



**Chairperson:** Chris Thomas

**Treasurer:** Richard Hall

**Secretary and Deputy Treasurer:** Hollie Batha

**Social Media/Newsletters:** Claire Brown

**Email:** schoolcircle@longnorschool.co.uk

**Registered charity number:** 1154833

## **School Circle Meeting – Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Time:** 19:00

**Location:** Online via Microsoft Teams

**Present:** Lucy Adams, Chris Thomas, Hollie Batha, Rachel Reynolds, Vicky Regan, Mark White, Claire Brown, Jo Bell, Rachel King, Jo Bullock, Carissa Beharrell

**Apologies:** Richard Hall, Mandy Mason, Rebecca McBain, Charlotte Downes

### **Chair's Report**

Chris welcomed everybody to the first ever "virtual" School Circle meeting following a very long break due to Covid and the school holidays. He welcomed some new members and stated that himself, Richard and Hollie were happy to continue in their roles as Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary providing other members were happy to nominate them. Claire nominated Chris with Rachel seconding the motion. Chris nominated Richard with Claire seconding the motion. Hollie also agreed to be Deputy Treasurer to assist with Richard's role as Treasurer. Hollie was nominated by Chris with Jo seconding the motion. Claire was also nominated by Chris to be the social media/newsletter person, this was seconded by Rachel K.

It was noted that due to the current circumstances the AGM cannot currently take place so will be postponed until things return to normal.

### **Treasurer's report**

The financial report is to be sent to Lucy to be reviewed and will then be posted to the school newsletter and on the website.

Due to the current circumstances, Lucy was asked if she would prefer the available funds (£4000) to be donated in one lump sum as opposed to the usual termly donation. Lucy agreed that this would be preferable under the circumstances and she would put some thought into what the money could be spent on at school.

## Events planning for 2020-21

Due to the circumstances surrounding Covid, many of the events that would normally take place throughout the year had to be cancelled. It was noted that whilst these circumstances remain, we would not be able to carry out our usual events so the committee discussed ideas for ways to fundraise which would comply with current guidelines regarding Covid.

- Bags2School collection was recently carried out on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at the village hall in Longnor where £70.70 was raised. Special thanks to Kat Beedles for co-ordinating this event. The next Bags2School fundraiser will be held in the Spring.
- Claire stated that 82 out of 100 numbers have currently been sold and paid for in the 100 Club, 25 of which are numbers bought by new parents. Claire will have one final push before the first draw takes place, to sell the remaining numbers.
- Chris reported that the School Circle is now registered with Amazon Smile, where people can make a donation to the School Circle whilst shopping at Amazon at no extra cost to them. Details to be posted in the newsletter.
- It was also noted that The Giving Machine is still ongoing, another way in which donations can be made to the School Circle whilst shopping online in a similar way to “cashback” sites. A reminder about this is also to be put in the newsletter.

Lucy stated that in order to follow current Covid guidelines, no events could take place which would involve people attending the school, and also any events involving items being taken into school would have to be carefully thought out as all items would need to be quarantined for 3 days. The committee then held an open discussion on potential ideas, discussing the usual events and how they could possibly be adapted and also new ideas:

- In place of the halloween disco it was discussed whether the children could pay a donation to attend school in fancy dress. This was decided against due to possible contamination issues. Instead Lucy raised the idea for a Halloween themed “home section” competition similar to the one that normally takes place at the summer fete. It was decided that this would be judged by class and that the 3 categories would be “carve a pumpkin”, “draw a spooky picture” and “write a spooky story”. It was agreed that to avoid any potential contamination issues, the judging would be carried out by the teachers and that all items should be brought in a few days prior to judging to be “quarantined”. A £2 entry fee per category was agreed and that there would be prizes for first place in all categories and all year groups with 12 prizes needing to be sourced. A poster advertising the event is to go in the newsletter.
- Mandy Mason kindly donated £50 in order to make up Halloween goodie bags for all of the children at school.
- Jo Bell mentioned that the christmas cards are already underway
- A pre-loved uniform event is to be arranged with also potentially selling glasses which show the Longnor crest

Other potential fundraising ideas to be discussed further at the next meetings were:

- Christmas jars filled with sweets or trinkets to be sold
- A Christmas “walkthrough” type event at a nearby wood/land
- Online scavenger hunt
- Movie afternoon for children at school towards the end of term
- Christmas raffle and wheelbarrow of booze raffle
- Christmas jumper day
- Online family quiz
- Christmas colouring competition
- Class Christmas parties
- Village treasure hunt
- “Go fund me” style challenges

#### **Any Other Business**

- The letter and form to join the School Circle Whatsapp group is to be posted on the newsletter so that any other parents wishing to join in can be added.
- Chris to check that the Charity Commission Annual Return was completed in May and to check the Trustees as some may have had their children leave the school.
- Lucy to create a list of certain things that may need to be fundraised for specifically.

#### **Next Meeting(s)**

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm via Microsoft Teams. The link to the meeting will be shared closer to the time.