



ASHLYNS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting held on 21 February 2022

Present

Gary (Chair), Dhrooti, Rob, Kathy, Maura, Liz, David, Angela, Elisa, Clare, Alison (Secretary).

Apologies were received from Andrea, Mark, Jo and Jules.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Gary welcomed new attendees and everyone introduced themselves. The new co-Treasurer, Jules was unable to attend owing to illness, but it was noted that her appointment had been formally approved by ASA members.

2. School update

Mr Shapland had attended the ASA Trustee meeting earlier in February and had expressed his gratitude for the work of the ASA over the past challenging year. He was impressed that fundraising had continued despite the pandemic, using inventive means, especially since some other school associations in the area had discontinued. In the last ten years, the ASA had raised £180k.

3. Financial Update and Funding Requests

The ASA had **£20,000** to allocate. £14,000 worth of allocations were open, including the laser cutter (awaiting invoice) dye sublimation printer (awaiting purchase) and refurbishment to the food technology area (school to provide further information).

New bids for funding had been received and were considered as below:

1. Bid for **£1,000 for a one-day dance workshop** in the summer term for all of year 7. Approved by email before half term. Mrs Welch notified.
2. **Bid for £1,019 and £219** for a full-frame mirrorless camera and lens adaptor for photography. Approved at the meeting. Alison to notify school.
3. **A bid for approximately £12,500 for 32 VR headsets and class software and an annual licence fee of £500.** There were a number of questions from the meeting:
 - a. Can school afford the running costs, upgrades, annual licence fee?
 - b. What is the shelf life of the system? Concern about how long it would last before being obsolete.
 - c. How do upgrades work?
 - d. How does it fit with the curriculum? Which subjects?

- e. Is it two-way – can the students create environments?
- f. What research was carried including with other suppliers?

Approved in principle, subject to responses to the questions/confirmation of actual cost.

4. Future Events for 2022

- i) 15/16 July Ashlyns Festival. The event had been divided into sections, each managed by a core team. The initial task was to cover the fixed costs to ensure viability. If anyone knew of a local company that could sponsor the event they were asked to notify Gary or Dhrooti.
- ii) A Bags2school donation had been organised for the end of March. **Gary leading.**
- iii) The Craft Fair in November was almost fully booked. A team was needed to run this.
- iv) A New2You uniform sale would be held at the end of June (date to be advised). **Alison to arrange.**
- v) A proposed year 7 & 8 parents/carers social event – Friday 25 March. Paul Chambers could be asked to provide a disco for the children (cost of c£130 - ASA funded). Sixth formers could run a tuck shop for children and the ASA would provide nibbles and run a bar for the adults. Uniform could also be on sale. **Dhrooti to seek agreement from school.**
- vi) David and Liz agreed to run the Christmas Hampers again this year.

5. Fundraising ideas

The following items were discussed: sponsored walk, drive-in movie, taking over the Rex, running a quiz from a local pub. For any event, a team was needed to run it.

6. AOB

Any ASA member could put forward a suggestion for the ASA to fund – this should be sent to the ASA inbox for Alison's attention.

Next ASA meeting: 4 May 2022 – 7.30pm

Festival meetings:

23 February 2022 7.30pm

23 March 2022 7.30pm

20 April 2022 7.30pm

11 May 2022 7.30pm