



**CHURCH
STRETTON
SCHOOL**

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE ACADEMY TRUST

**PARENT TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION**

Minutes from PTA Meeting Mar 13th 2019

1	Present:	Ruth Lawrence - Chair Angela Pownall Eileen Roberts Johnathan Callwood	Caroline Terrill – Secretary Sam Scott – Treasurer Helen Davis Andy Wood
2	Apologies:	Linda Parry	
3	Minutes from last meeting	There were no comments from the minutes from the last meeting and no matters arising that were not covered in the agenda.	
4	Chair's report	<p>I initially shared the role of PTA Chair with Helen Howes, until her time as a parent at the school ended last summer. I would personally like to thank Helen for her hard work on the PTA as a parent over the last few years and I'm pleased that she will continue as a supporter in her role of Mynd Drover Organiser.</p> <p>I have continued in the role of PTA Chair until tonight's AGM with the support of a small and dedicated group of regular PTA members who ensure that the worthwhile fundraising work continues throughout the school year.</p> <p>Thanks especially to Sam Scott who has undertaken the significant role of Treasurer over the last 6 years, Caroline Terrill in the role of Secretary and Helen Davies who creates pieces for 'The Link' each week, keeping our Staff and Parents up to date and informed. Also a wider thank you to everyone who has supported our work this year, whether on one occasion or many. We value your time, effort and goodwill.</p> <p>The long established, annual Craft Fayre was again a huge success in 2018, thanks to Angela Pownall, Mairi Dugdale, Chrissie Stevens and a willing band of parents and supporters, who stepped up to ensure this event continued even when we lost our existing organiser unexpectedly; as her child left the school. Angela has since offered to become our new official Craft Fayre Organiser, continuing our tradition of providing quality, highly regarded crafts, as well as refreshments - ably provided by Sylvie and the school catering team - and of course never forgetting the site management team and cleaners who are so supportive and patient with us!</p> <p>We were all delighted with the success of the third 'Mynd Drover' challenge walk; which was again not only a great fund-raising event but a much enjoyed and shared community experience held on a beautiful summer's day. Both the Craft Fayre and The Mynd Drover are key PTA events which have clearly reached the local and wider community giving us all much to be proud of.</p> <p>We have continued to support smaller events arranged by school such as productions, and concerts when required, although these requests are fewer of late. We continue to fund the lease of a new school minibus with the support of Parents, Staff and Friends of the school, and will endeavour to continue to do so over the coming years, enabling school to reduce transport costs significantly by keeping more travel arrangements 'in house'.</p>	

		<p>Thank you to you all, for your efforts great or small throughout the year. Whilst we are ever hopeful of hoards of new members, we must trust that there are many Parents, Friends and Teachers of Church Stretton School who are willing to support on occasion, and simply need a little extra reminder or personal encouragement from us to do so. Well done to everyone involved!</p> <p>I am stepping down from the role of Chair this year, time for someone new to take the reins, although I'm still intending to be involved. Parent Teacher Associations are becoming rarer in Secondary Schools, indeed it's becoming harder and harder to attract Parents and Teachers to give up their time to raise money to support schools. This year has been particularly challenging.</p> <p>However, it has never been more important! School budgets are under more strain than ever, we have witnessed it at our own school; with fewer staff, shorter lunch breaks, compressed school days, fewer school clubs, trips and events. There are less and less funds for the essentials, let alone the extras to enrich our children's school experience.</p> <p>That's where the PTA's contribution should become even more vital. Parents and Carers are crucial ambassadors for the school and their input is so important. PTA should be a key bridge between school and families; the more parents and staff come to PTA meetings, or join us in fundraising efforts, the stronger the relationship and communication gets between home and school.</p> <p>I'm confident that Church Stretton School PTA parent volunteers can continue successfully into the future, with the full support of the staff, and will continue to protect, promote and enhance the strong link that there has traditionally been between our school and the wider community.</p> <p>Ruth Lawrence PTA Chair</p>
5	Head's report	<p>On behalf of the school I would like to thank all of the PTA for their dedication and hard work again this year. The importance of the work that the PTA do cannot really be measured and the contribution that they make to the school, your time and commitment is invaluable to our school community.</p> <p>You will have heard through the news that school budgets have seen no increase for a considerable time; in-fact in an unprecedented move a large number of Headteachers marched on parliament this earlier this year to protest over their concerns regarding the continuing increase in expectations on what schools will provide and the pressure this puts on over-stretched budgets.</p> <p>With so little available funding, it is in these times of hardship (sadly set to get worse) that the work of the PTA and the additional funds you provide become even more important to us – thank you! We are hugely appreciative to the PTA for the giving of your time, with particular events to note including the hugely successful Mynd Drover and wonderful Christmas Craft Fayre. In addition, your attendance at key events has been commented upon by parents and carers, with greater awareness of the opportunities that they can have in supporting the work of the school.</p> <p>In particular, we continue to benefit from the PTA funded 'Minibus Lite', with students having been able to attend extra-curricular fixtures, visiting Post-16 destinations and off site trips and visits. When I talk to other Headteachers, and when staff start with us from other schools they are amazed at how proactive our PTA are and how much of a financial contribution they make.</p> <p>So thank you again for yet another amazing year; for giving up your time so willingly to make Church Stretton such a special school; for contributing so positively to our community and for your dedication and hard work organising, setting up and dismantling all of the events we have enjoyed!</p> <p>John Parr, Headteacher</p>

6	Treasurer's report	<p>At the year end December 2018, the balance of the bank account stood at £11,401.61. The current balance is £11,630.29. (21st February).</p> <p>The Mynd Drover raised a total of £3,784.39. Another successful, well organised event thanks to Helen and Adrian.</p> <p>The craft fayre was again a huge success raising a total of £2,442.70. This figure included £200.00 generated from the refreshments sold by the school canteen.</p> <p>Easy Fundraising for the year generated £246.35. There is still more money to make on this fundraiser if we can just encourage the parents to join.</p> <p>The money that has been raised this year is continuing to pay for the lease/buy of the new mini bus and will continue to pay £408.00 per month for as long as they can afford to, as agreed with Mr Parr and Ms C. Thomas. This obviously leaves very little money for extra's, however, we still welcome requests from the school departments.</p> <p>Most of you will be aware that the running of the Duke of Edinburgh Award was looking doubtful until members of staff from the school said they would take in on. The school were contacted by one the original organiser, Diana Parsons, who had some money left over in the account. This amounted to £1,181.91. The organisers have requested that this sum of money be allocated to the current Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme currently being run by the school for equipment and Duke of Edinburgh mini bus expenses. This was agreed at the last PTA meeting by all the members present and minuted.</p> <p>We have again had Parentkind (the old PTA) subscriptions of £122.00 and Lottery licences to renew at a cost of £20.00.</p> <p>All the transactions for the year on the Barclays Account are listed on separate sheets alongside a Mynd Drover Transaction Sheet, and a Craft Fayre Transaction sheet. Which have been distributed with this report.</p> <p>Samantha Scott, Treasurer</p>
7	Election of Officers	<p>The following officers were elected to the positions by a unanimous vote: Chair: Caroline was proposed by Ruth and seconded by Angela Treasurer: Angela was proposed by Caroline and seconded by Helen D Secretary: Andrea was proposed by Caroline and seconded by Sam S.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> Caroline to ensure all minutes from previous meeting are emailed to the school to be put on the website. Angela to obtain a bank mandate form to change the signatories on the bank account. It was agreed that Angela, Caroline and Andrea will be the new signatories. Caroline to contact Cathy about the usage of the minibus</p>
8	Funding requests	<p>Previously the school hadn't been sending through funding requests as the PTA was funding the minibus. However, as there is now a comfortable amount in the bank account, the PTA can receive funding requests. It is usually more effective if the person requesting the funding presents the details at a PTA meeting to be able to answer questions on the request.</p>
9	Upcoming events	<p>Angela attended the Year 7 progress evening and there was a lot of interest in the PTA.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Caroline to add people to the PTA mailing list as requested.</p> <p>The Year 9 progress evening is on Thursday 21st March starting from 3:45pm. Angela could volunteer to attend to encourage more parents to join the PTA. Sam S could also attend once she finished work.</p>

10	Craft fayre	There was discussion about the start up for the next craft fayre. Would expect to start mailing out stall holders in May.
11	AOB	<p><u>Charity status</u> Caroline will investigate what is needed to register with the Charities Commission.</p> <p><u>Change of name</u> There had been a suggestion to change the name of the PTA to 'Friends of Church Stretton School' to signify that it is more than just parents and teachers at the school. Caroline will investigate further if this will require a change to the constitution and the bank account.</p>
12	Date of next meeting	The date of the next meeting is Wed 3 rd April at 7:30pm in the back room of the Bucks Head.