

Minutes: PTA meeting 11th June 2026



Attending: Annemarie Roberts (Chair), Mrs Hood, Sarah Pullen-Underhill (Deputy Chair), Susanna Fabry-Crowe (Design, events), Thanasis Chondrozoumakis (Treasurer), Alexander Woods, Louise Sabine, Carolyn Young.

Apologies: Nicola Stanton (Secretary), Billie Higson, who is standing down from the PTA committee due to family commitments; the Chair thanked her for her contribution.

1. Actions from the last meeting

- a) **PTA pledge:** outstanding action for SFC to design poster.
- b) **Speed awareness** poster competition – AW to action.
- c) **Dragon Boat** – see events below
- d) **Noticeboard** still to be updated by NS
- e) **AGM date** – Tues 15th September at school at 7.30pm tbc.

2. Lookahead – the Chair thanked SPU for her huge contribution leading events. From September, individuals should take responsibility to lead separate events to avoid concentrating all the work on one person. The lookahead was approved with the proviso that further events, such as another Mix Up Day type event, could be added as the year goes on. The idea of a more inclusive Bingo night instead of a Quiz night was approved. **Action:** SFC to design poster for the last newsletter.

3. Treasurer's report

- a) Another successful year was reported: £14.5k in the bank; paid for the climbing walls and other items. Mix It Up raised £400; football tournament profit £350. Summer Fair forecast profit of £2.5k. £5k still needed to order the outdoor classroom before the end of the school year. **Actions:** SPU and TC to contact supplier after the Summer Fair to reassess and negotiate. Options for plugging the shortfall: asking local business and Tonbridge School to sponsor; reaching out to the school community to crowdfund – prospect of generous parent donors. AR to explore whether Year 6 parents might consider as part of a legacy gift.
- b) **Forest School** - £500 set aside for Mrs Kyte to purchase benches and an arch.
- c) The Treasurer was still pursuing a **fund historically** put aside for the estate that could be available via the Council and hoped to get an update before the end of the school year.
- d) **The Chair thanked** the Treasurer for his excellent and proactive work, often behind the scenes.

4. Proposals for future funding goals – the Headteacher set out her priorities (a) to (c):

- a) **Early Years provision:** it was in need of a refurb both outdoors and indoors – important to attract new families into the school.
- b) **Bike racks:** extensions for KS1 and KS2 as more children travelling to school by bike and scooter.
- c) **Trips:** hiring a coach was becoming prohibitively expensive; it wouldn't be feasible to continue with trips in the current format, with the risk of cancelling given affordability for some and, increasingly, lack of appetite to pay. Ever tightening budgets meant it was impossible for the school to plug any shortfall as it had in the past. It was proposed that the PTA could give each year group a set amount of money e.g. £200 to spend on reducing the cost of a trip during the school year. The Committee was mindful of setting a precedent, and the optic risks around supporting trips which could be counterproductive, and suggested a one year trial in the first instance.

d) **New, easier to assemble stage** - requested by Mr Ley; every child in the school would benefit, although considered a lower priority compared with other requests. **Action:** Treasurer to source possible suppliers from hospitality contacts; further consideration to be given.

e) **First Aid course** – KM proposed joining forces with other PTAs to train up first aiders to avoid costs of First Aiders at our events. **Actions:** KM to provide details; NS to explore linking with other Tenax schools.

Action: The Chair proposed a **survey to parents** to gather views about funding priorities for 26-27 as we had not conducted one for a while.

3. Events:

a) **Mix it up day** was a great success and easy fundraiser; particularly good idea to offer children face painting on the way in to school for families who don't as easily access such events (e.g. English not their first language).

b) **Football tournament** – the Committee praised the atmosphere, inclusivity, fun and enthusiasm for adults and children of all ages. Jordan's outstanding tournament jigsaw and NS were thanked for their hard work. It had made a profit despite costs of First Aiders and Jordan's fee. **Lessons learned:** put on a couple of games stalls to entertain younger siblings (and earn more money); harness enthusiasm of the Year 6s who enjoyed compering and scoring; encourage wider friends and family to join, re-order matches so parents/children could cheer each other on. The Committee welcomed the parent donation of a new large canvas shelter (as used at the tournament) for future PTA events.

c) **Dragon Boat** – paid deposit of £500 and need to establish boat of 17 rowers and pay the balance by 26 June. Five members of staff keen to row. Other spaces will cost £50 per rower. **Actions:** Chair/SPU to establish status with ES. Comms to issue to parents.

e) **Summer Fair** – the Chair's risk assessment to be reviewed by the HT this week so no further changes possible. **Action:** final request for volunteers for the tombola and toy stalls to issue. Chair to pitch the Fair to the children at collective worship on Friday 19th June. Pre token sales to launch from Fri 19th until Fri 26th. Final summer fair meeting next week; invitation to issue separately.

f) **Sports Day** – PTA will sell ice creams and other refreshments; two to three people per slot to cover refreshments; **action:** the Chair to source volunteers.

g) **Library support** – Mrs Reynolds and the Chair working on the wish list for 400 books.

15. **Comms** – **Action:** NS - noticeboard to be updated.

16. AOB

a) **Sum Up** needs sorting for some volunteers at events; accounts don't seem to work; **action:** those affected to try and show SPU what is happening to try to resolve.

b) **Low maintenance fundraising** – LS suggested raisin boxes filled with coins over the summer – anything raised would be a bonus. However, 'spread out' fundraising can be a hard sell (cf 26 for 26) if not concentrated over a few days. Committee agreed to a rest and reset over the summer but that such ideas would be really important over the coming year.

Date of next meeting: AGM in mid September – date tbc; **action:** NS to agree with Chair and HT.