon Play from Cheshire who have installed at local primary schools. **Action:** SPU to share quote(s) with PTA committee.

f) Ping pong tables: £1,000 each; solid metal. **Actions:** BH to consider placing e.g. back of the building or side strip. PTA to commit circa £1,000 for one table (plus and subject to installation) to see how well it works. SPU to provide final costs on one table, paddles and balls, including option for 'one now, one later' for approval by circulation.

g) MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) or astro pitch.

The school's back field is waterlogged and so out of use for 4-5 months of the year. Costs £100-120k plus ~£20k planning and research; likely to take up to 10 years. An enormous, long-term investment which current children at the school will not see; parents would need to understand the benefits and challenges and sign up to a PTA long-term funding stream.

Benefits: it would be transformative for the school and local community, a major selling point for the school. It would bring in additional income through evening and weekend hire. Grants could be applied to support with the funding.

Challenges: The residents' views would need to be taken into account due to noise and light levels. Lighting solutions are possible (making them lower) and noise reduction measures (fencing on one or more sides). AW pointed out the risks of spending many thousands of pounds on an exploratory design and permissions and then potentially rejecting.

Actions: BH to share lessons from primary school headteacher who completed the project over 10 years. PTA committee members to carry out initial exploratory work; start a business plan setting out the costs, timelines and risks; check for possible alternatives to a full-blown MUGA.

h) Library: currently 2,000 books short to ensure the library is high quality and meets the needs. LE proposed setting up standing methods for people to donate e.g. list of books on the PTA page of the website; CY suggested a pictorial thermometer. School has an account with substantial discount: parents can't buy books directly. **Actions:** BH and AR to articulate an ongoing funding stream; NS to capitalise on Book Week videos with how parents can buy books.

3. Events – SPU lead:

a) Disco – went well; KS1/EY, Years 3-4 popular; Years 5-6 less so. **Lessons learned** for next year: move facepainting to the hall next year due to queues. dismissal for children will need to be strictly implemented for safeguarding, volunteers must sign out their children before taking them home. Reduce from three to two disco sessions with limited tickets.

b) 26 for 26 – 10th March EY bubble popping; 12th March KS1 balloon-a-thon. Just Giving initial influx now need to increase efforts. **Action:** SPU upping social media publicity.

c) Online auction – 10 staff members have provided experiences, 35 companies have contributed. To go live 27th March. Further companies likely to donate. A smaller auction than last year but nonetheless expected to prove profitable.

d) Football tournament – Saturday 15th May: SPU and NS working with Jordan. Round robin format with different countries: KS1 and KS2. Tbc teams to enter themselves and/or Jordan to compile the teams. Ice creams and refreshments on offer. Potential to be a sociable, flagship event for the BCS community; price to be pitched to enable everyone to take part e.g. family price. **Actions:** SFC to produce save the date poster. NS to gauge likely numbers through poll.

e) Break the Rules event – LE outlined the idea: 50p per rule, nothing too rebellious e.g. hair accessory, nail varnish, odd socks. **Action:** BH to revert with a date; LE to lead.

4. Comms

LE raised voting for school projects cf. tokens at Waitrose to increase sense of involvement; NS mooted the option of mini polls to engage parents on quick win projects. Tom Tugendhat, our local MP, will be coming in the summer term – we will want to make the most of his visit.

Actions: NS to produce comms piece with status of PTA projects, including the library, and how people can donate on an ongoing basis. Trial WhatsApp polls to engage the parent community.

5. AOB

Uniform shop – opening regularly on a Thursday. Suffered a small damp problem during the wet spell, now sorted, but need to monitor in future. **Action:** NS/SFC to publicise summer dresses.

6. Date of next meeting: 8pm, Thursday 7th May 2026