

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Held a 7:30pm in the school hall**

**Charity Commission Number**

**1041034**

**Present:**

1. Committee members with a role in the meeting: Crystal Greenfield (chair) Liz Evans (treasurer), Nina Pelling (secretary).
2. Further committee members: refer to agenda point 7

**Apologies:**

None

**1. Minutes from our last AGM:**

No matters arising in relation to the minutes from our last Annual General Meeting. Minutes from our AGM 2015/2016 were agreed.

**Proposed:** Crystal Greenfield

**Seconded:** Liz Evans

**2. Chairs report:**

[Chairs Report 2017](#)

Ark Blacklands, has had a successful PTA for many years – it was started with the aim of raising enough money for a swimming pool by parents and teachers. A successful aim, which led to the organisation continuing to exist to fund the pool. However, with the pool now gone, the aims of the PTA changed and so did the name – we became the Friends of Ark Blacklands, in order to include anyone that wanted to help out the school, not just teachers and immediate family. So now we exist to add the fun to the academic year, with discos, fetes, and anything else we can think of. Any money raised helps fund other events and benefits as many children as possible.

Last year was my second year as Chair, so I had a slightly better idea of what was going on. Of course, this didn't stop me from being my usual disorganised self. So thank-you to everyone on the committee for putting up with me and helping out in areas I had failed to complete.

Hopefully, between us all, we have managed to give the children an interesting and varied year, and managed to provide funding for some exciting resources.

- So the year started off, as always, with the new intake disco (a similar affair to this year's), a nice event for parents to get to meet each other – if they are brave.
- Then followed shortly after with our firework night – Nina Pelling, kindly and very successfully took the lead and organized our most successful fireworks night in my memory. This year we decided to get the children involved in decorating the playground – having lantern making workshops at school in the week before the event. The lanterns did make it look magical. [I am looking for volunteers to help out this year – so if you have any spare time of an afternoon...]
- At the beginning of December, we had the FAB Festive fete – Santa, a market stall, games, crafts, refreshments and pre-loved uniform and toys. Julie Flavell took the lead on this, and with her army of enthusiastic helpers, transformed the school into a festive wonderland. Her attention to detail meant that it looked beautiful and everyone had a magical time.
- Christmas dinner – we provided Christmas crackers for the dinner tables, and helped the children to make table decorations.
- We bought in a pantomime for all the children to enjoy at the end of term – we have one booked for this year too.
- This year we tried a family friendly quiz, rather than our usual 'Adults Only' event. Big thanks to Karen's husband Andrew for setting our questions. We did make a profit, but it was not as well attended as we would have liked.
- We funded Brad from Blast Science to come and do a lovely noisy sound show for all the pupils.
- Another disco in March, we trialled a new DJ, as DJ Alfie was booked up. DJ Jordan is cheaper and seemed to make all the children happy.
- We also trialled showing a film in the hall. We put the 'Secret Life Of Pets' on the projector, and snuggled down with cushions and rugs. Quite a few attended, but because of the cost of the film licence, we didn't do much more than break-even.
- Easter egg roll, and bonnet competition... EYFS and KS1 bring in easter bonnets for a parade and the chance to win an easter egg... KS2 hard boil and decorate an actual egg, which they then throw onto the field from the top path... the winner is the egg that travels furthest without breaking.
- Leavers Disco: Year 6 get their own disco to commemorate their last year at Blacklands – the teaching staff kindly help out, and have a bit of a bop. This year we added a photo booth, so the children could dress-up with their friends and have a memento of the evening.
- Blacklands Bonanza – this year was a scorcher. We saw the return of the water slide to the school field (very welcome in the hot weather), and added a selfie booth and tug-of-war to the usual line-up of stalls and events.
- We also supported fundraising for the school garden, that the parent volunteers do such an amazing job with, and we pay for class cookery ingredients.
- Since we have been back at school this term, the children have seen two traversing walls added to the 3/4 and 5/6 playgrounds – they are extremely pleased with these, but would like them to be longer!

This year, we will have Firework night on the 4<sup>th</sup> November. We have a 'poet in residence' (Tony Peeks) in each morning this week, and a mathemagician (Tony Charles) coming to work his numerical tricks on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. Our Festive Fete will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December.

Before I open the floor for any questions you might have, I would like to take a moment to thank Nina Pelling for all the work she has done over the last few years as secretary. We will miss you Nina, and hope that you will stay and help on the team – especially as our BBQ consultant! We are also saying goodbye to Karen Osmond and Jo Jones as committee members, but I am pleased to say that they are both happy to stay on as helpers.

Thank-you for two exciting years as Chairperson of F.A.B. it has been quite an experience. I am looking forward to stepping down a rung into the Vice-Chair position and finding out what wealth of new ideas and direction our new Chair has in store for us.

Crystal Greenfield

### **3. Thanks to retiring committee members:**

Crystal Greenfield's statement to Nina Pelling as she will be standing down as secretary and as a committee member, but will be able to help out at events. Thanks also to Karen Osmond and Jo Jones who are standing down as committee members, but were unable to attend this evening.

### **4. Treasurers report:**

Jessica Cull gave an overview of the accounts ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017. Jessica went over money raised from our events and the expenditure. We raised £472.90 from the pre-loved uniform shop which is great as this is an easy way to raise money, but also beneficial to families. The only thing we made a loss on was the movie night (-£4.80) but this was a new event and the licence was £150.

We made a total of £6728.53 this year and spent £3999.70 with a closing balance on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 of £10,644.43

**5. New chair proposed and officers (Treasurer and Secretary):**

Crystal Greenfield stood down as chair. Crystal proposed Petra Willoughby as chair and Wendy Knowles seconded.

Petra Willoughby is Friends of Ark Blacklands chair person

Petra Willoughby proposed Crystal Greenfield as vice chair and Tina Menon seconded.

Crystal Greenfield proposed Jessica Cull as secretary and Julie Flavell seconded.

Jessica Cull proposed Liz Evans as treasurer and Crystal Greenfield seconded.

**6. New chair to propose new committee:**

Current committee members all stand down.

Petra Willoughby proposed nominations from nomination forms completed. Crystal Greenfield seconded.

Committee members:

Jenni Hobden	Julie Flavell
Tina Menon	Jessica Bryce
Adele Stelfox-Haines	Sarah Phillips
Wendy Knowles	Helen Saville
Katie Evans	Ally Nolan Purdy

There were no objections to these nominations.

All members at the meeting accepted these people as committee members and voted on block.

Duly elected.

Ally Nolan Purdy will take responsibility for the Friends of Ark Blacklands Facebook site.

Sarah Philips will be the unofficial social media secretary.

**7. Disco feedback:**

On the notice board, the disco was advertised as 'new intake' this confused some parents. Crystal admitted that it was just an oversight and corrected this at the time.

Julie mentioned that the disco is just getting too busy.

Ally stated that the glitter tattoo table needs more people on hand as it was so busy, Crystal replied that at the time, there were no more helpers available.

The glow pendants weren't good this time, many didn't work.

Petra suggested that crisps need to be sold with the sweets and that boxes of raisins and possibly other non-sweet snacks should also be available.

We sold out really early on popcorn, maybe cups or paper bags would work better to make distribution quicker. The cardboard boxes also fell apart on the children.

**8. Fireworks:**

To be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Crystal asked for volunteers to help.

Liz may bring lights and a generator, Crystal to find out what the school will allow us to do.

Pick and mix sweet bags may be an option in limited light, if the table has to be outside.

Stuart Jordan has offered to be the First Aider and to help with the risk assessment, especially as there is the potential for more attendees. (He also mentioned that he is a drummer in a band and that performing at the summer bonanza may be an option).

Nina Pelling will write a BBQ list of instructions as this may possibly be the last one she attends.

Liz and Katie are going to do the Bookers shop with Katie pre-cutting and cooking the onions.

It was previously decided to charge £2 for the BBQ items and this price will still stand. We ran out of BBQ meat last year due to the high influx of attendees, so Katie and Liz need to work out what to buy to accommodate possibly more people.

Andrew White has already created a poster for the event. Katie will print out the posters and Julie will send them onto Mrs Rankin with the idea of advertising at Little Ridge and Castledown.

Liz will research and order crazy glasses and glow rings for the event. Crystal will print out the fireworks letters which we distribute to the neighbouring houses and committee members will deliver.

**9. Lantern making workshops:**

This will commence the week after half term from 13:00-15:10.

Volunteers have offered to help, Crystal made a note of names and days available.

**10. Christmas market/festive fete:**

Julie Flavell has agreed to be in charge of the Festive Fete again this year and committee members have volunteered their services to join the working party. Wendy Knowles has agreed to be second in charge in order to assist Julie.

**11. School funding requests:**

The timber playhouse for the reception area was again raised. It is £2300, the committee agreed that as a lot of money had already been spent on Early years, we should concentrate on the other year groups in the school. We need to investigate what the school themselves are investing in for the other year groups, then we may reconsider.

Committee unanimously voted for extension of the climbing walls for the years 3/4 and 5/6 playgrounds.

**12. Any other business:**

Petra asked for tips on how to be a chair.

Julie mentioned the playground paint, when is this happening? As this has been on the cards for a couple of years now. Wendy to investigate and find out what Ally had previously researched.

Katie mentioned that the school could raise money hiring out the outside area.

Crystal asked the new members if they would like FAB T-shirts.

**Thank you all for coming.**