Monday 10th November 2014

Chair: Emma Colmer

Attendees

Tricia Elliott, Bernadette Leith, Juliette Gosling, David Edser, Emma Colmer, Martin Rushton, Sue Kellow, Janet Odom, Modupe Iwuji, George King, Jamie Attaway.

Apologies

Anita Hodge, Marianne Griffiths, Stuart Gardner, Rebecca Lock

Welcome

Emma welcomed new members to the meeting.

Previous Minutes

Sue asked if any progress had been made regarding access to parent pay for sending out messages. Emma said the school were not keen on this but hadn’t ruled it out. In the meantime, HA meeting dates can go onto the school website.

For future discos, Fort Pitt will be issued with 125 letters/ envelopes only. These could be numbered to ensure no copying. Maximum numbers must apply.

It was noted that emails to teachers were rarely, if ever, responded to. HA are currently waiting on pictures and video for our website/ noticeboards, as well as notices or labels for all donated equipment (i.e rifles, table tennis tables, 3D printer, etc) so that it can be seen as donated by HA.

Tricia is set to go in with a camera and get the pictures we need if no response from school again.

Chair Update

Emma had met with Stuart earlier in the day to find out what the school wanted from the HA and also to set out what the HA expect from the school. No dates for future events were set.

It was stressed that HA need more teacher support for events and there will in future be someone from senior management on site, especially for Discos. It was suggested in the HA meeting that Heads of House could alternate events.

There is a need to build up an Old Boys network of past pupils to build a support network.
The possibility of a Holcombe Directory was raised, providing advertising space for the businesses of past and present parents and Old Boys, offering free advertising and asking for a small percentage of profit made in donation to HA. This is one initiative suggested to engage and involve parents in the HA and what we do.

The new rifle range will be ready to use from Friday. It was noted that the cheques for the rifles and the table tennis tables had not yet been cashed.

Stuart and Emma discussed several long-term projects that the HA have been asked to fundraise for, to cover 50% of the costs:

Climbing wall - £30k-£40k. This will not start until after the Council's funding decision regarding replacing the asbestos roof on the new buildings is made in March 2015.

Converting the upstairs rooms of the new part of the school into a gym. The gym is proposed as an income stream, opening it up to staff, pupils and parents/carers, for a small membership fee. Costs £50k. Martin raised the point of disabled access to the gym. This needs to be considered.

Refurbishment of computer suite - £30k. This is to include 30 desktop computers as well as furniture. Sue asked if the school were tied as to where they could purchase IT equipment from. This can be discussed with the school.

Refurbing a Prefects room - £2k. Updating furniture and installing vending machines.

There is no strict timescale for this fundraising. The school will work with the HA to run more events, etc, and offer whatever help we need to make the fundraising worthwhile.

It was suggested in the HA meeting that we approach places like the Lottery Fund for grants for these works. Also approach local companies and businesses for funding/equipment donations.

There is to be a new noticeboard outside the Atrium and HA can have space on there. Emma suggested we have a large Fundraising Thermometer to show our fundraising progress. Martin suggested a Climbing Wall with a climber showing our progress, to go with one of our target projects! It was also suggested that we have a banner outside the main gates showing our progress, so that parents/carers can see how we are doing.

None of the above funding projects were voted on.

Stuart would like to hold a Celebration event to mark the school coming out of special measures. He has asked the HA to organize this. The school captains have offered to help organize this event. It has been suggested that this event be held in the New Year, given the closeness to Christmas. The end of Jan (Burns Night) has been suggested and all agreed this was a good idea. It will be a ticketed event, with music and a bar. Emma has suggested a hog roast.

The HA would need to hold separate events throughout the year to enable us to keep providing funds for smaller projects too.

Tricia enquired about how we protect our funds as previously Emma had said that large sums were taken from Charities and distributed to other charities. If this is the
case, it was suggested that we transfer lump sums periodically to the school to avoid this.

**Bids For Funds**

Site Team – a total of £353.15 has been requested for replacement tools. This is being carried over to discuss with Stuart at Emma’s request.

**Head Teachers Report**

No Head teachers report this meeting.

**School Captains Report**

The school captains will arrange smaller events to contribute towards the fundraising. The HA can have feature space in the school newspaper. The paper has had a good response from the lower school. The captain’s team will be selling poppies in school. The captains will make sure raffle tickets are sent out via form tutors and will also arrange for the collection of counterfoils back through form tutors to find out which form sells the most.

**Xmas Raffle**

The tickets are now printed and have been distributed to teachers to give out. The school captains have offered to try to ensure that the tickets are sent home. They will also arrange collecting the foils back in through forms. The prizes are: 1st Beats headphones, 2nd Luxury Hamper, 3rd £50 Vouchers. Emma to pick up vouchers. Tricia showed the meeting a hamper which is a local company and it contains Kentish sourced items. Although some concerns were expressed on the cost of it, all agreed to having one this time to try and seeing how ticket sales go. We have been given space to advertise the raffle in the school paper. Sue to pick up extra prizes.

**Quiz night**

28th November provisionally booked for a quiz night. Teachers had been approached to MC the night, but there’s been no reply. The captains said they had someone who would MC. Concern was raised about the short notice and it was suggested that the quiz be pushed back into the New Year. (*A new date of 30th Jan is provisionally booked, Mr Fish and Mr Holeyman will MC and do questions.*)

**Treasurer Report**

Current account balance - £1464.80
Business account balance - £2340.97

100 Club – October draw

1st 76 – Mrs Peggy Hope
2nd 58 – Mrs C Thomas
3rd 78 – Audrey Roberts
Upcoming dates

Thursday 27th November - Year 11 Consultation Evening
Thursday 15th January 2015 - Year 12 Consultation Evening
Thursday 22nd January 2015 - Year 12 Open Evening
Thursday 29th January 2015 - Year 13 Consultation Evening
Friday 30th January 2015 – Quiz Night
Thursday 12th February 2015 - Year 7 Consultation Evening
Friday 13th February 2015 – Year 7 & 8 disco

AOB

Janet praised the lost property system and said how well it was working.

(The items below were added after the meeting, sent out via e-mail, by agreement of those present at the meeting)

It has been suggested that the Agenda be open up to everyone so that everyone can have a say on items included on it. This can be trialed in the New Year.

There’s been some discussion about minutes being put onto the school website. Rather than putting full copies of our minutes on a website, we could publish a generic, edited version with the highlights. A full copy would still be sent out via parent pay as usual.

A few people have mentioned feeling put on the spot when we're doing funding bids. It has been suggested that we could do it a different way and hear the bids at the meetings, then we all go away and think about it and vote whichever way we want without anyone knowing how we vote. Can send the details out as a small survey (lots of free survey programmes out there) which would just be a link in an email. It's not always comfortable saying what you really think when the person asking for money is sat right there!

Dates of next meetings

08/12/14 Xmas social at the Tiger Moth pub, 7.30pm onwards.

If you cannot spare the time to attend meetings please contact us to be an occasional volunteer, all help is appreciated and NEEDED

Chairperson: Emma Colmer - email chair@holcombe.org.uk

You can also now find us on facebook:
www.facebook.com/HolcombeAssociation

Every parent/carer and member of staff is most welcome
at all of our meetings.