

GSA AGM Minutes – Tuesday 24th September 7pm.

Agenda

1. Welcome to GSA
2. Chair's report 2023/2024
3. Treasurer's report 2023/2024
4. Looking ahead to 2024/2025
5. Over to you
6. Q&A / AOB

1. **Welcome** to the meeting from co-chair's Megan Bartholomew and Becky Barker.

1.1 List of attendees available from GSA. Refer to slides for further information shared at this point.

2.0 Chair s report

2.1 Review of the fundraising events ran by the GSA and the additional ways in which funds have been raised.

2.2 Thanks to ALL of the people who have helped out and volunteered this year

2.3 Review of what was funded, all outlined on the slides shared with these minutes.

3.0 Treasurer s report

3.1 First slide shows the revenue generated through the fundraising activities and the overall profit of £25,404 for the year

3.2 Cash reserves

Key financial information

Opening cash reserves - £46,940

Total raised - £38,417

Expenses - -£13,013

Profit £25,404

Purchases - £34,886

Closing Cash reserves £39,561

We retain £10,000 cash to meet operating needs for 2 + months

4.0 Looking ahead to 2024/2025

4.1 The GSA Committee

Committee for 2024/25

Megan Bartholomew – Co-chair
Becky Barker – Co-chair
Laura Bushby – Co-secretary
Emma McCarthy – Co-secretary
Courtney Westwood – Treasurer
Sarah Eaves – Planning Committee Member
Laura Hall – Comms *
Jill Higby – Planning Committee Member *
Anneke Gainer – Planning Committee Member *

Katharine Ellwood, Head and Mark Loczy, Teacher (not present at AGM) are also members of the committee ex officio – no vote is required.

4.2 Need to vote in new committee members those with an * are new members, and all were voted in unanimously.

4.3 At this point it was highlighted that the co-chairs will be standing down in January. As a charity this role is mandatory and does need to be filled to be able to continue operating as a charity. Please do come forward and speak to Megan / Becky if you are potentially interested and want to find out more.

4.4 Thanks to outgoing committee members Michelle Carnegie and Johnny Murray.

4.5 Plans for the coming year. Documented on slides, highlights and key dates below:

Autumn Term

Quiz Night - Friday 8th November - Great evening, curry, wine and a great quiz

Elfridges - Friday 6th December - Buy a ticket in advance from the website. Children visit Elfridges during the day to pick a gift and wrap.

Christmas Fair - Saturday 7th December - Free to attend. Buy tickets for Santas grotto on the day

Spring Term

Disco Friday 31st January - Buy tickets in advance from the website

Easter Egg Hunt Friday 28th March - Pay on the day.

Summer Term

Fun Run – Friday 9th May

Greenway Fest 2025 – Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th July

4.6 Further information regarding Christmas will be shared in coming weeks.

4.7 Other ways to support the school / GSA that are really simple are detailed on slides and will be communicated through school in coming weeks. These include 100 club, GAYE, Asda cashpoint for schools.

4.8 Silent Auction will be a big focus in coming weeks and we will need help from everyone on this. Anyone keen to support and volunteer to try to secure items please contact GSA.

5.0 Over to you

5.1 We approach our spending through segmenting it into four separate buckets as shown in the table below

5.2 Discussion regarding the proposed spend for 2024/2025

5.3 Table 1 Agreed spending for 2024/2025

Enhancing curriculum	Advancing the school facilities	Annual agreed spending	Additional enrichment
Commando Joe's - £11,000	Classroom £2,400	Obstacle PE - £1,000	
Theatre in school - £899		Music - £5,500	
Tooled up sub - £1,666		Yr 6 leaving - £700	
		Dacorum Card - £500	

5.4 Budget following agreed spending 2024/25

Opening Cash Reserves - £39,561

Total spending agreed for 24/25 - £23,665

Cash reserves to remain in account - £10,000

Cash to spend 2024/2025 - £5,895

5.5 Mrs Ellwood then talked through where she would like to ask GSA for funding support this year

5.6 Table 2 requests from school to GSA for additional funding for 2024 / 2025

Enhancing curriculum	Advancing the school facilities	Annual agreed spending	Additional enrichment

Recommended reads / RWI - £6,000 (could be reduced)	Table tennis flooring - £10,000		Coaches one per class: c. £4,000
			Green metal fencing c. £4,000

5.7 There was a discussion regarding the request for funding for the **table tennis flooring**.

5.8 It was explained by Mrs Ellwood that these funds are required to bring the two table tennis tables back into action. At present they are not currently safe and cannot be used. The table tennis tables are something that all of the school can access and make use of.

5.9 It was asked if this is the right use of funding, and some discussions were had in relation to the perceived high cost of the works, and the value for money in relation to use of these items by children. Initial discussions centred on alternative locations for the table tennis tables (on the playground), and alternative flooring, although neither were deemed to be quite right. Discussions progressed to how we might be able to gain support from local businesses to either fund (sponsor) improvements or offer reduced rates. A number of parents voiced interest in supporting the GSA to progress this. Please do get in touch with the GSA directly.

5.10 This approach can be applied to the fencing in the school as well, but key to note it must be loop fencing to be acceptable for school setting.

5.11 **Resurfacing road into school** – the road into school was raised by a parent and whether this could be resurfaced. Mrs Ellwood confirmed she has spoken to the CEO at The Denton development on Shootersway and requested their support on this. They have been out to look at it but not heard back. Mrs Ellwood will follow up with them.

5.12 **Coaches** - another item on the proposed list. The group discussed whether this is the right use of funds. Whilst it does help reduce spend at the point, it is a large chunk of the remaining funds that could be used elsewhere. Discussed the option to reduce the funding in half. So GSA will fund 50% of the coaches and parents the other 50% as well as the option to continue to fund 100% or to stop all support.

5.13 It was put to a vote with results below.

For full amount - 9
Half amount - 28
Non - 1

5.14 Confirmed that the GSA will fund 50% of the cost of 1 coach for each year group this academic year.

5.15 **Recommended Reads** – this was the subject of limited discussion, however Mrs Ellwood did confirm that this amount was flexible, and whilst the full amount would allow them to update Read Write Inc resources, a lower amount would still allow for some updates.

5.16 The conversation moved onto new ideas put forward by attendees of the meeting and via class reps for some who were unable to attend.

5.17 **Art Teacher** – is it possible to fund an art teacher or additional art resources in a similar way to the music curriculum. This could be carried out during the school day and reduce pressure on teachers by freeing up sometime during the day.

5.18 **Forest School** - Whilst the logistics of taking children off site to a forest school are acknowledged the option to run a forest school within the school grounds was discussed. This would limit time off site and expense / need for volunteers, but still offer a new experience for children across the school. The GSA have previously researched these options and will refresh and share with Mrs Ellwood to consider moving forwards.

5.19 It was further commented that this exercise would be (relatively) low cost and for the whole school (need to clarify if open to nursery).

5.20 **Additional ideas** – these ideas were subject to limited discussions, but were put forward by attendees.

Cricket net

Polytunnel - to grow fruit and veg

Language lessons as a club

Piano Lessons – this is time and space intensive as can only teach one child at a time

Stage lighting

5.21 **Long Term aspirations** - There was also a more general discussion regarding ambitions to focus on more long term aspirations for the school. To consider a 5 - 10 year plans and work towards fundraising for big ticket items. Discussed use of crowdfunding in this instance which is an option.

5.22 A discussion was also had in relation to the safety of the school gates, the missing lock from the side gate and the openness of the school site. It was agreed that this was potentially not the place to have this discussion. Mrs Ellwood reiterated that the children are safe in school and further security is not necessary.

5.23 **Commando Joe s** - Question as to whether we would want to renew Commando Joe s. Whilst it is worth waiting to see how it goes this year goes, need to be conscious that if we do we need to ringfence money as it might not be available.

5.24 **KS2 Garden Area** - Money has been assigned to this from 2023/2024, and GSA keen to move forwards. Could we within the budget allowed extend plans to include fruit and vegetable growing. GSA will follow up with Mrs Ellwood to get ball rolling. It was noted that we will need parent volunteers.

5.25 **Defibrillator** - The school have a defibrillator one but not a case to allow it to be placed outside. GSA happy to look at cost of funding and getting it in place.

5.26 **Books** - A parent commented on the books that children bring home and that some of the language and themes are no longer appropriate. Mrs Ellwood happy for parents to support a large sort through of books and removal of inappropriate titles.

6.0 **Q&A and AOB** largely covered within the discussions relating to funding.

6.1 One piece of **AOB** the **whole school year calendar** - Elly Coppen has very cleverly and kindly set up a digital calendar of school / GSA events that can plug into your calendar so that you never miss an event again. Keep your eyes peeled for this to be rolled out.

6.2 Meeting ended 8.20pm.